



## 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.

**Free Library:** <https://openlibrary.org/>

**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 (INT)**  
Motivated by a variety of factors, Europe's interaction with the world led to political, economic, social, and cultural exchanges that influenced both European and non-European societies.
2. **ECONOMIC AND COMMERCIAL DEVELOPMENTS (ECD)**  
Economic development, especially the development of capitalism, played an important role in Europe's history, often having significant social, political, and cultural effects.
3. **CULTURAL AND INTELLECTUAL DEVELOPMENTS (CID)**  
The creation and transmission of knowledge, including the relationship between traditional sources of authority and the development of differing world views, had significant political, intellectual, economic, cultural, and social effects on European and world societies.
4. **STATES AND OTHER INSTITUTIONS OF POWER (SOP)**  
European states and nations developed governmental and civil institutions

from 1450 to the present to organize society and consolidate political power, with a variety of social, cultural, and economic effects.

5. **SOCIAL ORGANIZATION AND DEVELOPMENT (SCD)**  
Economic, political, and cultural factors have influenced the form and status of family, class, and social groups in European history, affecting both the individual and society.
6. **NATIONAL AND EUROPEAN IDENTITY (NEI)**  
Definitions and perceptions of regional, cultural, national, and European identity have developed and been challenged over time, with varied and often profound effects on the political, social, and cultural order in Europe.
7. **TECHNOLOGICAL AND SCIENTIFIC INNOVATION (TSI)**  
Scientific and technological innovations have increased efficiency, improved daily life, and shaped human development and interactions, having both intended and unintended consequences

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.

| <b>Category</b>           | <b>Standard</b>  | <b>Grade</b> |
|---------------------------|--|--------------|
| 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 |              |