



AP EUROPEAN HISTORY SUMMER ASSIGNMENT

Welcome to the wonderful world of AP European History! Beginning in September, we will embark on an intensive study of the events that have shaped European History from the Renaissance through today. In order to get a jump start on the material for which you will be responsible, you will complete some reading and a writing assignment over the summer. I will expect you to have completed the summer assignment and pass it in on **the first day of class**. Please do not hesitate to contact me with any questions you may have. Use your free time over the summer wisely!

Reading and Essay Assignment: *Cod: A Biography of the Fish that Changed the World*

Cod: A Biography of the Fish that Changed the World, by Mark Kurlansky is a secondary source that examines how Cod fishing shaped the development of Europe and the New World.

Book Critique: A book critique is more than just a book report—it is a careful analysis of an author’s thesis and evidence. Your ***objective*** is to read your book, every word, and write a carefully crafted and researched paper that meets the requirements of the rubric. You will need to take notes while you read, identifying the author’s thesis regarding the topic (like any analysis of a secondary source), identifying the author’s evidence used to support the thesis, and any other important facts, ideas, or opinions you decide are necessary to explain. The critique should be written in 4 parts. Each part should be at least 1 page and at most 3 pages. Remember longer is not necessarily better. I am looking to see how effectively you can identify and explain an argument.

PART I: Summary explaining the content of the book, including summaries of some chapters and anecdotes.

PART II: Overview of the Author’s Thesis and evidence, with in depth explanations of how the author connects historical events, people, or ideas to the argument

PART III: Recommendation that articulates your direct feelings on the book—is it worth the read to any potential future readers? What works well and what does not?

PART IV: Evaluation of where the book best fits into the **themes** of AP European History.

Themes:

1. Interaction of Europe and the World: This theme focuses on the various factors and motivations that contributed to Europe’s interaction with the world since 1450, as well as the impact this interaction had both on Europe and on non-European societies.
2. Poverty and Prosperity: This theme focuses on the role that economic development, especially the development of capitalism, played in Europe’s history as well as its social and political impact. According to its critics, capitalism led to an unequal distribution of wealth and opportunities: it created interconnected financial markets that periodically crashed, which could lead to widespread repercussions. Capitalism’s emphasis on free trade shifted production from expensive to inexpensive regions, like the overseas colonies in Africa and Asia, which had the impact of reducing or holding down the wages of workers in Europe.

3. Objective Knowledge and Subjective Vision: This theme focuses on the creation and transmission of knowledge in Europe’s history, with particular focus on the relationship between traditional sources of authority and the development of differing world views.

4. States and Other Institutions of Power: This theme focuses on the development of various forms of government and civil institutions since 1450 and the social, cultural, and economic impact of political change. After 1450, the old ideal that Europe constituted a unified Christendom was weakened by the rise of sovereign states. These states asserted a monopoly over law and the management of all institutions, including the church.

5. Individual and Society: This theme focuses on changes to family, class, and social groups in European history, on how these have changed in form and in status, and on the impact of such changes for both the individual and society.

6. National and European Identity: This theme focuses on how and why definitions and perceptions of regional, cultural, national, and European identity have developed and been challenged over time. Since 1450, Europeans have understood their place in the world based on their membership in various and sometimes overlapping entities, ranging from small local groupings to fully developed nation-states and multinational organizations.

More specific overviews of each theme can be found at <https://apcentral.collegeboard.org/pdf/ap-european-history-course-and-exam-description.pdf?course=ap-european-history>

Format: This will be the format for all formal assignments during the year

- use 1” margins all around
- use Times New Roman font, 12 point
- single space your name, the class and the date in the top left corner
- center your title
- double-space the paragraphs.

Category	Standard	Grade
Summary of book (20)	The book is summarized in a clear fashion, with chapters explained in detail.	
Author’s argument (20)	The author’s thesis statement is clearly articulated and explains evidence the author uses to support the thesis. Use & explain clear evidence	
Recommendation (20)	The paper identifies positives and negatives of the book and makes a recommendation. Use & explain clear evidence	
Evaluation (20)	The paper clearly explains a strong connection to one or more themes of AP European History. Use & explain clear evidence	
Grammar and spelling (10)	Correct grammar and spelling is used throughout the paper, including capitalization.	
Organization (10)	Topic sentences are used to identify the information in paragraphs, and sentences are constructed to flow upward to the topic sentence; all sentences have a clear purpose	

