

Summer Reading List for Those Registering for AP World History 2009-10

Welcome to the course and to your first assignment which is due the first day of classes in August.

For class you will need to read a total of four books, two due on the day of registration and the other two for second semester (dates to be determined later). For the summer readings you need to read two books about the time periods up to 1750, one non-fiction (so any book from NF-1, NF-2, NF-3, NF-6, or NF-7) and the other fiction (any book from F-1, F-2 or F-3), and write a book review on each. An approved reading list is attached. If you want to read something not on this list, you will need my permission first, received via email.

In AP World History we will be emphasizing the following themes:

1. Interaction between humans and the environment (demography, disease, migrations, technology)
2. Development and interaction of cultures (belief systems, science, arts and architecture)
3. State-building, expansion, and conflict (governments, empires, nations, revolutions, etc).
4. Creation, expansion, and interaction of economic systems (agriculture, trade, labor, etc.)
5. Development and transformation of social structures. (gender, families, ethnicity, classes)

You should spread your reading around, geographically, chronologically, and thematically. If you are familiar with medieval Europe, I suggest not reading a book about that topic, but rather trying to expand your horizons and knowledge--you need to gather as much information as you can to prepare for the AP test! I have not included many books whose sole focus is United States history and fewer on just Europe as I assume some of your coursework has already covered that material.

I know that this will be your summer vacation, so do not force yourself to suffer through a hard or tedious read. There are many enjoyable books on this list, both fiction and non-fiction, and even some that may be characterized as “popcorn” or “beach” reads, but will still provide you with valuable information. That said, it might be easier to get through some of the longer texts in the summer than during the school year and these will probably be more beneficial for the exam. Also, you might choose to start your second semester books during the summer, too. Your second semester readings can be either both fiction or both non-fiction or one of each, but will be limited by time period: only after 1750 CE (so any book from NF-4, NF-5, NF-6, or NF-7 for non fiction or any book from F-4, or F-5 for fiction). In certain classes (e.g. AP English) when you have a choice in what book to read for class, you may use the same book as one of mine if it is okay with your other teacher. See us or email us for suggestions.

BOOK REVIEWS

You are required to do a book review on any book you read for credit in our class.

These book reviews are intended to serve two purposes:

1. To show that you have indeed read the book and understood its message.
2. To evaluate your writing and analytical skills. I will be grading the summer assignment more leniently than I will the 2nd semester assignments. The summer assignments will help me get a sense of the level of your writing skills; improving these skills will be a major focus of our class.

Any good book review (both fiction and nonfiction) should be written as though the reader had not read the book in question. Hence, the reviewer must, as efficiently as possible, inform the readers about the general contents of the work:

- Subject matter, including its time period,
- general organization of the material,
- structure of the argument, and so on.

There is a copy of the grading rubric for you to check on the website

<http://mbondlamberty.googlepages.com/apwhreadinglistandrubrics>.

Fiction

I am not particular about the exact format (essay, or letter, etc.) you use to do the fiction book reviews. Do try to form paragraphs around ideas, and have a general organizing principle to your review, i.e. a thesis, introduction and conclusion. Your fiction review piece must include answers to the following questions:

- What are some interesting/significant historical/cultural things you learned from this book? Be specific! This should be the focus of your paper. You need to discuss the story line, but only minimally. In some novels the historical information is like part of the scenery so do not tune it out but pay attention to it. Be sure to discuss the historical matter on which the book is focusing as well as the additional historical information about that time period that appears in the background (things such as the themes mentioned above: technology, gender roles, etc)
- What historical questions were raised for you about this topic? What in the book inspired these questions? You need to come up with some questions.
- How did you like the book overall? Would you recommend this book for next year's summer reading list? Why or why not? Be specific.

Please note: past students lost points when not focusing enough on the historical information in their fiction readings.

Nonfiction

These should be written in a more formal manner, i.e. a basic essay (but not necessarily 5-paragraph) format with a thesis, introduction and some sort of conclusion. This essay should answer (with explanations as appropriate) the following questions.

- What question is the author(s) trying to answer?
- Do they establish the importance of the question? How?
- What is the author's thesis (that is, the answer to their question)?
- What kind of evidence do they provide in trying to answer the question? Summarize as much as possible, but do not omit important evidence.
- How convincing do you think they are in defending their thesis? Why do you think so?
- Did the author have a specific audience in mind when writing? If so, did this affect their presentation?
- What point of view does the author hold towards this subject? Is it helpful or harmful to his or her purpose?
- Are there other questions that you wish the author had answered? If so, what are they? If no questions raised for you, say so.
- Are there questions that were raised by this reading that you would like answered in the course? If so, what are they? What in the book inspired these questions? If you had none raised say so.
- How did you like the book overall? Would you recommend it for next year's summer reading list? Why or why not?

Note: I do not appreciate poorly written work and will return to you, for resubmission, with penalties for lateness, any work that I deem to be poorly executed. Therefore I suggest that you form coherent and well thought-out paragraphs, **type** your book reviews (please use at least 12 point font and double-space them with at least 1 inch margins on all sides), and proofread them for grammatical and spelling errors. This will be my first impression of you and it should be a good one! No title page is necessary, but a name (yours) is. Please note that just using a word processor's spelling and grammar check is not sufficient in most cases. I advise having someone else check your book review for spelling, suitable vocabulary, grammar and coherence. Finally, write your review yourself. It will not help you on the AP exam to have someone else write this first assignment and a false first impression could make us think your skills are worsening during the school year. Quotes from your actual book are not necessary unless you feel it would really help you make a point. That said if you do get ideas from somewhere else, give credit to their ideas instead of getting a '0' for plagiarism. Use parenthetical citations (see Noodletools.com) for your quotes or just to give credit for ideas.

