



GREATER ATLANTA CHRISTIAN SCHOOL

AP Human Geography Summer Assignment

Guns, Germs, and Steel by Jared Diamond

Directions: As you read Jared Diamond's *Guns, Germs, and Steel*, answer the questions below. When the Ethos semester starts there will be a dropbox and this assignment will be submitted there by the end of the first week. While this is a one-time assignment we will reference the material and topics as we cover the content of AP Human Geography.

Introduction: "Yali's Question"

What is the central question that Jared Diamond poses in the introduction, and why is it significant?

How does Diamond frame his exploration of the differing fates of human societies?

What does Diamond mean by "ultimate" and "proximate" causes?

Part One: From Eden to Cajamarca

Summarize the importance of food production in shaping the course of human history according to Diamond.

Explain the significance of the "Great Leap Forward" in human development.

How did the domestication of plants and animals contribute to the rise of complex societies?

Part Two: The Rise and Spread of Food Production

Describe the geographic advantages that Eurasian societies had over other regions in terms of food production.

What role did the availability of domesticable plants and animals play in the development of agriculture?

Discuss the impact of food production on population growth, social organization, and technological innovation.

Part Three: From Food to Guns, Germs, and Steel

Analyze the factors that enabled Spanish conquistadors to conquer the Inca Empire.

How did the spread of infectious diseases affect the outcome of European colonization in the Americas?

Evaluate Diamond's argument regarding the role of geographic and environmental factors in shaping the outcome of historical events.

Part Four: Around the World in Five Chapters

Explain the concept of "armaments and accoutrements" and its significance in the conquest and colonization of the Americas.

Discuss the impact of technology, such as guns and steel, on the power dynamics between different societies.

How did agriculture and food production contribute to the rise of complex societies and the emergence of states and empires?

Conclusion: The Future of Human History as a Science

Reflect on Diamond's arguments regarding the role of geography, environment, and technology in shaping the course of human history.

What lessons can we learn from the patterns and processes described in the book, and how might they inform our understanding of contemporary global issues?

Consider how the themes explored in "*Guns, Germs, and Steel*" relate to current debates about globalization, inequality, and sustainability.