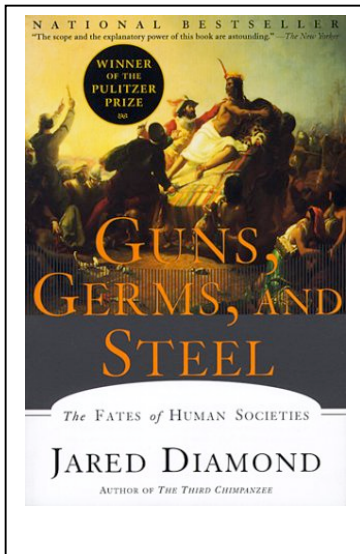


AP World History Summer Assignment for the 2009-2010 class:

Guns, Germs and Steel, by Jared Diamond



Test on the 1st day of class over assigned chapters of GGS: approximately 75 multiple choice questions.

Due: August 11, 2009 (Sophomore Registration day). There will be a large box in the Main Office next to the receptionist. Assignments will be picked up at 4 pm that day. **If you are out of town you must mail it w/ sufficient postage to Boulder HS so it arrives on time:**

Mary Jensen
Social Studies- Boulder High School
1604 Arapahoe
Boulder, CO 80302

Assignment grade drops 1 grade for each day late.

Contents:

1. Specific directions:
 - where you can find the book
 - format
 - how to contact me if you have questions
 - information for your parents
2. Questions to answer about the book (note: 6 chapters have been cut; if you are curious, do read them!)

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Directions:

This is a big and ambitious book. It has won significant awards and was placed on the **New York Times Best Seller List** for hundreds of weeks. Obviously, people other than incoming AP WH students are reading it! It is not a novel or a textbook but is the culmination of one man's curiosity and desire to prove with empirical data (evidence that can be proven, not just a hypothesis) why history has unfolded as it has:

- Why did some civilizations that were dynamic and powerful crash so spectacularly?
- Why did some cultures never even stand a chance at ruling the world?
- Why did Europe come to dominate the world in the 18th century?
- And many other questions.....

The author is what we can call a "polymath": he is curious and knowledgeable about a wide range of topics. Google his name and take a look at some of the other books he wrote. You'll probably be asking why we didn't read THAT book he wrote....!! He did not write this book for teenagers so you might find parts of it difficult. When you do, ask your parents or older siblings what they think about your question. It is a good book to talk about because it has interesting information and controversial theories.

Where can you find the book? (paperback & hardcover)

- Public library
- Many used book stores
- Any large book store/chain

Format: must be followed. Assignments not following this format will not be read.

- **Make sure you save your assignment on 1) your hard-drive and 2) flash drive every time you sit down to type. No excuses accepted that your HD crashed (see #2-flashdrive) since I have forewarned you.**
- Retype the question above your answer.
- Answers should be 7-10 sentences at least unless indicated otherwise. Answers should prove to the reader that you thought about the question, answered it fully, and showed effort.
- Font size 10 or 12, New York, Geneva or Arial, single-spaced & NO plastic covers or binders; just staple it
- This is an individual assignment: any copying will result in zeros for all involved. This is absolutely NOT a partner assignment. Remember, too: there is a test the first day of class. A low score will draw scrutiny to your assignment.
- No partial assignments are accepted.

Questions?

You might have questions about the book as you are working through it this summer. First, try to help yourself (look up words you don't know, Google terms or ideas, ask your parents for help). Second, make sure that your question isn't already covered in the directions. If you still need help then e-mail me at this address:

mary.jensen@bvsd.org

Information for parents:

AP World History is a 10th grade class but it is taught as a college-level introductory course to world history. Expectations, curriculum, reading difficulty and class behavior norms are similar to what is expected for freshmen in college. Thirty minutes to an hour of homework per night is normal. This class is only for self-motivated, curious, hard-working students who already have self-discipline. It is not for students who show promise but don't apply themselves. If you know your student has reading difficulties then maybe this class is not a good fit because the reading level is quite high and students can't just get by on what is covered in class. The textbook has 33 chapters and we read all of them.