Recommended and Approved Reading List for AP World History 2009-10

This is not a definitive list, but one that I feel has the best and most readable world history texts. I might add some books if I come across any over the summer, look at my website to find out:

<http://mbondlamberty.googlepages.com/apwhreadinglistandrubrics>. Feel free to check with me if there is a book that you would like to read that is not on the list. My school email address is: Monica_C_Bond-Lamberty@mcpsmd.org. Please note I will be away for some of the summer, so I will not be check my work email regularly. Do not leave your questions until the end of the summer.

Most of the books in this list are available through your local library, Northwood's library (at the end of the school year) or bookstores (used or new). If you can afford to buy them, by all means do so, and if you want, share the book with classmates. Some of these books are worth having in your personal libraries. That said I am aware of the financial burden of buying books. The Montgomery County Public library website <http://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/content/libraries/index.asp> enables you to sign up to be on a wait list for a book. Do NOT wait until the last minute to find these books; in some cases the one you want to read will require a wait.

Note: Many of these books deal with adult content, and in some have sexual scenes. I have attempted to identify the most egregious ones, but all are not appropriately flagged. Please be sure to clear all readings with your parents beforehand.

The books are listed in chronological order by the time period covered and by alphabetical order by author in the non-fiction sections and by title in the fiction sections. Specific translations or editions are only recommendations; you can use other ones as long as they are not abridged versions. For some of the older historical novels, try to get an edition with good notes. Also the introduction is often a section that can really help you understand the material. Some of my personal favorites and ones that last year's class especially enjoyed are marked with this mark: ***.

F-1 Fiction - Foundations 8000 BCE to 600 CE

Day of the False King: A Novel of Murder in Ancient Babylon by Brad Geagley. Sequel to *Year of the Hyenas* set in ancient Babylon.

The Gardens of Light by Amin Maalouf, Dorothy S. Blair. Recreates the life of Mani, Persian mystic who founded the Manichaeism religion and was eventually executed on the grounds of heresy.

Ishmael by Daniel Quinn. Unique reexamination of early history. Really makes you think. ***

Mahabharata; R. K. Narayan, trans. Story of the "cousin's war" of Prince Arjuna. Sanskrit tale that illustrates the principle beliefs of most Hindus.

Monkey (part of a longer piece called Journey to the West), Arthur Waley trans.; Chinese folk tales that cover some of the basic principles of Taoism and Buddhism.

The Red Tent by Anita Diamant. Re-creation of the life of Dinah, daughter of Leah and Jacob, from her birth and happy childhood in Mesopotamia through her years in Canaan and death in Egypt. Sexual content. ***

Roman Blood – by Steven Saylor. First in a series of mysteries set in Ancient Rome, chronicling real life events in Rome's tumultuous period from Republic to Empire. Followed by: Arms of Nemesis, Catalina's Riddle, The Venus Throw, A Murder on the Appian Way, Rubicon: A Novel of Ancient Rome, Last Seen in Massilia, A Mist of Prophecies, The Judgment of Caesar. Any and all can be read for the summer project.

Sarum by Edward Rutherfurd. Traces the entire turbulent course of English history (over 10,000 years) through the lives of five families that reflect the changing face of Britain.

Siddhartha by Herman Hesse. Introduction to Buddhism and life of Siddhartha (later known as the Buddha).

Three Kingdoms: Chinese Classics (Classic Novel in 4-Volumes) by Luo Guanzhong, Moss Roberts (Translator). Martial epic of a long drawn out battle in China.

Year of the Hyenas: A Novel of Murder in Ancient Egypt by Brad Geagley. A mystery set in Ancient Egypt.

F-2 Fiction - 600 CE –1450

The Book of Saladin: A Novel by Tariq Ali. Fictional memoir of Saladin, the Kurdish liberator of Jerusalem. ***

The Celebrated Cases of Judge Dee, The Chinese Nail Murders, or any of Robert van Gulik's Judge Dee novels. Classical Chinese detective stories; reveal ancient Chinese society, culture and government. ***

Dante's Daughter by Kimberley Burton Heuston. Story of Dante, his daughter and their times.

Daughter of Time by Josephine Tey. Mystery novel about Richard III and the deaths of his two nephews. An excellent look at how history is written.

In an Antique Land by Amitav Ghosh. An Indian student does research on a mysterious slave of a Jewish merchant working the Indian Ocean trade routes. Is also an examination of postcolonial Egypt.

Rabinal Achi: A Mayan Drama of War and Sacrifice translated by Dennis Tedlock. A Mayan drama about a war between city-states and the religion of the Maya before the arrival of the Spanish.

Samarkand by Amin Maalouf. Story of Omar Khayyam, a poet, mathematician, and astronomer; and fanatical cult leader Hassan, who commands an invincible army of assassins. ***

A Sultan in Palermo by Tariq Ali. Story of Muhammed al-Idrisi's (Muslim cartographer) in 12th C Sicily where Arab, Norman and Christian culture clash.

Sundiata, an Epic of Old Mali translated by D.T. Niane. Oral epic of the founder of the kingdom of Mali.

