

## **A.P. EURO**

### **Summer Assignment**

Welcome to AP European History! I'm excited to be teaching this course again as my own training and interests lie in the humanities, that is, a study of art, literature, philosophy, music, and theatre. According to Renaissance humanists, "those who studied the humanities acquire a more 'humanity,' not only because they were able to think for themselves more creatively and to express themselves more fully, but also because they gained a deeper understanding of people." (Witt, et al., xxv) Although recent economic and technological trends have accelerated the process of globalization, I still believe one should cultivate an appreciation for *Western* history and culture. I know my own life has certainly been enriched by European art and music, and I hope to share some of my passion for these disciplines throughout the course.

As you know, you will be taking a national exam at the beginning of May. Many schools, especially in the South, begin the academic year in August; we don't start until September. That means, that we're already a month behind when classes begin! Therefore, we need to hit the ground running in order to complete the College Board curriculum before the A.P. exam in early May. This course begins with the Renaissance and your summer assignment is intended to provide the historical background and context in which to begin our study of modern European history. Although we may meet less frequently and the atmosphere will be more relaxed, you will be required to attend classes after the A.P. exam.

You will be provided with an access code to an online text in September as well as access to my Google classroom, where I will post additional readings and assignments throughout the year.

Although some of the summer reading may seem dry, I promise you, most of you will find the subsequent study of European history to be exciting and intellectually stimulating.

We need to understand some of this historical background in order to understand how and why Europe developed as it did.

1. Please read the "Preface" to *Why Europe? The Rise of the West in World History, 1500-1850*, by Jack Goldstone. How has the study of history changed over the past twenty years or so?
2. Next, skim chapter 1. On page 14, the author poses the following the question:  
"How then is it possible that by 1850, perceptions had reversed, and Asians began to seem poor and backward to Europeans?"
3. Then read chapter 2 more carefully. "When, where, how and WHY did this shift from premodern cyclical change to modern accelerating change begin? (p. 18+ff)
4. So, "Why Europe?"

# Summer Assignment Part 2:

Niccolo Machiavelli



Before you begin the 1st part of your summer assignment, you should familiarize yourself with Niccolo Machiavelli and his world. A wonderful Niccolo Machiavelli site where you can find out almost anything about Machiavelli, his life and his works is below. Your assignment, after you have spent some time becoming familiar with Machiavelli, is to read Niccolo Machiavelli's The Prince. The text is online at the link below, or you can purchase an inexpensive hard copy. Print out The Prince and highlight as you read. Underline words you need to look up or are useful, and make notes in the margin that relate to your thoughts. As you read the text, look for themes which are present throughout the text. I encourage you to take notes as you read. After you finish reading, address the questions below. These will form the basis of our discussion in the fall.

<http://oregonstate.edu/instruct/phl302/philosophers/machaivelli.html>

<http://www.fordham.edu/halsall/basis/machiavelli-prince.html>

## MACHIAVELLI QUESTIONS:

1. Why did Machiavelli write *The Prince*?
2. Name three recurring themes in *The Prince*.
3. Describe the role of armies according to Machiavelli.
4. Why does Machiavelli say that it is better for a prince "to be feared than loved?" Do you believe it's possible for a prince to be both? Explain.
5. In Chapter 20, what three bits of advice does Machiavelli give the prince?
6. According to Machiavelli in Chapter 21, what must a prince do to be esteemed?
7. List and describe ten characteristics of a Machiavellian ruler.
8. As you perceive it, describe what a state might be like under a Machiavellian ruler.
9. Using your knowledge of world history, which rulers or politicians would you describe as Machiavellian and why?