

# 2021 APWH Summer Work

The summer assignment is to choose a book from the list provided below and develop an argument about a core message, theme, or topic of the book chosen. The assignment will be one of the first to go into the gradebook so it will be significant for the students' grades early on in the semester. **That said, it is not intended to strike fear or stress the students about their grades.** It will not be worth as much as a standard exam and will count as an "assignment" and not an assessment. Most AP history classes assign typical reading and notetaking from the textbook or other resources as summer work but this assignment is meant to be more enjoyable, more interesting, and thus more rewarding. This assignment is intended to expose students to the content, the types of questions, and the types of tasks they will have to do in the course. It is also intended to give me an idea of the students reading, organizational, analysis, and argumentation skills through writing—the most challenging tasks in the course and the most pertinent to the AP exam. **It is to be turned in on Google Classroom on Friday August 13 by 11:59pm.**

## Book choices:

1. [\*When Asia Was the World\*](#) by Steward Gordon, 228 pages
2. [\*Prisoners of Geography: Ten Maps That Tell You Everything You Need to Know About Global Politics\*](#) by Tim Marshall, 320 pages
3. [\*A History of the World in Six Glasses\*](#) by Tom Standage, 274 pages ([pdf](#))
4. [\*This Fleeting World: A Short History of Humanity\*](#) by David Christian, 113 pages ([pdf](#))

## Assignment:

- A 3-5 page essay on the main arguments, themes, or takeaways from ONE book of your choice. To clarify: you are either using one or more of the teacher made book prompts (below) OR formulating your own question / organic argument about something from the book. Do not worry about pages or paragraphs or any length requirements so much as the quality of work. The rubric (below) is qualitative and does not require a specific amount of paragraphs or pages.
  - A clear, cogent thesis about the author's main arguments / themes of the book
  - Specific, cited references to examples in the book (at least SIX)
  - Analysis / commentary on the cited references to support the thesis
  - MLA Format (works cited not necessary, just do parenthetical citations with page numbers)
- If you wish to see some sample essays from past student work, [click here](#).

## Important Resources

- [AP Historical Reasoning / Thinking Skills](#)
- [Broad History themes \(social, political, economic, etc.\)](#)
- [AP World History Course Concepts, Themes, and Developments](#)

## Guiding questions for book choices

These questions are **optional but suggested** “prompts” for the essay on your book choice. **Use one, multiple, or construct your own question to frame your essay.** You can go beyond the scope of the question so long it is relevant to the book and your argument. See the rubric below for more specific criteria on the response.

### ***Prisoners of Geography***

1. Using at least 3 of the maps or chapters from the book, explain the impact of geography on the course of human history: the development of civilization, access to resources, economic capability, defense from foreign attacks, social diversity and migration, technological and industrial development, etc.
2. Using ONE specific region or nation, explain how the geography has affected this specific region **over time**. Explain how the development of this region or nation has changed or continued over time because of its access to (or lack thereof) resources, positioning along trade routes, social or cultural conflicts with neighbors, and its strategic defensive situation.
3. Which nations or regions have been helped by their geography the most, and which nations or regions have been hindered or cursed by their geography the most? **Refer to at least TWO specific nations or regions.** This should be a comparative analysis.

### ***When Asia Was the World***

1. Focusing on a specific case (chapter) or a specific theme, such as culture, economics, or politics, explain the interconnected nature of Asia in the Post Classical Era (c. 600-1500 CE).
2. Explain the role religion played in social interactions, trade and commerce, and statebuilding in Asia in the Post Classical Era (c. 600-1500 CE).

### ***A History of the World in Six Glasses***

1. What role(s) have these six specific resources, commodities, beverages, and cultural icons played in human history? What has been their impact(s) on social, political, economic, or even technological aspects of history? Which drink do you think is most historically significant? **You can focus on one or a few of the drinks and their impact on one or a few things--this does not have to be broad.**
2. Using 2-3 drinks discussed in the book, explain how these commodities played a role in social interactions and cultural development over time.
3. Using 2-3 drinks discussed in the book, explain how the cultivation, manufacturing, distribution, and consumption of beverages has changed (and / or continued) over time, and how their impact on the world has changed over time.

