

AP WORLD HISTORY: MODERN-SUMMER ASSIGNMENT 2026-27

Welcome to AP World History: Modern!

Also known as AP World, this course is a college-level exploration of global history from 1200 CE to the present. More than just memorizing facts, this course is about understanding the diverse groups, individuals, and events that have shaped the world. You'll examine the complexity of global history through the lenses of culture, economic systems, social structures, political developments, and advances in science and technology. As a student in this course, you can expect to analyze primary sources, debate interpretations of the past, and form your own evidence-based arguments. You'll learn to identify the big-picture patterns that shape human experience across time and place.

This course is fast-paced and academically challenging. Success in this class requires consistent effort, strong time management, and the ability to stay self-motivated. You'll be expected to advocate for your own academic needs, keep up with assignments, and actively engage with the material. Everything we do throughout the year is designed to help you succeed; not only in the classroom, but also on the AP National Exam in May.

To help you hit the ground running, this summer assignment will give you the foundational knowledge needed to do well from day one. The assignment has three parts and each includes detailed instructions. It is up to you to manage your time and complete the tasks by the due date of this work. Completion of this summer assignment will set you up for a smoother start to the year, and allow you to focus on developing your skills rather than playing catch-up. Ideally you can do this in the last couple weeks of summer so that it's fresh on your mind.

THIS SUMMER ASSIGNMENT IS DUE NO LATER THAN August 14, 2026

If you have any clarifying questions about this summer assignment, please email me (smcclendon@gsboe.org.) I can print this document out and meet you at the new High School with some prior communication as well.

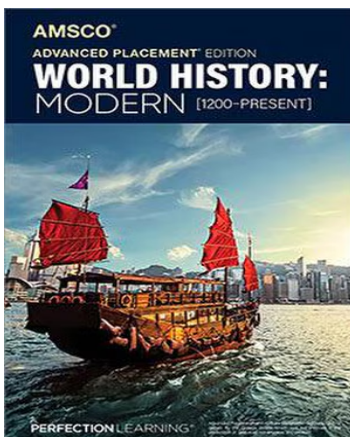
Good luck,
Mr. McClendon

POINTS WORTH KNOWING

- This summer work is required for EVERY AP World History student. It will be your first test grade. You will find it split into two parts. **Part I** is for you to purchase our textbook for the course please see details below. **Part II** is a mapping activity while **Part III** is a vocabulary exercise.
- BEFORE YOU BEGIN, CAREFULLY READ THROUGH THE INSTRUCTIONS. This will cut down on confusion and avoid you asking questions that are answered in the summer work packet.
- **YOUR FIRST IN-CLASS TEST WILL BE BASED ON THE SUMMER ASSIGNMENT MATERIAL!**

PART I: Buy the Textbook!

Students will need to purchase ONE book [Advanced Placement World History: Modern](#) (1200- Present) AMSCO, 2nd Edition | Perfection Learning (It is the "Student Edition Soft Cover") We will need this on the first day of class. These can be found at Perfection Learning, Amazon, as well as in the closet of older students.



PART II: World Maps

Familiarity with the world, its regions, and its geographic features are important parts of AP World History: Modern. For this section, print off, label, and shade in the **THREE BLANK MAPS**. These maps are available on [Google Docs linked here](#) as well as found at the end of this document . For each map, follow the directions below. You'll submit these maps once school begins.

MAP #1 ----- Bodies of Water

Outline OR shade the different water features listed below. **Label** each water feature. Your labels must be easy to read. **The oceans and rivers should be two different colors to make distinguishing them easier.**

OCEANS & SEAS

Arabian Sea	Indian Ocean
Arctic Ocean	Mediterranean Sea
Atlantic Ocean	Pacific Ocean
Black Sea	Persian Gulf
Cape of Good Hope	Red Sea
Gulf of Guinea	South China Sea
Gulf of Mexico	Southern Ocean

RIVERS, STRAITS, & CANALS

Amazon River	Niger River
Congo River	Nile River
Danube River	Panama Canal
Ganges River	Strait of Gibraltar
Huang He River (Yellow River)	Strait of Magellan
Indus River	Strait of Malacca
Mississippi River	Suez Canal
	Yangtze River

MAP #2 ----- Mountains, Deserts, Peninsulas, and other Landforms

Outline OR shade the different geographic features listed below. **Label** each feature. Your labels must be easy to read. **The mountains, deserts, and "other" landforms should be three different colors to make distinguishing them easier**

MOUNTAINS

Alps Mountains
Andes Mountains
Ural Mountains
Himalaya Mountains

DESERTS & STEPPES

Arabian Desert
Gobi Desert
Great Steppe
(Eurasian Steppe)
Sahara Desert

OTHER

Arabian Peninsula
Cape of Good Hope
Horn of Africa
Iberian Peninsula
Indonesian Archipelago
Swahili Coast
Yucatan Peninsula

MAP #3 ----- World Regions' Map

Using the map [Linked Here](#), **outline OR shade** the different regions listed below. **Label** each region. Your labels must be easy to read. **Use a different color for each region (you choose the color).**

