

Name: _____

Summer Work – 2018

Advanced Placement World History Summer Assignments

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Hello!

Before any discussion on the summer assignment, I would first like to congratulate you on taking on AP World History and challenging yourself to reach higher levels of excellence!

The purpose of summer work is to simply engage you in world historical analysis so that you will have a solid foundation prior to the first day of class in August. If you haven't realized it yet, you will be doing an astonishing amount of work in preparation for the May 2018 AP World History Exam. This begins NOW. That is, your summer prep and reading begins your quest for a "5" on the AP World Exam!!!

THE QUESTIONS WILL BE DUE THE TUESDAY AFTER LABOR DAY

Mr. Brosnahan

Jared Diamond Journal Article and Guns, Germs, and Steel Analysis

"The Worst Mistake in the History of the Human Race" by Jared Diamond

Background:

The discovery and spread of agriculture is arguable the most influential event in the history of humans. Jared Diamond is a Pulitzer Prize winning author who is among the world's most exhaustive researchers about agriculture and the influence of geography. Sometimes referred to as a geographic determinist, Jared Diamond and his article "The Worst Mistake in the History of the Human Race," explores what may be the often forgotten dark impacts of agriculture.

Purpose:

To analyze the positive and negative impacts of the development of agriculture on human history.

Task:

1. Read the article below and then answer the questions on the follow on the next page.
 - a. <http://www3.gettysburg.edu/~dperry/Class%20Readings%20Scanned%20Documents/Intro/Diamond.PDF>
2. Be prepared to analyze and discuss: To what extent do you agree with Jared Diamond's argument in "The Worst Mistake"?

The Worst Mistake in the History of the Human Race

By Jared Diamond

Please answer each of the following questions in complete sentences.

- 1) How did humans support themselves for most of human history?

- 2) According to the progressivist perspective, why did most hunter-gatherers adopt agriculture?

- 3) How do the Kalahari Bushmen challenge the idea that people adopted farming because it's easier?

- 4) Why does Diamond compare current hunter-gatherer societies with potato farmers in Ireland?

- 5) How did humans change when agriculture was introduced (height, health, lifespan)? What evidence is provided to prove this argument?

- 6) Why did Indians at Dickson Mounds take up farming?

- 7) What are the three sets of reasons that explain why agriculture was bad for health?
 - a.

 - b.

 - c.

- 8) How did the advent of agriculture bring about class divisions? Do those division still exist today?

- 9) How did farming encourage inequalities between sexes? What historical evidence does Diamond provide?

- 10) Why were hunter gatherers replaced by farmers if agriculture is so bad for human health?

Viewing Guide: Guns, Germs, and Steel: Episode 1

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=i885hopsw6E>

Directions: Before viewing the film, read each question below so you know what information and ideas you should be looking for as you watch Episode 1. Record your answers to each question by providing as many facts, details, and examples as possible to answer each question.

1. According to Jared Diamond, what are the three major elements that separate the world's "haves" from the "have nots"?
2. Jared Diamond refers to the people of New Guinea as "among the world's most culturally diverse and adaptable people in the world", yet they have much less than modern Americans. Diamond has developed a theory about what has caused these huge discrepancies among different countries, and he says it boils down to geographic luck. Give several examples from the film to support Diamond's theory.
3. For thousands of years, people have been cultivating crops. Describe the process used to domesticate crops and create plants that yielded bigger, tastier harvests.

Viewing Guide: Guns, Germs, and Steel: Episode 2

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dCBod2jFFyQ>

Directions: Before viewing the film, read each question below so you know what information and ideas you should be looking for as you watch Episode 2. Record your answers to each question by providing as many facts, details, and examples as possible to answer each question.

1. At the time that the Spanish conquistador's invaded the Inca Empire, they were armed with state of the art weaponry. Describe this weaponry.
2. What is Jared Diamond's explanation for why the Spanish had advanced to steel swords while Inca's were still making tools and weapons from bronze?
3. How did the battle tactics used by the Spanish conquistadors help the small army defeat the Inca army that outnumbered it by the thousands?
4. According to Jared Diamond, what made the Europeans "accidental conquerors"?

Viewing Guide: Guns, Germs, and Steel: Episode 3

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=aJ9espgY-Po>

Directions: Before viewing the film, read each question below so you know what information and ideas you should be looking for as you watch Episode 3. Record your answers to each question by providing as many facts, details, and examples as possible to answer each question.

1. According to Jared Diamond, what is the one factor that allowed Europeans to develop the forces necessary to conquer vast portions of the world?
2. Why were the Europeans who settled the South African cape so successful? Describe two reasons
3. How did disease allow the Europeans to conquer the native populations in the Americas and in the African cape?
4. While the Europeans who were attempting to overtake/settle the tropical areas of the African continent were responsible for introducing killer germs to the native populations, they also suffered from the effects of the germs native to this part of the world. Describe how these germs worked against the European settlers.

