

Welcome to AP European History

This assignment introduces the major historical foundations of Europe before the school year begins. Yes, there is a lot of material, so I hope you like to read!! You are **not expected to already know this material**. The goal is to begin developing the skills historians use:

- analyzing evidence,
- identifying causes and effects,
- understanding historical change,
- and explaining why events matter.

The questions below are due on Monday, August 17th (5th Day of school)!!!! Late assignments will be docked 10 points a day and won't be taken after 5 days. Responses MUST BE HANDWRITTEN, legible, and your analysis should include evidence from the resources provided. Direct quotes are not required, and responses may be brief (2-5 sentences) unless otherwise noted.

Please use the links provided below to help you answer the following questions:

[Spielvogel Text: Ch. 1](#)--We will be using the Spielvogel text a lot this year. If you have trouble opening the pdf, just copy the link and paste it into your browser. Otherwise, email me (I'll be checking my email periodically over the summer).

[Ch. 1 Notes](#)--These are meant to be a supplemental material to help you with the Spielvogel text.

Guided Reading Questions:

1. What characteristics made the Greek city-states unique?
2. Explain two contributions the ancient Greeks made to Western Civilization?
3. What were the strengths of the Roman Republic, and why did it eventually collapse?
4. Why was Christianity able to spread successfully throughout the Roman Empire?
5. What were the major causes of the fall of the Western Roman Empire?
6. How did the Byzantine Empire preserve classical civilization?
7. Why was Emperor Justinian important to Byzantine history?
8. Discuss the cause(s) of the Great Schism between the eastern and western Christian churches?
9. Who was Charlemagne, and how did he help shape medieval Europe?
10. Why was William the Conqueror important in English history?
11. How did King Philip IV challenge the authority of the pope?
12. How did feudalism shape political and social life in medieval Europe?
13. What role did the Catholic Church play in medieval European society?
14. Why were monasteries important during the Middle Ages?
15. How did the manorial system support medieval life?
16. Discuss some of the causes and effects of the Crusades?

17. How did towns and trade begin to grow during the High Middle Ages?
18. Why were universities important to medieval Europe?
19. Why were Italian city-states important to the growth of trade and culture in Europe?
20. How did Venice and Florence become powerful Italian city-states?
21. Explain some of the consequences of the Black Death on European society and the economy?
22. Discuss the main cause(s) of the Hundred Years' War.
23. How did the Hundred Years' War change England and France?
24. Who was Joan of Arc, and why did she become an important figure in French history?
25. Explain the Great Schism and how it weakened the authority of the Catholic Church?

*******You will also have a European Countries and Capitals political map quiz on the first Friday of the first week that school starts back. Here is a good resource to help you study: [European Map Game](#)**