

AP World History

Summer Reading Assignment

Assignment: Choose one book from the reading list, and write a reaction journal. You may choose fiction or non-fiction. Your reflections will be informed by your studies.

As you read your book, write a **one-page reaction to each chapter**. If you have *any* question about what constitutes a “chapter,” e-mail me and we will decide together. (aleston@sfponline.org)

Reaction Journals are to be typed double-spaced, 12 point font, Times New Roman, left page alignment, & one inch margins. ***THEY ARE TO BE SUBMITTED ON TURNIT.COM NO LATER THAN AUGUST 30TH.***

What is a Reaction Paper?

“Reactions” are *NOT SUMMARIES*, but *instead* include the following:

- Connections to current events, class discussions from freshman year, and other literature you have read.
- How this chapter contributes to your understanding of the place, belief systems, politics, trade, conflict, personalities, and time period in question.
- Excellent and relevant quotes from the book, citing page number and context, with commentary from you about why the quote sums up important ideas to the study of the time period.
- Inferences you have made that contribute to your understanding of the time period.
- Questions – anything you did not understand in this chapter? If you include questions in your reaction, remember that you will need to *answer* those questions in your comments on another chapter in the book...

Due Date:

By August 30th at TURNITIN.COM

- **CLASS ID : 8099145**
- **ENROLLMENT PASSWORD:** apworld2

NB: Resist the temptation to watch a video or read “cliff notes” instead of reading a book to complete this assignment. Neither of these activities earns points.

SUMMER READING LIST

HISTORICAL FICTION LIST

- ***The Red Tent*** – Anita Diamant
Fictional version of life of women in pastoral society, as told by Dinah, daughter of Jacob.
- ***Imperium*** – Robert Harris
A novel of ancient Rome – the cautionary tale of Cicero, the greatest orator of all time, and his extraordinary struggle for power in Rome.
- ***Pompeii*** – Robert Harris
A Roman engineer tries to avert disaster.
- ***The Virtues of War*** – Steven Pressfield
Epic novel of Alexander the Great as if told by the man himself- a stunningly intimate account of the battles, the triumphs, and the tragedy of a man who conquered the world.
- ***Gate of Fire*** – Steven Pressfield
Epic novel of the Battle of Thermopylae Pass. If you loved “300,” this may be for you!
- ***The Water Thief*** – Ben Pastor
Murder mystery rich in late Roman and early Christian history.
- ***The Source*** – James Michener
Michener vividly re-creates life in and around an ancient city during critical periods of its existence, and traces the profound history of the Jews, including that of the early Hebrews and their persecution, the impact of Christianity on the Jewish world, the Crusades, and the Spanish Inquisition. This is an epic tale of love, strength, and faith that finally arrives at the founding of Israel and the modern conflict in the Middle East. A compelling history of the Holy Land and its people & a richly written saga encompassing the development of Western civilization.
- ***Brunelleschi's Dome*** – Ross King
How a Renaissance genius re-invented architecture in Florence. Excellent reading for anyone who plans to be an engineer or architect.
- ***Michelangelo and the Pope's Ceiling*** – Ross King
Re-creates Michelangelo's day-to-day world: the assistants who worked directly on the Sistine Chapel, the continuing rivalry with Raphael and others who had much to do with his world (da Vinci, Savonarola, Ariosto, Machiavelli, Martin Luther, Erasmus...) A clear vision of the "novelty" of Michelangelo's image of God, and how "completely unheard of in previous depictions of the ancestors of Christ" was his use of women.
- ***Turkish Reflections: Biography of a Place*** – Mary Lee Settle
An intimate portrait of Turkey by a tourist who falls in love with historical & modern Turkey: emperors & nomads, sultans & shepherds; she explores trails blazed by Alexander the Great, Tamerlane, Genghis Kahn, and Ataturk. This is a cross country odyssey into history, legend, mystery, and myth.