Tusk and Stone by Malcolm Bosse. A young Brahmin book in 7th C India is kidnapped, sold, becomes a soldier, then a mahout and then a stone carver.

The Walking Drum by Louis L'Amour. A young man's travel throughout Christian & Islamic Europe & Western Asia. Not great literature, attitudes towards gender are troubling, but good on cultural exchanges. ***

F-3 Fiction - 1450 CE –1750 CE

Aztec by Gary Jennings. Gripping but long tale of Mexico before and during the arrival of Spanish. Sexual content.***

The Examination by Malcolm Bosse. Two brothers in 16th C China travel to the capital for an examination while navigating various challenges in strife-filled China.***

Feast of Roses by Indu Sundaresan. Sequel to *Twentieth Wife*, love story of Emperor Jahangir and Mehrunnisa

Ines of My Soul: A Novel by Isabel Allende. Story of the founding of Chile.

Lady and the Unicorn by Tracy Chevalier. Tells the story of how tapestries were created in 15th C Europe.

Leo Africanus by Amin Maalouf. Adventures of real-life Hassan al-Wazzan from his birth in Spain, to North Africa, Timbuktu, Cairo and finally to Rome of Pope Leo X. ***

My Name Is Red by Orhan Pamuk. Story about 16th century Istanbul and imperial illustrators.

The Samurai by Shusaku Endo. Samurai trip to the Philippines, Mexico, Spain, Rome and back with a priest.

Shadows of the Pomegranate Tree by Tariq Ali. Tells the story of a family targeted by the late 15th C Catholic Church, as its members decide to either flee, fight, or are brutally slain.

The Twentieth Wife by Indu Sundaresan – Love story about the emperor and empress of Mughal India

Year of Wonders-A novel of the Plague by Geraldine Brooks. The story of a young woman and village when the plague arrives in 1666. Sexual content.

F-4 Fiction - 1750 CE –1914 CE

All Souls' Rising by Madison Smartt Bell. A very violent tale of the Haitian Revolution, 1791-1804.

Birds Without Wings by Louis de Bernieres. Tells the story of the decline of the Ottoman Empire from the perspective of a small Anatolian town of Eskibahce and the life and career of Mustafa Kemal Atatürk.

Cloud of Sparrows by Takashi Matsuoka. Gripping fictional of Japanese contact with the West. ***

Daughter of Fortune by Isabel Allende. Tells the story of a Chilean woman traveling to California during the gold rush with a Chinese friend. Some adult content.

The Dawning: A Novel by Milkwa Bajic-Poderegin, translated by Nadja Poderegin. Follows four generations of a family in Bosnia-Herzegovina. Focuses on nationalism, religion, class and gender issues facing the family.

Fantasia: An Algerian Cavalcade by Assia Djebar. Story of a girl, Algeria, and occupation by the French.

The Glassblowers by Daphne DuMaurier. Story told by a family split by the French revolution.

F-4 Fiction - 1750 CE –1914 CE (continued)

Grandfather's Tale by Ulfat Idrisli, translated by Peter Clark. Follows a Dagestani family into Syria and back into the soon to be Russian territory.

Hadji Murat by Leo Tolstoy. Tells of 19th C Russian encounter with its Muslim neighbors and then inhabitants.

Land: A Novel by Pak Kyong-Ni. Tells the story of Korea from the late 18th to the present.

Lutchmee and Dilloo: A Study of West Indian Life by Edward Jenkins. Story of Indian indentured laborers on a sugar estate in Guyana.

Max Havelaar or the Coffee Auctions of the Dutch Trading Company by Multatuli Roy Edwards (Translator).

Describes the Dutch atrocities in colonial Indonesia.

Middle Passage by Charles Johnson. Life of a freed African American slave in New Orleans who ends up on a slave clipper and helps the slaves stage a revolt.

Morenga by Uwe Timm. A historical novel set in the early 20th Century, about a black African leader and a bloody rebellion in German-occupied Southwest Africa.

No Longer at Ease by Chinua Achebe. Describes colonial rule in Nigeria. ***

A Respectable Trade by Philippa Gregory. Story of a man enslaved in West Africa, taken to Bristol where he comes to work for a woman whose husband is in the slave trade.

Rebels of the Heavenly Kingdom by Katherine Patterson. Describes China during the Taiping Rebellion.

Red Earth and Pouring Rain: A Novel by Vikram Chandra Various stories from India including 18th and 19th C Mogul India, but also earlier and later.

The Rock of Tanios by Amin Maalouf. Depiction of social and political turmoil in Lebanon during the 1880s.

Sacred Hunger by Barry Unsworth. Exploration of the British slave trade from 1752-1765.

The Saddlebag: A Fable for Doubters and Seekers by Bahiyiyih Nakhjavani. Fabulous story for focusing on point of view and religions. Set in mid-19th C Arabian desert, follow the lives of travelers linked by a saddlebag.

Segu by Maryse Conde. Chronicles a family near present-day Mali (and beyond) in the 18th C as their traditions are challenged by the slave trade and Islam.***

Shark Dialogues by Kiana Davenport. Follows the women of a matriarchal Hawaiian family through multiple generations, starting in the 1800s and going until the present. Explicit sexual content. ***

The Stone Woman by Tariq Ali. Story of a family living during the decay of the Ottoman Empire.

Things Fall Apart by Chinua Achebe. Describes Nigerian tribal life before and after British colonialism. Recent Heinemann edition comes with additional essays on Ibo culture and African history. ***

The Two Hearts of Kwasi Boachi, by Arthur Japin. Novel based on the true story of two Ashante princes, who are sent to Holland in 1837 which expose them to the slave trade, life in Holland and in Indonesia.