Australasia
Central Africa
Central Asia
Eastern Africa
Eastern Asia

Eastern Europe & Russia
Latin America (Central, South America)
The Middle East (Southwestern Asia)
Northern Africa
North America (includes the Caribbean)
Northern Europe

Southeastern Asia
Southern Asia
Southern Africa
Southern Europe
Western Africa
Western Europe

PART III: Common World History Vocabulary

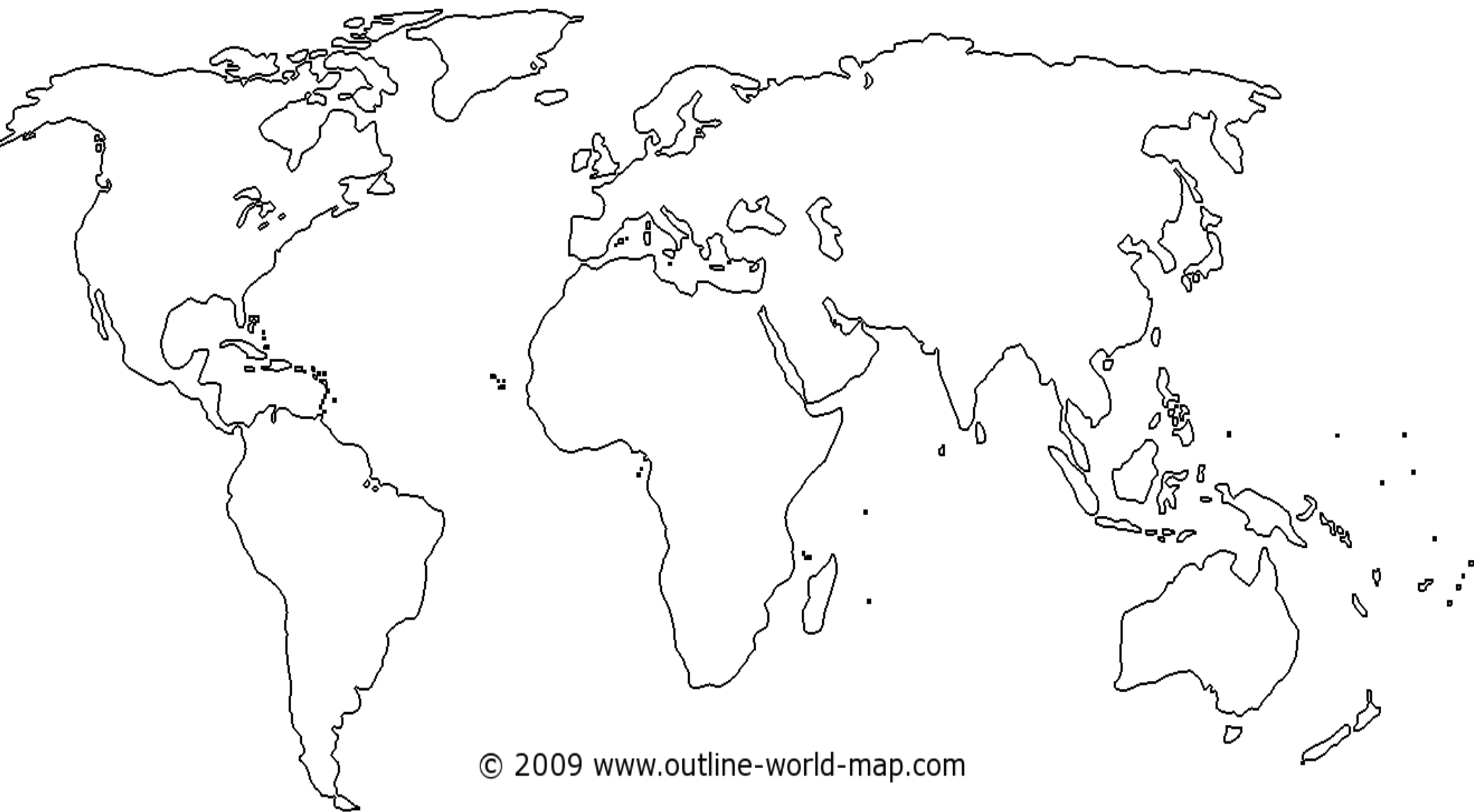
Below, you will find a list of the vocabulary words that will be used frequently throughout this course. You may make physical flashcards, digital flashcards using a program like Quizlet or create a Google Slides with each vocab word.

