

CCU World History With Roland Rasmussen

Note: An 85% or higher in 9th Grade World History and successful completion of my summer course work are the only pre-requisites for admission into College World at Faith Baptist Schools.

Summer Assignments:

- Read The Walking Drum by Louis L'Amour. It is okay to discuss the book with other students in a general way, but complete the work below without consultation. You will receive a grade on the work roughly equivalent to a major test.
 - I. Written answers (Paragraphs)
 - A. Compare the politics, social and religious cultures, architecture, and economy that Kerbouchard finds in the cities of Cordoba, Paris, and Constantinople.
 - B. Describe the attitudes and conditions of three other cities that Kerbouchard visits.
 - C. Create a character sketch for two characters other than Kerbouchard from the book. One of these characters must be a women. Include something about their attitudes regarding education, honor, religion, courage, trade, and/or travel.
 - II. Map – Make your own map of Kerbouchard's travels across the eastern hemisphere.
- Read Genesis Ch. 1-19 and the linked scientific articles to answer the following questions: Do the carbon14 (radio carbon) and K-Ar (potassium argon) dating methods prove the earth is millions of years old? Because the Bible teaches a young earth, do the science methods of dating the earth disprove the young earth position of the Bible?
 - <https://answersingenesis.org/geology/carbon-14/doesnt-carbon-14-dating-disprove-the-bible/>
 - <https://answersingenesis.org/geology/carbon-14/radioactive-dating-failure/>
 - <https://answersingenesis.org/astronomy/earth/the-earths-magnetic-field-and-the-age-of-the-earth/>
- Read chapters 1-6 of *Traditions and Encounters: A Global Perspective of the Past* Fifth Edition **AP Edition** by Jerry H. Bentley and Herbert F. Ziegler.
 - Make Cornell notes for each chapter (emphasis on thematic summary for each main point of the text, the red & blue sub-headings).
 - Students will receive a 50 question multiple choice AP style test over the first six chapters of the textbook to test their ability to analyze information at a collegiate level.
- Read selected chapters from *Guns, Germs, and Steel* by Jared Diamond outlined in the reading guide.

AP World History Reading Guide for

Guns, Germs, and Steel: The Fates of Human Societies By Jared Diamond

Read Parts I, II, and III; they contain the main argument. Then pick one chapter from Part IV depending on your interests. Each of these illustrates the thesis as it applies to a geographic area: Australia, East Asia, Oceania, Eurasia and the Americas, and Africa. Everyone will not be interested in the same chapter, you will want to be ready to explain the argument in the one you choose. Finally, read the Epilogue. I'm asking you to read about 325 pages from this book.

The central claim (thesis) of this book is that "history followed different courses for different peoples because of differences among peoples' environments, not because of biological differences among peoples themselves" (25). How Diamond makes the claim is his argument; how he supports the claim is his evidence. **Your job is to discover the reasons why Diamond makes this claim**, i.e., you will need to follow his argument and evaluate his evidence. It doesn't matter whether you agree or disagree with him, though if you agree, you will be asked to supply counter-arguments and/or evidence. Personal experiences and hunches may help you start an argument for or against Diamond, but neither will be sufficient since his own evidence goes far beyond one person's experience.

Be prepared to take whatever time it takes to read and understand this book, making annotations in the margins is recommended.

Notice that Diamond usually gives us the questions he is working on, so you can look for the answer. The Preface begins with one question: "Why did history unfold differently on different continents?" (9). The Prologue begins with Yali's question (p.14). You might try marking your book with a Q next to each question he asks. Note that there are at least two on p.15, two on p.16 and an implied question on p.17 (What are the objections to discussing Yali's question?), and so on. Reviewing a chapter by trying to answer each of the questions that you marked is a wonderful way of checking your understanding. Though the questions in the Preface and Prologue may take the whole book to answer, many of the questions in each chapters are answered in that chapter and add a piece of the answer for the big questions.

Diamond states his argument briefly for the first time in the Prologue. You might note its main features, then watch how Diamond expands on each of them. Pages 28-32 outline the structure of the book, so read them carefully in order to see the overall picture of his argument. You will find that if you can explain each of the figures and tables Diamond presents, that you will probably have gotten the main evidence and lines of argument under control. So, read a chapter, and then try to explain the figures/tables to a family member or friend. Some figures describe the argument (esp. p. 87); most figures (maps, e.g.) and tables describe the evidence. Be clear about how this evidence supports his argument.

This is work and it is interesting because of all the questions Diamond addresses and answers and the surprising evidence he musters. If you like learning, and really want to show you are ready for a college-level course, this should turn out to be a rewarding experience.

Guns, Germs, and Steel: The Fates of Human Societies By Jared Diamond

Take notes as you go, in the book, on paper, or on your computer. Write down words you do not know and look them up. Also keep a list of questions that you have about the book.

Answer the following questions with *complete explanations* in a Word Document named “AP World GGS.” You must upload this file through turnitin.com by August 23, 2017, and you must bring a printed copy with you on the first day of school. A digital file of this assignment, including directions for www.turnitin.com, can be found on our website: www.faithbaptistschools.com

Prologue: Yali’s Question

1. Why do you think Diamond chooses to begin his book with a question?
2. Why do you think Yali’s question is relevant for us today?
3. Diamond proposes his answer to Yali’s question: Do you find this persuasive so far? If so, why? If not, what kind of evidence would he have to supply to persuade you?
4. Diamond challenges some common explanations for differences among human societies. Are you familiar with these explanations?

Part One: From Eden to Cajamarca

1. Take note of this title. Where is Cajamarca? What is Diamond referring to?
2. What do you expect to learn in this section of the book?
3. Why would Diamond choose to start here?

