

**ALL SUMMER WORK IS DEPENDENT UPON YOUR FINALIZED SCHEDULE!**

*Advanced Placement World History: Modern  
Summer Assignment 2019*



*Advanced Placement World History: Modern* will focus on the transformation of the world from a place of great difference and isolation into a world of similarities and globalization. It begins with the key moment in human civilization where we stop expanding into the emptiness of the world and begin to instead collide. It is this precise moment in time that will drive great conflict, and destruction while also bringing about rapid growth, creativity, and new knowledge. In this way this is a course that studies how the raw material of the ancient world is sculpted by the many hands of fate to create the modern world as we know it.

For this study, it is best to begin with perhaps one of the most simultaneously destructive and yet uniting moments in history: the last great nomadic conquest, the invasion of the Mongols lead by the great Genghis Khan. In just a short few years, the entire ancient world of East Asia, the Middle East, and Russia was disrupted. Cities were burned to the ground, civilizations wiped away, and some 40 million people, 10% of the world's population at the time, were killed. Yet, for all this destruction, for the first time all of Asia was united under one banner, and new ideas, concepts, and technologies were freely spread under the protection of the newly forged Pax Mongolica.

Over the summer, you are expected to increase your familiarity with Genghis Khan and the Mongol Invasions through the reading of Jack Weatherford's book *Genghis Khan and the Making of the Modern World*. You will be required to read the book in its entirety and fully understand the author's argument and evidence. *The book will be distributed by the school there is no reason to purchase a copy.*

After reading the book you will complete a typed 5 page paper in which your respond to two questions . . .

- What is the key argument, thesis, of the author and what evidence is provided to prove this thesis?
- (More important) What is your position on the Authors argument? What aspects of the argument do you agree or disagree with? In your opinion what does Weatherford fail to explain or take into account in his writings?

Most importantly THIS PAPER IS NOT A BOOK REPORT. I am most interested in your response to his writings make his thesis clear and then argue your perspective. DO NOT hand in a paper that simply states what is discussed in the book.

More specifically, this will be a typed double spaced MLA formatted paper. In-text citations referencing the text are to be expected, and the paper will be no more and no less than 5 pages in length excluding the works cited page.

The paper will be submitted via turnitin.com on a specified date early in the school year.

This focus on the exploits of Genghis Kahn is deliberate. It will serve as a foundation experience in *Advanced Placement World History: Modern*—one that will be referred to at various points course.

Questions regarding the Summer Assignment for *AP World History* should be directed to Mr. Leddin ([mleddin@rumsonfairhaven.org](mailto:mleddin@rumsonfairhaven.org)). Teacher response time will be influenced by personal obligations, vacation plans, and work responsibilities. Be patient.

Have a safe and enjoyable summer.

Mr. Leddin