REMINDERS:

- The flashcards will be either emailed to me, turned into Canvas at the start of the school year, or handed in on the first day of class.
- The definitions that you use must clearly relate to each term. I.e., "Agriculture is about plants" won't work.
 - *Write definitions that you understand. These are meant to help you prepare for the content of AP World.*
- Use the word in a sentence (*not just a duplicate definitions*) that shows your understand

These are terms that we'll use regularly throughout the course					
Abolitionism	Coerced Labor	Economics	Khanate	Oligarchy	Serfdom
Absolutism	Commercial-ization	Effect	Labor system	Pastoralism	Similarity
Adaptation	Communism	Empire	Laissez-faire	Patriarchy	Social mobility
Agriculture	Continuity	Epidemic	Legitimacy	Peasantry	Social Structure
Aristocracy	Culture	Fascism	Luxury Goods	Politics	Socialism
Assimilation	Currency	Feudalism	Maritime	Printing press	Sovereignty
Bourgeoisie	De-colonization	Feminism	Matriarchy	Proletariat	State-building
Bureaucracy	Deforestation	Genocide	Mercantilism	Propaganda	Technology
Bulk Goods	Democracy	Globalization	Migration	Proxy war	The Enlightenment
Capitalism	Demography	Humanism	Missionary	Raw Materials	Theocracy
Caravanseraï	Diaspora	Imperialism	Monarchy	Rebellion	Totalitarianism
Cash Crops	Difference	Independence	Monsoon	Religious syncretism	Trade networks
Cause	Diffusion	Industrialization	Nation-state	Revolution	Tribute
Champa Rice	Divine right	Interactions with the Environment	Nationalism	Science	Universalizing religion
Civil war	Dynasty	Jizya	Nobility	Secularism	Urbanization
Hegemony	Hierarchy	Infrastructure	Ideology	Resistance	

Map #1 - Bodies of Water, Straits and Rivers



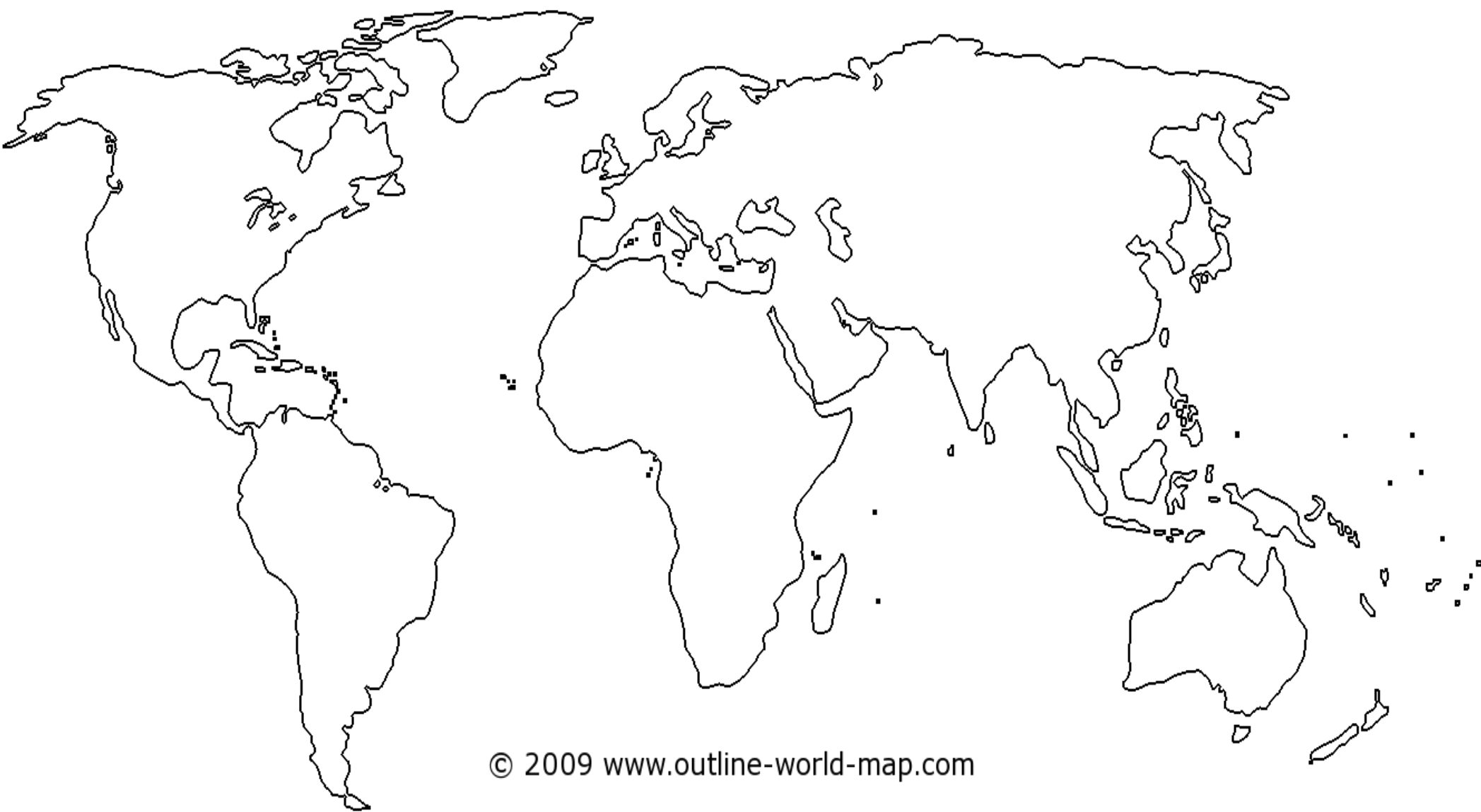
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Map #2 – Mountains, Deserts, Peninsulas and other Landforms



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Map #3 - AP World Regions



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