All students must take the three hour AP exam in May: 70 multiple choice questions + three 45 minute essays to write. College credit is not automatic; students must typically earn at least a 3 on a scale of 1-5 to earn college credit.

Motivation for taking this class should not be the weighted grade; there must be intrinsic interest in history.

Parents, please help your students by also becoming students of history: talk about the topics that come up as the class unfolds. A good place to start is with the summer assignment; maybe you want to read it, too?

Encourage your students to fully utilize TAP for help.

***If, after looking over this summer assignment information, you think this class might be beyond the scope of your student for next year then please call the counseling office as soon as possible so that your student can be rescheduled into the regular World History class. Sometimes students are ready for an AP class their sophomore year and sometimes not until their junior year.

Questions to answer for the summer assignment: retype question, remember

Research

Write a short (1/2 page) biography of the author; include information about his areas of research, books written, and prizes awarded.

Preface

The author suggests that the roots of western Eurasian dominance in the modern world lie in what? Why has he chosen to write this book in this style and manner?

Prologue

According to the author, why did human development proceed at different rates on different continents? What is his personal view on civilized and progressive societies versus hunter-gatherers societies?

Chapter 1: Up to the Starting Line

What was the Great Leap Forward? Describe the life of a Cro-Magnon person. What impact did the arrival of humans have on big animals? Provide an example. Which continent had a head start in 11,000 BCE (Before Common Era = BC). Why?

Chapter 2: A Natural Experiment of History

Explain the difference between the Moriori and the Maori. Who conquered whom and why? What lessons can be learned by the pattern of dispersion of the Polynesians?

Chapter 3: Collision at Cajamarca (VIC-very important chapter)

Write a paragraph explaining your views on the event of November 16, 1532. What strikes (pun!) you the most about this event? Why did Pizarro succeed?

Chapter 4: Farmer Power

Write a paragraph explaining the chart. Do you agree with the author's conclusions? What advantages are gained by being the first to domesticate animals?

Chapter 5: History's Haves and Have Nots

CUT

Chapter 6: To Farm or Not to Farm

CUT

Chapter 7: How to Make an Almond

CUT

Chapter 8: Apples or Indians (VIC-see chapter 3 for what it means)

Why was the Fertile Crescent predisposed to have such a potent head start in so many areas of development: writing, cities, and empires? What reasons does the author give for cannibalism in New Guinea?

Chapter 9: Zebras, Unhappy Marriages, and the Anna Karenina Principle

Identify and define the Ancient Fourteen. What is domestication? Which animals most helped Eurasians?

Chapter 10: Spacious Skies and Tilted Axis

Why did people who lived on an east-west axis become the world's conquerors? What was it about the Americas and Africa that put these two continents at a developmental disadvantage?

Chapter 11: Lethal Gift of Livestock (VIC)

In what way can the gift of livestock be lethal? What was the role of disease in the exploration of Hernando de Soto?

Chapter 12: Blueprints and Borrowed Letters

Why is writing an agent of conquest according to the author? Why did some people NOT develop writing?

Chapter 13: Necessity's Mother (VIC)

Provide the 14 (?more less?) explanations of resistance to technological changes and advancements.

Chapter 14: From Egalitarianism to Kleptocracy

CUT

Chapter 15: Yali's People

Why did Aboriginal Australians NOT develop metal tools, writing, and complex political societies? What protected New Guineans from losing to invading Europeans who sought out lands to conquer and settle?

Chapter 16: How China Became Chinese (VIC)

Why was China able to dominate East Asia?

Chapter 17: Speed Boat to Polynesia

CUT

Chapter 18: Hemispheres Colliding (VIC)

At the time of Columbus, what advantages did the Eurasians enjoy? Which was most important?

Chapter 19: How Africa Became Black

Why does the author think that Madagascar, the island not the movie, is the single most astonishing fact of human geography? Where did agriculture first arise in Africa?

Epilogue

How did Diamond answer Yali's question? Why did politically united China lose its technological advantage to the formerly backward and politically fragmented Europe? (VIQ = very important question for AP WH!)

Free Form Question!

Time for you to admire or vent...what did you think about the book???