



# KING SCHOOL

**2017 Summer Assignment**

**HIS 510: AP European History**

## Summer Reading Assignment HIS 510: AP European History

### *Required Readings:*

- Palmer, et al., 10th Edition, A History of the Modern World
  - “Geography and History,” Chapters 1-2, pages 1-98
- William Manchester, A World Lit Only By Fire, entire book

Welcome! You have enrolled in one of the most challenging yet rewarding history classes that exist at King. If you can succeed in this journey, not only will your understanding of the world deepen and intensify, but also you will have achieved a rite of passage: knowledge of European history and acquiring the ability to analyze, synthesize, and be critical of its content and interpretations will provide you with the cornerstone skills of modern social science.

**First**, read the questions on pages 5 and 6 of this packet that you will have to answer for the written portion of this summer assignment. Keep these questions in mind as you read both Palmer and Manchester.

**Second**, read pages 1-98 of Palmer and read William Manchester’s A World Lit Only By Fire. While you read, take notes in a way that feels comfortable for you – when we reconvene in September, I will look over these notes in order to assess and critique your note-taking skills. It does not matter which text you read first, but reading Palmer might give you more background knowledge that will help you contextualize Manchester’s arguments.

- **NOTE:** Taking notes on Palmer seems daunting; it is impossible to take notes on every sentence, yet every sentence seems vitally important. Thus, you should find ways to limit your note taking: you should strive to summarize every paragraph of Palmer by explaining how that paragraph relates to the section of Palmer you are reading. For example, from pages 28-31, Palmer discusses feudalism and the agricultural changes of the High Middle Ages. Challenge yourself: see if you can boil each paragraph in that section down to its essence, finding a balance between the information Palmer gives you and the historical significance of that information. Thus, for each paragraph, you should have only one or two lines of notes, but overall you will find that you have summarized an entire section of Palmer rather quickly and efficiently.

**Third**, answer the questions (found on pages 5 and 6) in analytical, well-written, essay paragraphs.

- NOTE: You only have to respond in writing to the questions on pages 5 and 6 – all other questions found in this packet are guiding questions only!!

Remember that "History is not what happened in the past; history is a collection of interpretations of the past compiled by people who tell us what happened." Or, if you prefer the cynical take by Napoleon, "History is lies, agreed upon."

Overall, I want you to be able to diagnose Palmer’s perspectives and Manchester’s arguments while keeping in mind the historical theme of change over time vs. continuity over time. Therefore, our essential question for this summer assignment is: ***To what extent were the Renaissance and the Reformation periods a break from Europe’s medieval past?*** Remember,



Manchester in particular is presenting only one of many interpretations of the Renaissance and Reformation. Being able to illuminate his argument is a skill-building exercise that will serve you well.

**DUE ON THE FIRST DAY OF CLASS: your answers to all the questions on pages 5 and 6.**

Use both Palmer and Manchester to answer these questions, and use quotations from the texts if you wish.

**There will be a TEST on all assigned readings in the first two weeks of the semester.**

**GUIDING QUESTIONS to consider as you read Manchester**  
**(do NOT complete these in writing – these are GUIDING QUESTIONS ONLY):**

### **Part I - The Medieval Mind**

How does Manchester describe the “Dark Ages”?

What role did Christianity play in the medieval period?

Why does Manchester say that medieval Europe was not a "civilization"?

What were the characteristics of the medieval European mind?

What factors in the 15th century contributed to the beginning of the end of the Middle Ages?

### **Part II - The Shattering**

In what ways was the 15th century a violent time?

What were some of the problems plaguing the Roman Catholic Church?

How was the population of Europe distributed in 1500 in terms of geography and social class?

How might a historian describe medieval towns?

How might a historian describe life for peasants?

How might a historian describe life for knights?

How might a historian describe the religious beliefs of the average European?

How might a historian describe common attitudes toward marriage and sexuality?

How did most great artists support themselves during the Renaissance?

How might a historian describe the development and impact of the printing press?

What kinds of education were available?



What role did ancient classical literature play in the Renaissance?

What did humanists believe/stand for?

How might a historian describe the Renaissance popes?

What were indulgences? Why were they so controversial?

How might a historian describe Luther's early religious beliefs and experiences?

Why did he post his 95 Theses? What were the effects?

How might a historian summarize the major events that led to Luther's break with the Roman Catholic Church?

In what ways had the groundwork for the Reformation been laid before Luther?

Of what importance was the use of vernacular language (not Latin) to the Reformation?

For what abuses did Luther criticize the Roman Catholic Church?

Who supported Protestantism and why?

In what ways did humanism threaten the Church?

How did politics contribute to Luther's success?