Chapter One: Up to the Starting Line

Diamond says: “An observer transported back in time to 11,000 B.C. could not have predicted on which continent human societies would develop most quickly, but could have made a strong case for any of the continents.” Why does Diamond begin his story at this point in human history; why not sooner or later?

Chapter Two: A Natural Experiment of History

How does the fact that the Maori defeated the Moriori support Diamond’s argument?

Chapter Three: Collision at Cajamarca

Pizarro defeated the Incan emperor Atahualpa, just like the Maori defeated the Moriori in the previous chapter. Why does Diamond use historical anecdotes to support his argument at this point in the book, rather than some other kind of evidence, like statistics?

5pts. Give an example of a less materially advanced society defeating a more materially advanced society. Do you think this example casts doubt on Diamond’s claim?

Part Two: The Rise and Spread of Food Production

1. What do you expect to find in this section of the book?
2. Why do you think Diamond chose to write about food?

Chapter Four: Farmer Power

Diamond claims that there is a relationship between farming and societal development. Where does he get the evidence to support his claim? Did humans living at the time create documents (like diaries and newspapers) that survive to this day? In what part of the book does Diamond tell you what his sources of information are?

Chapter Five: History's Haves and Have-Nots

Some areas of the world developed independent food production more quickly than others. Why should Diamond be concerned with this subject? What relationship does this have to his argument?

Chapter Six: To Farm or not to Farm

Settled agriculture replaced hunting and gathering slowly; the transition was neither immediate nor obvious. Doesn't that seem counterintuitive? Why would someone want to continue hunting and gathering when given the choice of settled agriculture?

Chapter Seven: How to Make an Almond

The domestication of plants required years, if not centuries, of trial and error. What is Diamond's evidence for this?

Chapter Eight: Apples vs. Indians

Independent food production fell far short of a "complete food package" in the eastern United States (until the arrival of crops from other regions), but Diamond does not blame the Indians. Aren't people responsible for the situations they create? Couldn't smarter people have created a more complete food package and thereby created a more advanced civilization?

Chapter Nine: Zebras, Unhappy Marriages, and *The Anna Karenina* Principle

Eurasians—the inhabitants of Europe and Asia—domesticated more animals than other peoples. Why? How does this support Diamond's theory?

Chapter Ten: Spacious Skies and Tilted Axes

According to Diamond, agricultural innovations spread more quickly from East to West, along the orientation of Eurasia's axis, then from North to South. Why? What does this have to do with the fates of human societies?

Now is a good time to ask: Why doesn't this book sound like the history, geography, or biology textbooks you may have read before? Explain.

Part Three: From Food to Guns Germs, and Steel

1. What do you expect Diamond to tell you in this part of the book?
2. How do you think he will advance his argument?

Chapter Eleven: The Lethal Gift of Livestock

Farmers transmit more powerful germs than hunter-gatherers: Diamond, in this chapter, draws on conclusions that he made in the previous sections. What are they? Do you find him persuasive?

Chapter Twelve: Blueprints and Borrowed Letters

According to Diamond, food production precedes the development of writing. Think back to points that Diamond made earlier in the book: How can he say *with any certainty* that food must precede writing? Why might not people develop writing earlier?

Chapter Thirteen: Necessity's Mother

According to Diamond, we have some misconceptions about how societies develop and use innovations: "Invention actually creates necessity." Do you share these "misconceptions"? Can you think of an example from your own life that disproves Diamond's claim?

Chapter Fourteen: From Egalitarianism to Kleptocracy

What is kleptocracy? Do you live in a kleptocracy now? Diamond says that societies, as they develop, pass through four stages. Who can he make such a generalization about every society?

Part Four: Around the World in Five Chapters

Read *at least one* chapter from part four. Note which chapter you chose and explain how it supports Diamond's argument.

Epilogue: The Future of Human History as a Science

1. Diamond returns to Yali's question. Do you think Yali would believe his answer?
2. Do you believe his answer?
3. In this chapter, Diamond tries to address some objections to his theory (e.g., China, Great Men of History). Does he convince you? Why or why not?
4. Diamond proposes a "science of human history." What does he hope to learn from looking at history as a science?
5. Looking back at the book, do you think Diamond is a historian, geographer, biologist, anthropologist, archaeologist, or zoologist? Explain

Directions for using Turnitin.com

1. First, you must have a school-appropriate email address to use for this assignment as well as communication throughout the year. If you do not have one that is web-accessible (yahoo, gmail, etc.), now would be the time to set one up. Even if you have an email account for personal use, you may want to set up another one just for professional/school use to keep it separate from your personal email.
2. Go to <http://www.turnitin.com> and click on NEW USER to create an account.
3. In the box titled “Create a New Turnitin Account” Click on STUDENT.
4. In the box titled “Create a New Turnitin Student Account” Fill in all of the boxes:
 - a. the class ID is: 15470903
 - b. the class enrollment password is: Contenders
 - c. After filling in all the other boxes, click on I AGREE—CREATE PROFILE
5. When ready to submit your Summer Assignment, simply click on the CCU World History course and the Summer Assignment link will appear.
6. Click on the Summer Assignment link and follow the directions to upload your completed Summer Assignment. You may only upload your FINAL DRAFT!
7. You should then receive an email confirmation from Turnitin that your paper has been received.
8. Also **print a copy** of your Assignment to **turn in to your instructor** (Roland Rasmussen) **on the first day of school!!**
9. **Questions, comments, concerns can be addressed via text or email:**
rolandrasmussen@myfbs.org 818-535-3616