AICE International History
Summer Assignment 2026-2027

Introduction:

Welcome to AICE International History. Students explore varied lenses and perspectives to analyze history between the late nineteenth century and early twentieth century. Within their study of modern history, students examine the emergence of world powers from the late 19th century to the early 20th century and the League of Nations, and how it affected international relations in the 1920s and the 1930s. Students will complete the course by taking two AS Level International History Papers (or Exams) provided by Cambridge International Examinations. The exams will take place in May, 2027.

Summer Assignment:

This summer assignment provides a preview of some major topics we will cover first: wars and conflicts prior to World War I; the United States rise as a global power; causes of World War I; and the impact of the League of Nations. This assignment is intended to provide a preview of what lies ahead for this International History course.

This summer project is due during the **FIRST WEEK OF SCHOOL**. The actual due date will be announced on the first or second day of school; it's usually three (3) days after the first day. Please note, this due date applies equally to ALL students, regardless of when you received this assignment. To complete this Summer Assignment, use information found online. All sources used must be credible and easily verified. Please note, Wikipedia is not a credible source.

If you begin school after the 'official' first day of school, this assignment is still required and due no later than 3 days after you attend for the first time. **No student is exempt from this assignment**.

This handout and the charts you create will be used in class during the first and second week of school (before textbooks are assigned), so it's very important that you have your assignment completed and with you in class, no later than the 3rd day of school.

PART 1 – Wars and Conflicts before World War I; the Emergence of the USA as a World Power
Between the 1870 and 1910, a number of wars were fought throughout the world. This assignment looks briefly at three (3) of those wars.

Assignment #1: Research the following three (3) wars that occurred during the time period 1870-1910:

The Spanish American War
The (1st) Sino-Japanese War
The Russo-Japanese War

The chart must be typed using size 12 Calibri font. The chart must present the following: the name of the war; dates fought; the nations involved; major causes; and the results of the war (winner/loser, Treaty information).

- **Example using the American Revolutionary War:**

Name of War	**Dates Fought**	**Nations Involved**	**Major Causes**	**Results of War: Winner/Peace Treaty**
American Revolutionary War	April 19, 1775 – September 3, 1783	American colonies + France; England	Self-Rule; USA (+ France)/ Revolution 1783 vs. Great Britain Independence	Treaty of Paris, 1783; American colonies gain independence

Assignment #2: Complete this section, using information from internet sources, other textbooks and your 'chart'.

The Emergence of the United States as a World Power

A. Define:

1. Isolationism:

2. Tariff:

3. Protectionism:

B. Identify:

1. The Monroe Doctrine:

2. The Spanish American War:

3. Why did the USA declare war on Spain in 1898?

4. What territories did the United States gain from Spain?

Assignment #3:

Look up the following eight (8) Alliances and create an "Alliance Chart" with the name of the Alliance, the year it was signed, and the names of the nations involved. Note that some alliances are 'extensions' of an earlier agreement (*example: the Dual Alliance 'became' the Triple Alliance*). It usually involves adding another nation to the treaty. Treat each alliance separately.

Alliances:

1. Dual Alliance
2. Triple Alliance
3. Reinsurance Treaty
4. Franco-Russian Alliance
5. Anglo-Japanese Alliance
6. Entente Cordiale
7. Anglo-Russian Entente
8. Triple Entente

Example:

Name of Alliance	**Year Signed**	**Nations Involved**	**Reasons Treaty was Created**
1. The Three Emperors' League	1873	Germany, Russia, Austria-Hungary	To isolate France & reduce disputes between Germany, Austria-Hungary & Russia
2			
3			
4			
5			
6			
7			
8			
9.			

Part 2 – The Treaty of Versailles and the League of Nations

The First World War (1914-1918) ended with the Treaty of Versailles. Representatives from the winning (Allied) nations gathered outside of Paris to negotiate and write the peace treaty with Germany. The Treaty of Versailles established a new, international peacekeeping organization called The League of Nations. It was hoped that this new organization would preserve world peace, settling disputes with negotiations rather than aggression. The League had some success, but with the beginning of World War II in 1939, it ultimately failed in its primary goal of preserving peace.

Assignment #4:

This assignment introduces you to the League of Nations. Complete this section to learn the "basics" about the League of Nations. Bring this completed handout to class for the Summer Assignment review.

A. Identify:

1. Woodrow Wilson –

2. The Fourteen Points –

3. The Treaty of Versailles –

4. The League Covenant –

B. The League of Nations had four primary aims: 1) promote disarmament; 2)prevent war through collective security; 3) settle disputes between countries through negotiation and diplomacy; 4) improve global warfare.

1. Define arbitration –

2. What is Collective Security?

C. The Organization of the League of Nations

1. What was the main purpose of the (League) General Assembly?

2. What was the main purpose (job) of the League Council?

3. Which nations were permanent members of the Council, in 1919 – when the League started?

4. Define plebiscite:

5. What were League Mandates?

D. Identify:

1. The League Secretariat:

2. The Permanent Court of International Justice:

3. While the League of Nations had some successes keeping peace after World War I, there were many failures. Why do you think the League failed to keep the peace after World War I?