To what extent was Luther a revolutionary? To what extent was Luther conservative?

What other Protestant movements developed besides Lutheranism?

What was Erasmus' position on the Reformation?

How did humanists respond to the Lutheran Reformation?

How might a historian describe Calvinism?

What were the differences between Lutheranism and Calvinism?

How might a historian describe the sack of Rome in 1527?

How did the Roman Catholic Church respond to the Reformation?

How might a historian explain the reasons for and events of the English Reformation?

### **Part III - One Man Alone**

What factors contributed to the end of the medieval world?

What motives did Europeans have for exploration?



What role did politics play in Magellan's voyage?

What does Manchester think accounts for Magellan's success?

Do you agree with Manchester's assessment of Magellan as "the world's greatest explorer"? Why or why not?

**If I were you, I would keep track of these historical figures as you read Manchester and be able to identify the historical importance/major contributions of each:**

Boccaccio  
Cesare Borgia  
Borgia family  
Botticelli  
John Calvin  
Carlos I (Charles V)  
Castiglione  
Copernicus  
Dante Alighieri  
Dürer  
Elizabeth I  
Erasmus  
Ferdinand and Isabella  
Francis I  
Fugger family  
Galileo  
Gutenberg  
Henry VII  
Henry VIII

John Hus  
Julius II  
Kepler  
Leonardo da Vinci  
Luther  
Machiavelli  
Mary I ("Bloody Mary")  
Maximillian I  
Medici family  
Michelangelo  
Sir Thomas More  
Petrarch  
Pico della Mirandola  
Rabelais  
Savonarola  
Tetzel  
Torquemada  
Zwingli



## **START OF WRITTEN SUMMER ASSIGNMENT**

Our problem is this: how can we analyze and synthesize these readings that we did over the summer? Well, we can start by attacking the problem of defining and understanding what historians call "**modernity**," because one of the essential questions historians and political scientists are currently asking in 2017 is:

*"To what extent has the world embraced **modernity** since the rise of Europe, and to what extent is the world currently rejecting **modernity**?"*

Now, you might be thinking, "But Mr. Lear-Nickum, what is **modernity**?! Have we read about that?!?"

The answer is, "Yes, of course you have read about it!"

**Step 1** – re-read Palmer’s synopsis of **modernity** and **modernization** (the process by which a society becomes modern) on pages 9-10 of your Palmer textbook (this is the first introductory section of Chapter 1)

**Step 2** - using these pages in Palmer, write one comprehensive, well-written paragraph defining and explaining all the aspects of **modernity** that you can identify. In other words, from Palmer’s perspective, what does it mean for a society to be **modern**?

**Step 3** - using Manchester and Chapters 1 and 2 of Palmer, answer the three questions below. Each answer should be *at least* three paragraphs in length.

**VERY IMPORTANT: YOU MUST HAND-WRITE YOUR RESPONSES – this class focuses intensively on handwriting – since you hand-write your essays on the AP exam, you will be hand-writing all essays and all homework in this class!!**

1) To what extent had the seeds of **modernity** been planted in Europe by the end of the Middle Ages? In your answer, describe and analyze at least three specific ways in which Europe was already starting to become “modern” BEFORE the Renaissance and Reformation had begun.

2) To what extent was Europe *nowhere near* **modernity** by the end of the Middle Ages? In your answer, describe and analyze at least three specific ways in which Europe was NOT becoming “modern” BEFORE the Renaissance and Reformation had begun.

3) To what extent did the Renaissance and the Reformation contribute to the **modernization** of European society? In your answer, describe and analyze at least three specific ways in which these interrelated phenomena contributed to fomenting **modernity** in Europe.



### **Critical Evaluation of Manchester's *A World Lit Only By Fire***

Answer the following questions in brief yet thoughtful paragraphs.

1. Summarize Manchester's thesis. (What is Manchester's primary argument or claim?)
2. Manchester includes a fair amount of sexual material in this book. Do you think it adds or detracts from his argument?
3. What kinds of people get the most attention in this book? Who gets the least attention?
4. Are there any people or groups missing entirely from Manchester's book? Is this a problem? Why or why not?
5. Read the "Acknowledgements and Sources" and skim through the bibliography. Do most of the sources seem to be primary (written at the time – during the Renaissance/Reformation) or secondary (written later by historians)?
6. How do Manchester's use of sources influence how you evaluate this book?
7. Does Manchester display any biases that come through in his writing?
8. What are the strengths and weaknesses of this book as an overview of the Renaissance and Reformation?

PLEASE EMAIL ME WITH ANY QUESTIONS  
GOOD LUCK  
I WILL SEE YOU IN SEPTEMBER!!



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