This Earth of Mankind by Pamoedya Ananta Toer. Tells the tale of Dutch Java and colonialism and modernity.

The novel was dictated by Toer while in prison to others who passed it out for transcription.

F-5 Fiction - 1914 to present

Anil's Ghost by Michael Ondaatje; A book about the recent past in Sri Lanka. It concerns a young forensic anthropologist returning to the land of her birth as an investigator for a human rights organization. ***

Beneath a Sky of Porphyry by Aïcha Lemsine. Describes life in an Algerian village before, during & after the war of liberation against French.

Birdsong by Sebastian Faulks; WWI love story shows both lives of men and women and trench combat.

Bride Price by Buchi Emecheta; Forbidden love story of a young Ibo girl and her teacher. ***

Broad and Alien is the World by Ciro Alegria. Andean Peruvian's struggle against the government.

Burmese Days by George Orwell; White man's rule in Upper Burma and India before WWII.

The Clear Light of Day by Anita Desai. Life Indian family and their experiences since the death of Gandhi.

Cracking India by Bapsi Sidhwa. Young girl in Lahore, India during the time of partitioning.

Darkness at Noon by Arthur Koestler. Man interrogated during the Soviet Union's treason trials of the 1930s.

Death and the King's Horseman by Wole Soyinka. (Nobel Prize winner). tragic story of traditional African culture in Oyo, an ancient Yoruba city of Nigeria, in 1946, when the king dies.

Death in the Andes by Mario Vargas Llosa. Start of Sendero Luminoso Movement (Shining Path) in Peru. ***

Destination Biafra by Buchi Emecheta. Tells the story of Nigeria during the Biafran war.

Devil on a Cross by Ngugi Wa'Thiong'o. Describes post-colonial Kenya.

F-5 Fiction - 1914 to present (continued)

The End Play by Indira Mahindra. Indian woman caught between imperial chauvinism & a democratic state.

Endings by Abd al-Rahman Munif. Saudi Arabian town facing challenges of modernity and its traditions.

Forgotten Fire by Adam Bagasarian. Armenian boy during the genocide of WWI

Four Reigns by Kukrit Pramoj. Looks at the reigns of four Thai kings, and the social and political changes in Bangkok from the end of the 19th C to WWII

The Glass Palace by Amitav Ghosh. Describes life in Burma and for Burmese Indians during the British conquest, WWII and up to the imprisonment of Aung San Suu Kyi.

God's Bits of Wood by Ousmane Sembene. 1947 strike on the Dakar-Niger railway in colonial Senegal.

Grain of Wheat by Ngugi W. Thiong'o; Independence struggle in Kenya against British rule during the 50s

House of Spirits – Isabel Allende. Chile leading up to the military overthrow of President Allende.***

House of the Winds by Mia Yun. Family affected by Japanese occupation and the Korean War

Imagining Argentina by Lawrence Thornton. Argentina when thousands disappeared in the late 1970s.

In the Time of Butterflies by Julia Alvarez. Story of four Dominican sisters' struggle against Trujillo. ***

The Journey of Tao Kim Nam by Malcolm Bosse. The travels of man from North Vietnam to South Vietnam.

Joys of Motherhood by Buchi Emecheta. Nigerian girl dealing with the transition from girl to mother and from village girl to city woman. Some sexual content.

Lost Names: Scenes from a Korean Boyhood by Richard E. Kim. Korean family's experiences during Japanese occupation.

Of Love and Shadows by Isabel Allende. Describes life under the Chilean dictator Pinochet.

One Day in the Life of Ivan Denisovich by Alexander Solzhenitsyn. Brutal depiction of life in a Stalinist camp.

Palace Walk or Palace of Desire from Cairo Trilogy (You only need to read one) by Najib Mahfuz (or Naguib Mahfouz). Palace Walk introduces us to the family living in Cairo during the early part of the 20th C when Egypt was under British control. In Palace of Desire the family deals with the currents of modernity and political and domestic turmoil brought by the 1920s.

Paradise of the Blind by Duong Thu Huong. Effects of the Vietnamese revolution on a particular family.

Pillars of Salt by Fadia Faqir. Stories exchanged by two wives in a mental hospital whose experiences typify Jordanian experience during the British Mandate.

Poisonwood Bible by Barbara Kingsolver. A US missionary family in turbulent times of 20th Congo/Zaire ***

The River Between, by Ngugi wa Thiong'o. Colonial splits among Kenyans and the issue of female circumcision.

Sabriya: A Novel by Ulfat Idlibi. Story of a Damascan woman's beleaguered life, from her country's revolt against the French in the 1920s in an oppressively patriarchal society.

Shadow Lines by Amitav Ghosh; Recent Indian political history especially partition and violence in Bengal.

So Long a Letter by Mariama Ba. Widow's letter during her period of mourning after her husband's death about her life and the double standards for men and women.

A Thousand Splendid Suns by Khaled Hosseini. Story of the lives of two women in living in Afghanistan during its turbulent years (war against the Soviets, warlord battles, Taliban rule and then life after the US invasion).

Train to Pakistan by Khushwant Singh. Story about a little village on the frontier between India and Pakistan in the summer of 1947, and of love and loyalty between the Muslims and the Sikhs.