- ***I, Juan de Pareja*** – Elizabeth Borton de Trevino
Society of Classical Spain and the great painter Velasquez, through the eyes of his closest associate and servant. Yes, P-a-r-e-j-a.
- ***Nathaniel's Nutmeg*** – Giles Milton
Best-selling tale of British East India trader pursuing spice, in a race against the Dutch...
- ***The Scarlet Pimpernel*** – Baroness Emmuska Orczy
Reign of terror in France during/after the French Revolution; enter, the masked avenger!
- ***Tale of Two Cities*** – Charles Dickens
London and Paris. Do you see what Voltaire saw when he considered the two?
- ***Samurai William: The Englishman Who Opened the East*** – Giles Milton
The true story behind James Clavell's best-selling *Shogun*: the tale of a man who tried to bridge two worlds.
- ***Nectar in a Sieve*** – Kamala Markandaya
Beautiful & eloquent story of an Indian peasant woman's life caring for her husband and family, while the country underwent British occupation.
- ***Germinal*** – Emile Zola
Expresses outrage at the exploitation of the many by the few during the Industrial Revolution, but also shows humanity's capacity for compassion and hope.
- ***Cry the Beloved Country*** – Alan Paton
Impassioned novel about a black man's country under white man's law – deeply moving story of a Zulu pastor & his son and racial injustice in Southern Africa.
- ***King Leopold's Ghost*** – Adam Hochschild
Congo as the personal fief of the King of Belgium.
- ***Two Hearts of Kwasi Boachi*** – Arthur Japin
Two West African princes are sent to study in Holland in the 1830's.
- ***Snow Flower and the Secret Fan*** - Lisa See
In 19th Century China two women become best friends, endure foot binding, and more... Excellent!
- ***Samarkand*** – Amin Maaluf
Fictional story of Omar Kayyam's Rubiat, and its subsequent re-discovery by a wealthy collector traveling on the Titanic.
- ***The Samurai*** – Shusaku Endo
Traces experiences of first Japanese envoys to Europe & Mexico- Set in the period preceding the Christian persecutions. Translated from Japanese.
- ***A Passage to India*** – E.M. Forester
Novel about a young English woman in colonial India. Library.
- ***The Janissary Tree*** – Jason Goodwin
Murder mystery set in the twilight of the Ottoman Empire
- ***Trinity*** – Leon Uris
The history of the Irish Struggle. You will finally understand!
- ***The Guns of August*** – Barbara Tuchman
The world leading up to the beginning of World War I – August, 1914.

- ***The Kitchen Boy*** – Robert Alexander
A story of the last Tsar of Russia, as seen through the eyes of a kitchen boy.
- ***The Bonesetter's Daughter*** – Amy Tan
China in the early 20th century – Bones of Peking Man or Dragon Bones?
Generations of women, and secrets brought from China.
- ***The Dark Child: The Autobiography of an African Boy*** - Camara Laye
Author's childhood memories: his father's work as a goldsmith and his position in society, his parent's magic, village life, the rice harvest, elementary Koranic education, circumcision and young men's secret society, secondary education in Conakry, girls and courtship, and departure to study in France. After almost half a century in print, this deserves to be called a classic.
- ***Red Azalea*** – Anchee Min
An honest and frightening memoir of growing up in Communist China during the Cultural Revolution.
- ***Haj*** – Leon Uris
Novel about the Arab-Israeli struggle and how it affects individual lives and destinies, brought to life by following two families on opposite sides of the divide...

Non-fiction Book List

- ***The Hidden Dimension*** – Edward T. Hall
Not really history, but cultural and human “proxemics” – demonstrates how man's use of space defines personal, business and cross-cultural relations.
- ***Ghengis Khan and the Making of the Modern World*** – Jack Weatherford
- ***How the Irish Saved Civilization*** – T. Cahill – Library
Brilliant!! Follows three thinkers of Western Civ to demonstrate how they changed the world forever.
- ***Warriors of God*** – James Reston, Jr.
Richard the Lionheart and Saladin in the Third Crusade – brings an objective perspective to the gallantry, greed, and religious fervor that fueled the bold clash between Christians and Muslims.
- ***A World Lit Only by Fire*** – William Manchester
Medieval world – was there brilliance?
- ***Medieval Women*** – Eileen Power
Great detail on lives of women – life, worship, work, education – written on a college level.
- ***The Day the Universe Changed*** – James Burke
Brilliant! Interrelated events that changed the world in unforeseen ways. FULL of insight & connections.
- ***Isaac Newton*** – James Gleick
Brings the reader into Newton's reclusive life, but primarily provides clear explanations of the concepts that forever changed our perception of bodies, rest, and motion – ideas so basic to the 21st century that it can truly be said: We are all Newtonians! Recommended for math/physics students.

- *Napoleon's Buttons: How 17 Molecules Changed History* – Penney M. Le Couteur, Jay Burreson – For the chemist in all of us! Recommended for those interested in science as part of history.
- *SALT: A World History* – The story of world history tracked through the trade of salt.
- *The History of the World in 6 Glasses* – Tom Standage
World history described around the six world-changing beverages. Can you guess what they are?
- *1421: The Year the Chinese Discovered America* – G. Menzies
On the New York Times Best Sellers list *forever...*
- *When China Ruled the Seas* – Louise Levathes
- *Life Along the Silk Road* – Susan Whitfield
- *Salt* – Mike Kurlansky
- *First They Killed My Father: A Daughter of Cambodia Remembers* – Loung Ung
- *One Thousand Paper Cranes: The Story of Sadako and the Children's Peace Statue* – Ishii Takayuki
- *The Human Web* - McNeill, John Robert
- *My Name is Red* - Pamuk, Orhan
- *Tastes of Paradise: A Social History of Spices* - Schivelbusch, Wolfgang
- Dunn, Ross E. *The Adventures of Ibn Battuta: A Muslim Traveler of the Fourteenth Century. Revised Edition.* Berkeley: University of California Press, 2004.
- Pomeranz, Kenneth, and Topik, Steven. *The World That Trade Created: Society, Culture, and the World Economy – 1400 to the Present, Second Edition.* New York: M.E. Sharpe, 2006
- Hersey, John. *Hiroshima.*
- Whiting, Robert. *You Gotta Have Wa.*
- Chan, Koonchung. *The Fat Years.*