

AP World History
Summer Assignment 2017
Mr. Sawyer
Summer contact: s.sawyer@tka.net

Summer Assignment Directions and Parent Letter

Dear Students and Parents:

I am excited that you have decided to accept the challenge of taking an Advanced Placement class, which is a university-level course taught in high school. I promise that you will strengthen your academic, intellectual, observation, and discussion skills. Additionally, I promise that each of you will become a stronger writer from this course. I am excited to teach this class again next year and I am dedicated to providing a challenging and rewarding academic experience.

Part of entering an AP class is an assumption of a certain level of background knowledge and skills. With this in mind, the course requires the completion of a summer assignment. Please review and be prepared to take an assessment during the first week of school relating to the book. The assessment will be primarily a multiple choice assessment – do not worry about spelling for this assessment. You must pass this assessment in order to continue in the AP class.

Additionally, I want to warn each of you that the summer assignment has been designed to preclude students leaving the assignment until the last few days of summer break. So, begin now and do a little each day. I expect to see quality work turned in on this project. You will finish with plenty of summer break remaining.

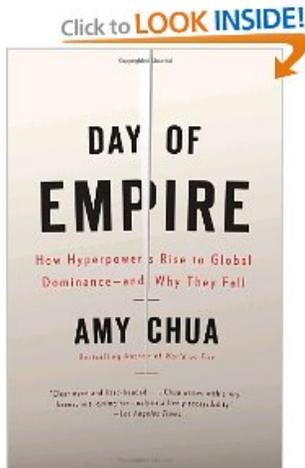
During my summer break, I am always available to help students via email. Students, and parents, may feel free to email me at: s.sawyer@tka.net. Regardless of where I am in the summer, I always have access to this email. I will almost always respond within 24 hours of receiving your email. If you email, please be specific about who you are and what exactly you need help with. I am looking forward to meeting you in August!

Sincerely,

Scott Sawyer

This assignment must be completed, and turned in on the first day of classes. Failure to complete the assignment will require that you withdraw from the course.

1. Purchase, and read, Day of Empire: How Hyperpowers Rise to Global Dominance--and Why They Fall by Amy Chua (2009)



ISBN-10: 9781400077410 – Available in hardcover, paperback, and Kindle

- I have seen this for \$1.96 on Amazon used books. You may read any of the above versions.

2. As you read the preface, introduction and each chapter, you are to take notes and bring them with you the first day of school. You must have notes on every chapter.
3. Once you have finished reading the book, and taking your reading notes, you are to go back and answer the following questions in your notebook on the pages that follow your reading notes for chapter 12.
 - A. What is Amy Chua's thesis?
 - B. Do you agree with her thesis? Explain your answer in some detail.
 - C. What is a "hyperpower"?
 - D. What is the problem of "glue"?
 - E. Why did Chua select these empires and not others?
 - F. How does a society come to be a world-dominant power?
 - G. What can bring a world-dominant power down?
 - H. What requirements does Chua set for a society to be considered world-dominant? Why?
 - I. Is Chua's method valid? Explain your reasoning.
 - J. What does Chua mean by "tolerance"? How does her definition differ from our general view of tolerance? Explain.
 - K. According to Chua, how can hyperpowers survive?
 - L. Chua states that she has tried to avoid selection bias in this work. Has she accomplished this, or not? Explain.

4. After you have completed the notebook, you will then select any empire from “Part One” and any empire from “Part Two” of the book. Write a compare and contrast essay covering the similarities and differences in each empire. Your finished essay must have each of the following: a thesis, at least 2 similarities and 2 differences, direct evidence supporting a comparison or contrast (minimum of four each), and a good conclusion. **Write your essay on standard loose leaf notebook paper. The finished essay should be between three to five pages, handwritten in ink. You may NOT use a word processor for this essay.**

5. **Scoring:**

- A. Notebook – One Test Grade
- B. Essay – One test grade
- C. Test on Day of Empire – One test grade - The test will be a combination of multiple choice questions and short response questions.

Total: Three test grades