Tree of Red Stars by Tessa Bridal. Tells the story of a young upper class woman and those close to her in Uruguay in the 1960's, as their democracy is gradually taken over by a military dictatorship.***

The Underdogs (Los de Abajo) by Mariano Azuela. Tells the story of the Mexican Revolution.

War in the Land of Egypt by Yusuf al Qa'id. Events in the 1973 war with Israel in Egypt from various angles.

War of the Rats by David Robbins. Stalingrad snipers during WWII.

Weep Not, Child by Ngugi wa Thiong'o. Story of a young boy, as he grows up amidst the Mau Mau war and the conflict between the African natives and the British colonial rulers and the Indian merchants.

When Rain Clouds Gather by Bessie Head. Botswana in the 1960s during independence versus South Africa's oppression of its black population.

Women of Algiers in Their Apartment by Assia Djebar. Collection of stories (denounced in Algeria) about urban Algerian women freed from colonialism to face a regime that subjugates them as it celebrates the liberation of men.

NF-1 NONFICTION - Foundations 8000 BCE to 600 CE

- Armstrong, Karen. The Great Transformation. Fascinating look at the changes in major belief systems in India, China and the Middle East from 900 BCE to 200 BCE.
- Bentley, Jerry. Old World Encounters: Cross-Cultural Contacts & Exchanges in Pre-Modern Times. A look at early societies trading patterns and the exchanges that occurred culturally as well.
- Diamond, Jared. Guns, Germs, and Steel: the Fates of Human Societies. One theory for European dominance, skip Part 4. [CAN BE READ FOR AP ENGLISH LANGUAGE]
- Harris, Marvin. Cannibals and Kings: The Origins of Cultures. Shows how cultures adopt their characteristic forms in response to changing ecological modes.
- Lerner, Gerda. Creation of Patriarchy. Multi-causal theory to explain development of the patriarchal system.
- Pomeroy, Sarah. Goddesses, Whores, Wives, and Slaves: Women in Classical Antiquity. Male-female relationships in Greek and Roman times.
- Teresi, Dick. Lost Discoveries: The Ancient Roots of Modern Science--from the Babylonians to the Maya, Traces technology and science in Foundations period (and a little beyond). Math and science heavy.

NF-2 NONFICTION - 600 CE –1450 CE

- Abu-Lughod, Janet L. Before European Hegemony: The World System A.D. 1250-1350. One theory of world systems and the existence of a world trading system before 1450.
- Bovill, Edward W., and Hallett, Robin. The Golden Trade of the Moors: West African Kingdoms in the Fourteenth Century. Looks at the gold and salt trade of the Islamic Kingdoms of West Africa.
- Chambers, James. The Devil's Horsemen: The Mongol Invasion of Europe. Excellent. ***
- Chaudhuri, K.N. Asia before Europe: Economy and Civilization of the Indian Ocean from the Rise of Islam to 1750. Explores the interactions in the regions around and beyond the Indian Ocean.
- Coe, Michael. Mexico: From the Olmecs to the Aztecs. Great source from the premier researcher on this region.
- Dunn, Ross E. The Adventures of Ibn Battuta: A Muslim Traveler of the 14th Century. An excellent review of the world up to 1400, especially Dar al Islam. Can also read Ibn Battuta in Black Africa for a shorter version.
- Gabrieli, Francesco. Arab Historians of the Crusades. Arab sources on the Crusades.
- Gies, Frances and Joseph. Cathedral, Forge, and Waterwheel: Technology and Invention in the Middle Ages. Discusses Europe's rise to technological leadership and their non-European sources of many of their inventions.
- Levathes, Louise, When China Ruled the Seas: The Treasure Fleet of the Dragon Throne 1405-1433 The tale of Chinese emperor and his admiral's seven major naval expeditions to India, Indonesia, and Africa.
- Weatherford, Jack. Genghis Khan and the Making of the Modern World. New look at the Mongols and their legacies.

NF-3 NONFICTION - 1450 CE –1750 CE

- Barendse, Rene J. The Arabian Seas: The Indian Ocean World of the Seventeenth Century. Indian Ocean trading system.
- Braudel, Fernand. The Mediterranean and the Mediterranean World in the Age of Philip II. The Mediterranean in the 1500s, explaining the environment's role in rise of the Ottomans, how Egyptians made iced drinks, etc.
- Butler Greenfield, Amy. A Perfect Red: Empire, Espionage and the Quest for the Color of Desire. An interesting look at how artists and tailors got red, including a look at cochineal and its impact on the world.
- Chaudhuri, K.N. The Trading World of Asia and the English East Asia India Company, 1660 - 1760. Perhaps the best study of any of the early modern trading companies.
- Corn, Charles. The Scents of Eden: A History of the Spice Trade. Story of the entrance of Europeans into the spice trade.
- Crosby, Alfred. The Colombian Exchange: Biological and Cultural Consequences of 1492. Ultimate work on this event. Discusses the exchange of foods, diseases and ideas between the Americas and Europe. ***
- Curtin, Philip D. The Atlantic Slave Trade: A Census. Seminal work on the Atlantic slave trade.
- The Rise and Fall of the Plantation Complex. Pioneering study of plantation societies in the Americas.
- Frank, Andre Gunder. ReORIENT: Global Economy in the Asian Age. Argues for an early modern world system centered on China.

