SUMMER READING FOR AP WORLD HISTORY

_Guns, Germs and Steel_ by Jared Diamond pp. 9-292

These questions are due **Thursday, September 1**. ANY LATE ASSIGNMENT WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED, AND STUDENTS WHO FAIL TO HAND THIS IN ON TIME MAY BE ASKED TO PERMANENTLY LEAVE THE COURSE.

Do NOT wait until the last minute to begin this assignment.

*Note: You may answer these questions in bullet point format – do not rewrite the question.*

If you have any questions, send emails to Kathy.laughlin@ssfs.org

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**Prologue**

1. Summarize Yali’s question. This requires mentioning race, intelligence, and development of technology.
2. What is meant by a “Eurocentric” approach to history?
3. Give an example of “passive entertainment”. Explain why we seem to have a better opportunity to experience this type of entertainment in America and its possible effect on our ability to think critically.
4. Explain the theory of how cold European weather may have affected mental development of Europeans.
5. Explain how the theory of irrigation development may have affected the mental development of river civilizations.

**Chapter 1: Up To The Starting Line**

6. What is significant about 13,000 years ago or 11,000 B.C.?
7. What stage in human development does Diamond characterize as the Great Leap Forward?
8. What are the major human achievements that characterize this Great Leap Forward?
9. What technological advancement (and give the date) was necessary for the colonization of New Guinea and Australia?
10. What theory does Diamond propose for the disappearance of mega-fauna in Australia/New Guinea?
11. What mega-fauna existed in the North America prior to 11,000 B.C.?

**Chapter 2: A Natural Experiment of History**

12. What about the natural environment of the Chatham Islands caused the Moriori people to develop so differently from their Maori conquerors of the same ancestral heritage?
13. What are the three staple domesticated animals of the Polynesians?
14. What are the main causes of low human population density in many Polynesian islands?
15. What man-made constructions allowed for increased human population density in islands such as Hawaii?

Chapter 3: Collision at Cajamarca

16. If you had witnessed Cajamarca prior to the overthrow of Atahuallpa, explain why you may not have believed Pizarro's overthrow of the Incas was possible.
17. Explain the role of technology in the overthrow of the Inca.
18. Explain the role of religion in the overthrow of the Inca.
19. Explain the role of disease in the overthrow of the Inca.
20. Explain the role of literacy and government organization in the overthrow of the Inca.

Chapter 4: Farmer Power

21. Using the chart on 87, explain which of the five proximate factors is the most important product of an agricultural society.
22. Explain how an agricultural society naturally provides the opportunity to develop the proximate factors.
23. How does animal domestication affect plant (corn) production? (at least 2)
24. In what ways do animals affect military success?
25. Name the date and the invention that made horses a viable military option.

Chapter 5: History's Haves And Have-Nots

26. List the three areas of the world that are the earliest “haves”.
27. List the three places of the world that are the later “haves”.
28. List the three areas of the world that borrowed the stuff of the “haves” earliest.

Chapter 6: To Farm Or Not To Farm

29. What are the four major factors that allowed farmers to dominate hunters and gatherers?

Chapter 7: How To Make An Almond

30. Use an example that explains how the tastier plants we have today went through the process of natural selection.
31. Give five examples of different characteristics a plant could possess to allow it to be naturally selected.
32. How did the industrial revolution affect the moth population in England?
33. Why were almond trees domesticated for consumption but oak trees were not?
Chapter 8: Apples or Indians

34. What are the major advantages of the Fertile Crescent that predispose this region to early agricultural development?
35. What is the major key to plant success regarding pollination, and how did this affect the Fertile Crescent?
36. Why were barley and emmer wheat the two best grasses to domesticate?

Chapter 9: Zebras and Unhappy Marriages...

37. What is the Anna Karenina principle?
38. Why did Africans domesticate Eurasian animals when they had a food source equivalent to a modern zoo in their backyard? In other words, what's up with those zebras?

Chapter 10: Spacious Skies and Tilted Axes

39. Explain the advantage of an east-west continental axis.
40. How does the north-south axis prevent diffusion of crops?

Chapter 11: Lethal Gift of Livestock

41. What evolutionary benefit do microbes derive from making humans sick in bizarre ways such as genital sores or diarrhea?
42. Give an example how the evolutionary process of natural selection has resulted in immunity to certain diseases.
43. Why does it make sense that slow developing/spreading diseases such as leprosy, polio, etc. must be the oldest diseases in the history of mankind?
44. What aspects of farming civilizations make them more adept at sustaining the development of infectious crowd diseases?
45. Explain why the exchange of diseases from the old world (Europe) and the new world (America) was so one-sided (America got killed off, not Europe). In doing so, make sure to explain exactly what is a “social” animal.

Chapter 12: Blueprints and Borrowed Letters

46. What is the importance of a writing system to a civilization?

Chapter 13: Necessity’s Mother

47. How does Edison’s phonograph help disprove the theory of necessity as the mother of invention?
48. If you believe in Diamond’s theory, which is more important: the ability to invent, or the ability to borrow inventions and find new uses?
49. Once again we visit Diamond’s thesis. How does geography affect the ability to adapt and refine inventions for use?
Chapter 14: From Egalitarianism to Kleptocracy

50. Read between the lines. Diamond’s religious beliefs should be transparent after reading this chapter. Give a brief analysis of how useful he deems religion for the average Joe in society.