### **Organic questions:**

- Historical questions, especially essay prompts, typically follow a “formula” for lack of a better term: a specific task verb (explain, analyze, evaluate), a specific historical reasoning / thinking skill (causation, comparison, change/continuity over time), a specific historical theme (such as empire building or trade), a specific geographical / locational focus, and then a specific time period (such as the post-Classical era, c. 600-1500 CE).
  - *Explain the effects of the COVID-19 outbreak on the California economy in the period March 2020 - December 2020.*
  - *Evaluate the extent to which Donald Trump changed the role of the President in American politics in the period 2014-2020.*
- Use this formula to develop your own question(s) if you choose to do so.

### APWH Summer Book Report Rubric

Evidence of work approaching standard (1-3)	Meeting standard (4)	Evidence of work meeting or exceeding standard (5)
	<p><b>Introduction of the Book:</b>            In the introduction, the author introduces the topic, setting, and major themes of the book: when, where, and what; and something about what makes this topic historically or currently significant. There should be a discussion of 2-3 major events, themes, developments, etc related to the book. This can be done in a separate paragraph after the intro if desired.</p>	
	<p><b>Thesis and Argumentation:</b>            The author develops an argument that is a direct, specific, and historically defensible response to the question OR organic/original argument with <b>~three prongs/main points</b>. There must be a clear argument (using words like because, due to, affected, caused, etc.). The thesis and topic sentences are aligned and are relevant for the skills, themes, topics, etc. in the prompt.</p>	
	<p><b>Use of Evidence:</b>            The author accurately and thoroughly describes SIX references to the book AND uses these references in an argumentative manner to explain the thesis.  <b>The references MUST be cited with a page number (#) from the book and integrated using your language (As Standage argues, coffee was "...).</b></p>	
	<p><b>Analysis and Reasoning:</b>            The author explains how the cited evidence supports their claim(s). This can entail use of <a href="#">historical reasoning skills</a> to <b>explain how or why cited examples support the author’s argument:</b> addressing cause and effect, comparisons, and/or changes and continuities over time; and/or <a href="#">historical themes</a> (social, political, economic, etc.) are addressed and analyzed when discussing references to the book.</p>	

## Long Essay Outline

	<p style="text-align: center;">¶1 Introduction</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1) Hook, controversy, provocative thought (not totally necessary)</li> <li>2) Brief overview of the book: 3-4 sentences on the essential takeaways of the book</li> <li>3) Background/context of the book topic (and, if possible, long-term significance of the topic)</li> <li>4) Thesis: X, Y, Z*</li> </ol>	
<p style="text-align: center;">¶2. Body</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1) X Topic Sentence</li> <li>2) Evidence 1</li> <li>3) Analysis</li> <li>4) Evidence 2</li> <li>5) Analysis</li> <li>6) Transition / Reiteration of Argument</li> </ol>	<p style="text-align: center;">¶3. Body</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1) Y Topic Sentence</li> <li>2) Evidence 1</li> <li>3) Analysis</li> <li>4) Evidence 2</li> <li>5) Analysis</li> <li>6) Transition / Reiteration of Argument</li> </ol>	<p style="text-align: center;">¶4. Body</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1) Z Topic Sentence</li> <li>2) Evidence 1</li> <li>3) Analysis</li> <li>4) Evidence 2</li> <li>5) Analysis</li> <li>6) Transition / Reiteration of Argument</li> </ol>
	<p style="text-align: center;">¶5. Conclusion</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1) Counterclaim to thesis / Significance / Contextualization / Modern day relevance</li> <li>2) Restated thesis: X, Y, Z</li> <li>3) Concluding statement: synthesis, broad comparison / connection across time and space</li> </ol>	<p>Conclusion paragraph should restate the thesis <b>emphasizing how evidence provided proves your point</b>. You should then add something conclusive. This could be a return to the context/background you set in the intro, a broad comparison or connection across time and space, something historically, significant about the topic, or modern day connections.</p>