NF-3 NONFICTION - 1450 CE –1750 CE (continued)

- Leon-Portillo, Miguel. Broken Spears. Short and plainly written account of the Aztec view of the conquest.
- Mann, Charles. 1491. Great read on new findings about pre-Colombian America. ***
- Milton, Giles. Samurai William A man embraces Japanese culture, learns the language and rises to prominence in the court of the reigning Shogun, Ieyasu.
- Northrup, David. Africa's Discovery of Europe 1450-1850. African side of encounters between Europeans and Sub-Saharan Africans.
- Pagden, Anthony. Lords of All the World: Ideologies of Empire in Spain, Britain and France C.1500-C. 1800. Describes different theories colonial powers used to justify seizure & subjugation of aboriginal lands & peoples.
- Resendez, Andre. A Land So Strange: The Epic Journey of Cabeza de Vaca. Fantastic travel narrative.
- Thornton, John. Africa and Africans in the Making of the Atlantic World, 1400 - 1800. Offers an Afrocentric perspective on the Atlantic world and the slave trade.
- Weatherford, Jack. Indian Givers: How the Indians of the Americas Transformed the World. Compelling read on the legacy of Native Americans.
- Willis, John. 1688. Entertaining read about this time period around the world. ***

NF- 4 NONFICTION - 1750 CE –1914 CE

- Banner, Stuart. Possessing the Pacific Land, Settlers, and Indigenous People from Australia to Alaska. Examines the different approaches taken by the British, Americans and others to seizing land from indigenous groups.
- Brown, L. Carl ed. Imperial Legacy: The Ottoman Imprint on the Balkans and the Middle East. Best book on Ottomans.
- Chaudhuri, Nupur and Margaret Strobel. Western Women and Imperialism: Complicity and Resistance. Examines the role of women in imperialism.
- Cocker, Mark. Rivers of Blood, Rivers of Gold: Europe's Conquest of Indigenous Peoples. Impact of imperialism in Mexico, Tasmania, the land of the Apaches, and the tribes of southwest Africa.
- Curtin, Philip D. The World and the West: The European Challenge and the Overseas Response in the Age of Empire. Case studies of the interaction of Western societies of Europe & America with others around the world.
- Africa Remembered: Narratives by West Africans from the Era of the Slave Trade. Slave trade from a non-European perspective.
- Dalrymple, William. The Last Mughal: The Fall of a Dynasty: Delhi, 1857. Tells the story of the various factors that led to the Sepoy Mutiny, the subsequent crushing of the rebellion and deposition of the last Mughal emperor.
- Davis, Michael. Late Victorian Holocausts: El Nino Famines and the Making of the Third World – Sad tale of the connection between El Niño, famines and imperialism. ***
- Headrick, Daniel R. The Tools of Empire: Technology & European Imperialism in the 19th Century; An examination of the technologies that made imperialism possible and how those technologies came about.
- Tentacles of Progress: Technology Transfer in the Age of Imperialism. Impact of technology transfer.
- Hochschild, Adam. Bury the Chains, Prophets and Rebels in the Fight to Free an Empire's Slaves. British struggle for abolition.
- King Leopold's Ghost. Account of megalomaniac King of Belgium, his cruelty and those who fought him after unexpectedly finding themselves witnesses to a holocaust.
- Hopkirk, Peter. The Great Game: The Struggle for Empire in Central Asia 19th Century imperial struggle between Victorian British agents and Tsarist Russian agents over supremacy over present day Afghanistan.
- Loewen, James W. Lies My Teacher Told Me: Everything Your American History Textbook Got Wrong. Only read this one if US history is vague for you. Discusses revisionism.
- Meyer, Karl E. The Race for Mastery in the Asian Heartland Political history of Central Asia
- Moorhead, Alan. The White Nile or The Blue Nile or African Nights. Describes Africa from 1856-1899 – European exploration and exploitation and then Moslem revolts and Christian victories.
- Pomeranz, Kenneth. The Great Divergence: Europe, China and the Making of the Modern World. Original perspectives on the origin of the world market and the industrial revolution.
- Ulrich, Laurel Thatcher. A Midwife's Tale: The Life of Martha Ballard, Based on Her Diary, 1785-1812. Excellent account of medicine and life in New England for women and in general.

NF-5 NONFICTION - 1914 to present

Barber, Benjamin. Jihad vs. McWorld: How Globalism and Tribalism Are Reshaping the World, A look at globalization.

Beah, Ishmael. A Long Way Gone: Memoirs of a Boy Soldier. True story of a boy soldier in Sierra Leone.

Chang, Jung Wild Swans: Three Daughters of China. Fabulous story of 3 generations of women in China. ***

Follain, John. Zoya's Story: An Afghan Woman's Struggle for Freedom. Tells of a woman's clandestine resistance against the Taliban in Afghanistan.

Friedman, Tom, "The World is Flat." Shows how interconnected the world has become with new technology and digital advances, led often not by corporations, but also individuals.

Gourevitch, Philip. We Wish to Inform You That Tomorrow We Will Be Killed with Our Families: Stories from Rwanda. Tales of genocide in Rwanda. Is incredibly depressing and moving.

Heng, Liang and Shapiro, Judith. Son of the Revolution. Cultural Revolution through the eyes of teenage boys.

Hoffer, Eric. The True Believer. Nature of mass movements, a key aspect of the 20th and 21st century.

Huntington, Samuel The Clash of Civilizations and the Remaking of World Order. Discusses increasing threat of violence from renewed conflicts between cultures that base traditions on religious faith and dogma.

Keylor, William. The Twentieth-Century World. Big structures of diplomacy, alliances, & trade in the century.

