**Course:** World History (on-level)
**Materials and ISBN:** see assignment
**Assignment:** Current Events Analysis
World History Summer Assignment

Much of the work of understanding history is not just reading and researching past events, but being well-versed in current events as well. Many current events in history have direct connection to events in the past, and as the old saying goes, "History repeats itself." For your summer assignment, you will keep a current events journal. You will select an issue in which you are interested and track it for a minimum of 4 weeks.

The hard copy of this assignment (the journal entries) are due the first full day of class, at the beginning of class. Electronic submissions will not be accepted.

This assignment will count as a 50-point test grade.

The Assignment
• Pick an issue (list of ideas below)
• Watch, read, listen to the news about your region or topic. (list of resources below) • In a notebook- complete 6 journal entries (see further explanation below) • When we return to school, you will develop a 8-10-minute presentation about your topic/region. (Note: you will have one full class period to work on your presentation; if people chose a similar topic, you may be working as a group to develop a communal presentation.)

The Journal Entries (sample entry on last page of this assignment) (50 points)
• The purpose of the journal entries is to give you data to work with for your presentation and also to make connections/notice patterns in what you have been tracking for 4-6 weeks. For each entry, you must include all of the following:

- Date of entry and the date/title/author (or presenter) of the article/clip/episode.
- Summary of the article/episode/clip - what is happening? Who are the important people?
- How does this source show a change in the event or idea you have been tracking? How have things stayed the same?
- What are some connections you can make to the other entries you have already written?
- Include the citation/link to the news source.

All of your entries must be written in complete, grammatically correct sentences. Each entry should consist of no less than 4 sentences.

Summary (30 points)
As a final, summative paragraph for your journal, consider and address the following questions: What are some things you think will likely happen next or need to happen? What are some questions you have or areas where you think you can/should do more research? How were your previous predictions about the development of this topic proven/disproven? Did your predictions become more accurate over time as your

familiarity with the topic increased? What are questions that you have regarding future developments of your topic, and how it compares with at least one similar contemporary situation elsewhere in the world (this may require some further research on your topic). This should be no less than 8-10 sentences.

• These entries can either be handwritten in a notebook or kept in a google doc. Regardless of the option you choose, you will be required to turn in a hard copy of your notes on the due date. Late submissions will be penalized according to our classroom late work policy of one letter grade per day (not class period). As per our classroom late work policy, late work cannot be submitted more than two weeks after the due date for credit, except in extraordinary circumstances supported by medical documentation and administrative recommendation.

You can look at news from anywhere in the world EXCEPT the United States. If you look at news from only US sources or that are about the US, you will receive no credit for the assignment. Therefore CNN, MSNBC, FOX, PBS, etc. are not appropriate sources for this work. You may look at sources from Europe, Africa, Asia, Canada, Latin and Central America, as well as the Caribbean, and anywhere else in the world apart from the US. Some ideas are listed for you.

<u>Potential Regions and some country suggestions</u>
• Europe
• East Asia (China, Japan, Korea)
• South Asia (India)
• SE Asia (Vietnam, Cambodia)
• The Middle East (Iran, Iraq, Israel, Afghanistan)
• North Africa (Egypt, Morocco, Algeria)
• Central Africa (DRC)
• East Africa (Sudan, Ethiopia, Somalia)
• West Africa (Mali, Nigeria)
• South Africa (South Africa, Zimbabwe)
• South America (Brazil, Colombia)
• Central America (Costa Rica, Mexico)
• The Caribbean (Haiti, DR, Jamaica)

<u>Topics (Ideas):</u>
• Women and Children
    • gender-based rights/equity
    • equal pay/parental leave policies
    • child labor
    • sex trafficking
• Elections (or new governments)
• Environmental issues
    • climate change
    • natural resources
    • natural disasters

(continued on next page)

• Economic issues
    • trade
    • individual country's economy
    • economic relationships with other countries
    • production of exports and imports
- Science and technology/medical advancements
  -AI technology and ethical questions
  -medical research/breakthroughs
  -disease outbreaks
• Relations with other countries
    • border disputes
    • current conflicts
• Issues of identity
    • discrimination against racial/cultural minorities and/or historically marginalized populations
    -disability rights
    • ethnic violence/persecution
    • intersectionality
    -political extremism/fundamentalist movements
    -anti-immigration/nativist movements/immigration reform
• Culture
    • art - repatriation of stolen artworks
    • religion - coexistence of various religious groups, ecumenism
    • cultural response to issues of personal identity in a given country or culture
    -censorship/historical whitewashing
    -freedom of speech/expression issues
    -ideological or political influences on school curricula

Below are some resources/places where you can access news from around the world. Some are country specific, some are issue specific.

Resources:
Read the News (for general information, following major events in many countries)

BBC (Britain) World News
The Guardian (Britain)
Sky World News (Britain)
Deutsche Welle :News from Germany and Around the World
France 24 World News
Al Jazeera World News (Qatar-based)
NHK World News (Japan-based)
Africa News

In addition, for more specific locations:
• Africa News
• Egypt Independent
• The Herald (Zimbabwe)
• Sudan Tribune (from Paris)
• NYTimes World Section
• The Times of India
• Japan Times
• The Rio Times (Brazil)
• The Korea Herald
• Mexico News Daily
• Jamaica Gleaner
• Dominican Today
• The Haitian Times
• The Irish Times

Watch the News
• BBC Newshour
• Sky News Live (UK and Europe)

Journal Entry Sample
Each Entry should look like this:
June 16, 2020

"Covid and China Africa Debt" •
BBC World Service, *(author)*

Summary:

Questions:

Connections to other articles:

General observations, editorial comments: