

Dear AP Human Geography Student:

You need to choose one of the following books for your summer reading assignment. Be sure to select a book that interests you and is readable. Following the list of books will be directions for creating a map of the author's thesis and writing a review. There is also a rubric that will help you understand how I will be assessing you.

AP Human Geography Summer Book Selection

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AP Human Geography Summer Book Analyses - Boulder H.S.

Select ONE book from the seven listed below

Brezzezinski, Zbigniew. The Grand Chessboard: American Primacy and Its Geostrategic Imperatives. New York: BasicBooks, 1998.

Geopolitical (influence of geography on international relations) factors explaining how and why the United States is a superpower - how the U.S. should use that power - controversial and thought provoking.

Bruegmann, Robert. Sprawl: A Compact History. Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 2005.

A rare look at the positives of low-density development, Bruegmann takes on academics who have labeled sprawl a "blight" on the American landscape. He believes it is a natural function of cities to grow and is really what most citizens would want.

Friedman, Thomas L. The World is Flat: A Brief History of the Twenty-First Century. New York: Farrar, Straus & Giroux, 2005.

Economic and cultural geography - Describes globalization and argues that the US is in trouble if it doesn't understand what it takes to compete in "flat world."

Korten, David C. When Corporations Rule the World, 2nd ed. Kumarian Press, 2001.

A critique of multinational corporations - explains how international economic systems operate from perspective of the left. The author gives his view on who truly benefits from aid and who doesn't.

Kotkin, Joel. The New Geography: How the Digital Revolution is Reshaping the American Landscape. New York: Random House, 2000.

Kotkin argues that digital technology is having a profound impact on the economic and cultural health of cities. Now and in the future, the digital age will determine winners and losers as the affluent chose where to live based on a location's ability to provide certain services and a cultural amenities.

Kunstler, James Howard. The Geography of Nowhere: The Rise and Decline of America's Man-Made Landscape. New York: Touchstone, 1994.

Well written, often humorous critique of U.S. style urban and suburban growth/sprawl. The author assess the relationship of the automobile with social issues.

McNeill, J.R. Something New Under the Sun: An Environmental History of the Twentieth-Century World. New York: W. W. Norton, 2001.

Award winning, wide ranging portrayal of urban, environmental, and industrial geography - many useful maps and charts. Why did the world's physical environment change so rapidly in the 20th century and what does it mean for the future?

AP HUMAN GEOGRAPHY SUMMER ASSIGNMENT

REVIEW/ANALYSIS

After careful reading, write a two page, double spaced, typed book review on your book.

- A. Summarize/briefly describe the content of the book (intro paragraph)
- B. Summarize the thesis or central point of the author in your own words. Identify **three** specific examples from **three** different chapters of the book that clearly support the thesis. (*one paragraph*)
- C. Defend or attack the author's thesis, using the following criteria you believe best apply to your defense or critique (*three to four paragraphs*):
 - Logical thesis (more logical alternate thesis or explanation of issue?)
 - Clarity (clearly stated)
 - Variety of factors considered in thesis (not simplistic or based on just one or two factors or reasons)
 - Evidence clearly, effectively, and sufficiently supports thesis
 - alternative evidence that may refute the thesis considered?
 - Appropriate and reasonable comparative analyses
 - Maps, charts, statistical tables, drawings, and/or photographs clearly and accurately support thesis
 - Author bias (country, ethnicity, religion, gender, time period, political beliefs)

Be critical when you read your book. Which of their assumptions, generalizations, and biases do you disagree with? Why? What data or evidence supports your critique?
The map review/analysis are due the first day of class (50 pts. total), along with the “Grading Matrix.”

MAP

For the book you’ve chosen, create an original map that accurately portrays the author’s thesis (main point or generalization) or perspective of the world (or region described) in a manner that would be clear to a friend or older sibling.

Your map needs clear, clean designs that include at least **three** types of data or information. **Do not** just copy maps from the book; create a new map that portrays the author’s perspective.

Examine other well designed maps and charts for ideas.

Mark Monmonier’s [How to Lie with Maps](#) is a fun and interesting book that can help you with the dos and don’ts of how to create an effective map. (This is not required reading.)

Several ideas for illustrating data on a map will be presented in the PowerPoint. Different cartographic (map making) techniques you might use to show spatial patterns across the surface of the earth include:

- Different colors to show percentages or ratios (population growth rate, level of economic-social development measured by the Human Development Index, etc.) - light to darker shades of the same color
- Different width arrows to show movement (ideas, human migration, trade, spread/diffusion of technology or religion, etc.) - wider arrows indicate larger amounts or quantities
- Symbols to show differences and similarities between countries or regions - ie., a candle to portray relative political freedom, jail cell bars portraying political repression, religious symbols, different sized dollar signs to show Gross Domestic Product (total amount of a country’s production of goods and services - size of their economy)
- Colored political borders to show economic, political, or other types of alliances - ie., NATO, OPEC, NAFTA, European Union
- Create accurate titles for each map, keys to the symbols and colors you use, and compass roses.
- Feel free to modify or copy online blank outline map, or use other outline maps for the original maps you will make from outline maps.

Because you will be putting three different types of information on your map you need to plan carefully so that your map is neat, clean and easy to read. It must not be cluttered! Some students attempt to put too much info on their map which causes confusion.

Outline Maps

Some students choose to create a map from scratch. Others decide to use a blank outline map and then fill it in with symbols. If you choose to use a blank outline map there are many online sites from which you can download.

From the University of Texas: <http://www.lib.utexas.edu/maps/>

From the University of Alabama: <http://alabamamaps.ua.edu/>

Due Date - First day of class (either semester)

Questions? My e-mail address: mark.weatherley@bvsd.org

Summer Book Review/Analysis - AP Human Geography

Name:

Date:

Period:

Book Reviewed: _____

Content summary /4 pts.

Thesis summary /6 pts.
Clear, accurate

Three specific examples or events supporting thesis /5 pts.
Clearly linked to and supporting thesis
from three separate chapters

Defense or attack of thesis using several, but not all criteria below /5 pts.

- Author's thesis logical (or not)
- Clarity
- Variety of factors considered in thesis
- Evidence clearly, effectively, and sufficiently supports thesis
- Appropriate and reasonable comparative analyses
- Maps, charts, statistical tables, drawings, and/or photographs clearly and accurately support thesis
- Author bias (country, ethnicity, religion, gender, time period, political beliefs)

Writing style and clarity /5 pts.

- Grammar, spelling, punctuation, sentence and paragraph structure, clearly written

/25 pts. Total

MAP - AP Human Geography grading matrix

Name:

Date:

Period:

Book: _____

Author's theme portrayed on map:

Author's world or regional perspective - accurately portrayed by map /12
reflects key points or generalizations

Three different types of data portrayed on map /5
includes at least one internet source

Clear design and use of symbols, other cartographic techniques /5
(Map is neat, clean and easy to read - key is on same side as the map!)

Appropriate title of map, key, and compass rose /3

TOTAL /25