Kurlansky, Mark. 1968: The Year That Changed the World. An engaging look at life in 1968 and how events around the world, as far apart as the US and Poland, were interconnected***

Lazreg, Marnia. The Eloquence of Silence: Algerian Women in Question. Looks at women's place in Algerian history in general, interesting sections dealing with the War of Independence.

MacMillan, Margaret. Paris 1919: Six Months that Changed the World. Fascinating look at the personalities that negotiated the end to World War I.

Mernissi, Fatima. Beyond the Veil: Male-Female Dynamics in a Modern Muslim Society. Muslim women's lives in Morocco.

McNeill, John. Something New Under the Sun: An Environmental History of the 20th Century. Prize winning book about the dramatic changes in the world's environment in the last century.

Nakazawa, Keiji. Barefoot Gen: The Day after a Cartoon Story of Hiroshima. Is a semi-autobiographical account of Keiji Nakazawa's life growing up in Hiroshima, Japan during and after WWII. Incredibly graphic and violent.

Roberts, J.M. Twentieth Century. One of the best one-volume accounts on the past century.

Sacco, Joe. Safe Area Gorazde: The War in Eastern Bosnia 1992 - 1995. Examines life in war torn Bosnia during the early 1990s and the break up of the region. Graphic novel.

Palestine. Graphic novel looking at life in Israel and the Occupied Territories during the first Intifada

Satrapi, Marjane. Persepolis. A graphic novel memoir about growing up in 1980s Tehran.

Tuchman, Barbara. The Guns of August. Readable history of the first month of the war.

Wolff, Eric. Peasant Wars of the Twentieth Century. Notes parallels in the Chinese, Russian, and other revolutions.

Wong, Jan. Red China Blues. Canadian-Chinese student at end of Cultural Revolution. Good account of Tiananmen Square.

Yergin, Daniel. Prize: The Epic Quest for Oil, Money, And Power. Traces the history of oil.

NF-6 NONFICTION - Cross Era Histories (Generally focused on one region or theme)

- Ahmed, Leila. Women and Gender in Islam. Thorough treatment of women in Islam throughout history. ***
- Anderson, Benedict. Imagined Communities: Reflections on the Origin and Spread of Nationalism - a bit slow but has useful information on nationalism and its spread.
- Armstrong, Karen. Islam: A Short History. An interesting look at the development of Islam and the societies and governments that adopted it. [CAN BE READ FOR AP ENGLISH LANGUAGE]
- Benton, Lauren. Law and Colonial Cultures: Legal Regimes in World History, 1400-1900. Discusses how legal regimes shaped modern imperialism and the international order.
- Chasteen, John Charles. Born in Blood and Fire: A Concise History of Latin America. An interesting view of Latin American history from Conquest to the present.
- Coe, Sophie and Michael. True History of Chocolate. Story of chocolate drawing upon archaeology, socio-economic and culinary history. [CAN BE READ FOR AP ENGLISH LANGUAGE]
- Crosby, Alfred. Ecological Imperialism: The Biological Expansion of Europe, 900-1900. Examines world history during from an environmental perspective, trying to explain why Europe dominated the world. ***
- The Measure of Reality: Quantification in Western Europe, 1250-1600. Another theory as to why Europe dominated the world, focusing on measurement of time, distance and number.
- Curtin, Philip, et al. African History: From Earliest Times to Independence. Survey of African history.
- Davies, Norman. Europe: A History. History of the continent from pre-history to the end of the Soviet Union.
- Diamond, Jared. Collapse: How Societies Choose to Fail or Succeed. Environmental theory on why societies fail. [CAN BE READ FOR AP ENGLISH LANGUAGE]
- Ehret, Christopher. The Civilizations of Africa: A History to 1800. Pre-colonial history of Africa.
- Fernandez-Armesto, Felipe. Millennium History of the world from the 10th century to the present. Examines the West's domination of global affairs, its inevitability and future.
- Figes, Orlando. Natasha's Dance: A Cultural History of Russia. Russian culture and things that influenced it.
- Grove, Richard. Green Imperialism: Colonial Expansion, Tropical Island Edens and the Origins of Environmentalism, 1600-1860. Origins of environmentalism in European colonial policy & practice.
- Hansen, Valerie. The Open Empire. Debunks the classic Western view of the “isolated” Chinese system by showing examples of the open border from the time of the Shang dynasty to 1600.
- Hodgson, Marshall G. S. The Venture of Islam: Conscience and History in a World Civilization. Hard reading but very insightful history of Islamic civilization.
- Hoerder, Dick. Cultures in Contact: World Migrations in the Second Millennium. History of migrations.
- Lewis, Bernard. The Muslim Discovery of Europe. Covers contact between Europe and the Muslim world.
- Lieberman, Victor. Strange Parallels: Volume 1, Integration on the Mainland: Southeast Asia in Global Context, c. 800-1830. Connects Southeast Asia’s development to that of the world.
- Lovejoy, Paul E. Transformations in Slavery: A History of Slavery in Africa. Discusses the often-ignored Islamic African slave trade, as well as other slavery within and without Africa.
- Pearson, Michael. Port Cities and Intruders: The Swahili Coast, India, and Portugal in the Early Modern Era. A thorough study of the interactions of these areas and peoples.
- Reader, John. Africa: A Biography of the Continent. A great survey that uses vignettes about Africa!
- Segal, Ronald. Islam's Black Slaves: The Other Black Diaspora. Tells of the African slave trade with Asians.
- Shi, David Emory. America: A Narrative History. Textbooky, but good source for US history and US AP too.
- Topik, Steven, and William Clarence-Smith, The Global Coffee Economy in Africa, Asia, and Latin America, 1500-1989. Study of coffee markets & societies on four continents, emphasizes the 19th and early 20th centuries.
- Waley-Cohen, Joanna. Sextants of Beijing: Global Currents in Chinese History. An enjoyable and accessible, book that puts to rest the myth that China was unchanging and cut off from the rest of the world. ***
- Walvin, James, Fruits of Empire. Tracing consumption, material culture, and empire.
- Watson, Andrew. Agricultural Innovation in the Early Islamic World. Discusses the “Islamic Exchange” across Eurasia and the Americas, including citrus fruits, rice, cotton, sugar and improved irrigation.
- Wilson, Samuel M. The Emperor's Giraffe and Other Stories of Cultures in Contact. Historical contact stories.
- Wolff, Eric. Europe and the People without History. Different perspective on history, favored by AP. ***
- Worster, Donald. The Ends of the Earth: Perspectives on Modern Environmental History Looks at history with an environmental lens.

NF-7 NONFICTION - World Histories

Armstrong, Karen. A History of God: The 4,000-Year Quest of Judaism, Christianity and Islam. The history of how people have perceived and experienced God from the time of Abraham to the present. [CAN BE READ FOR AP ENGLISH LANGUAGE]

Blaut, James M. The Colonizer's Model of the World: Geographical Diffusionism and Eurocentric History

Challenges Eurocentric notion that Western culture has flowed outward, modernizing rest of world.

Bray, R. S. Armies of Pestilence: The Effects of Pandemics on History. Looks at pandemics and their impact.

Crosby, Alfred. Throwing Fire: Projectile Technology through History. Look at hard, accurate throwing and the manipulation of fire as unique human capabilities.

Children of the Sun: A History of Humanity's Unappeasable Appetite for Energy. A look at society's use of energy and how dwindling resource should give us pause, but also hope with our adaptability.

Curtin, Philip. Cross-Cultural trade in World History A single theme is pursued in this book - the trade between peoples of differing cultures through world history

Fernandez-Armesto, Felipe. Civilizations: Culture, Ambition, and the Transformation of Nature. Explaining success & failure in environmental adaptation.

Pathfinders: A Global History of Exploration. Looks at human exploration around the world along with scientific, technological, political and economic implications.

Findley, Carter. Turks. Looks at the Turkic peoples of Central Asia and their impact on world history.

Keay, John. India: A History. History of India from 3000 BCE to 1998.

Keegan, John. A History of Warfare. World history of warfare including technology

Kurlansky, Mark. Cod: A History of a Fish that Changed the World History of cod. ***

Salt: A World History. History of salt and its by-products. You'll get hungry!*** [BOTH CAN BE READ FOR AP ENGLISH LANGUAGE]

Landes, David. The Wealth and Poverty of Nations, Analysis of wealth distribution in the world, focuses on causes of industrial revolution. [CAN BE READ FOR AP ENGLISH LANGUAGE]

Marks, Robert. The Origins of the Modern World: Fate and Fortune in the Rise of the West (Revised and Updated Edition if possible). Brief examination of reasons for European domination, alternative to Diamond. ***

McClellan, James and Harold Dorn. Science and Technology in World History. Good world wide examination.

McNeill, William. Plagues and Peoples Study of the role of disease in world history.***

The Rise of the West: A History of the Human Community. Examines the West's status across time.

A World History; The Pursuit of Power; et. al. One of the first world historians!

McNeill, William and McNeill J. R. (Father and son). The Human Web: A Bird's Eye View of World History.

Exploration of the connections that have drawn humans together since earliest times by two leading historians.

Mintz, Sidney. Sweetness and Power: The Place of Sugar in Modern History. Can learn much but a hard read.

Pacey, Arnold. Technology in World Civilization. Excellent source on technology.

Pendergrast, Mark. Uncommon Grounds: The History of Coffee and How it Transformed the World – interesting account of coffee, linking it to many dictatorships. [CAN BE READ FOR AP ENGLISH LANGUAGE]

Pomeranz, Kenneth and Topik, Steven. The World that Trade Created: Society, Culture, & the World Economy Great short stories about economics, trade, and history. ***

Ponting, Clive. A Green History of the World: The Environment and the Collapse of Great Civilizations.

Discusses world history through an environmental lens.

Reynolds, Jonathan and Gilbert, Erik. Africa in World History. Looks at world history from an African lens.

Sowell, Thomas. Conquests and Cultures. Examines role of cultural differences in shaping economic and social fates of peoples, specifically the British, Africans, Slavs, and indigenous peoples of the Western Hemisphere.

Stearns, Peter. Cultures in Motion. Examination of cross-cultural interactions and exchanges in world history, including major religions, migrations, nationalism, imperialism and consumerism. Neat maps.

Toussaint-Samat, Maguelonne. The History of Food. Comprehensive (and long) look at the history of gathering, hunting, meat, dairy products, sugar, chocolate, sugar, coffee, tea, etc. Each major food has its own chapter. [CAN BE READ FOR AP ENGLISH LANGUAGE]

Wright, Donald. The World and a Very Small Place in Africa. Engaging study of the expanding global economy as it affects one town and surrounding villages in West Africa. Excellent for APWH. ***