

**2023-2024 AP European History Book Review Summer Assignment – Choice Options – And, some SAQs**  
(Please choose to acquire and read at least **ONE of the book options** below): Blue Links below are linked to the books. All three should be inexpensively available as Used Books at Thrift Books or Amazon.

[“A World Lit Only by Fire,” by William Manchester – as a Used Book at Thrift Books](#) or at [Amazon](#).

A popular read about the world from the Plague in Europe of the 1350s to the 1550s. Question set below designed with this one, but they are general enough questions that they could be answered with any reliable source.

[“In the Wake of the Plague,” by Norman F. Cantor – as a Used Book at Thrift Books](#) or at [Amazon](#).

Another popular read (bestseller) more focused on the 1350s, specifically, and immediate aftermath of the Plague.

[“A Distant Mirror,” by Barbara Tuchman – as a Used Book at Thrift Books](#) or at [Amazon](#) More pedantic and erudite 500 pg. \*I am listening to the Amazon Audible book because it teaches me correct French pronunciations.

**\*It would awesome (at a minimum) if you could read the first chapter of our **REQUIRED** text by your return in August. Students have typically purchased it **USED** - [“A History of Modern Europe: From the Renaissance to the Present,” by John Merriman, Second or Third Edition is fine as a Used Book at Thrift Books](#) (or) [USED at Amazon](#). Be sure to click on “x# Used from \$lower prices” (Used Good is fine)**

**May want to act fast on grabbing the Merriman textbook! They seem to be rather rare!**

\*My 2022-2023 students found a PDF – let me know if you can open the link below

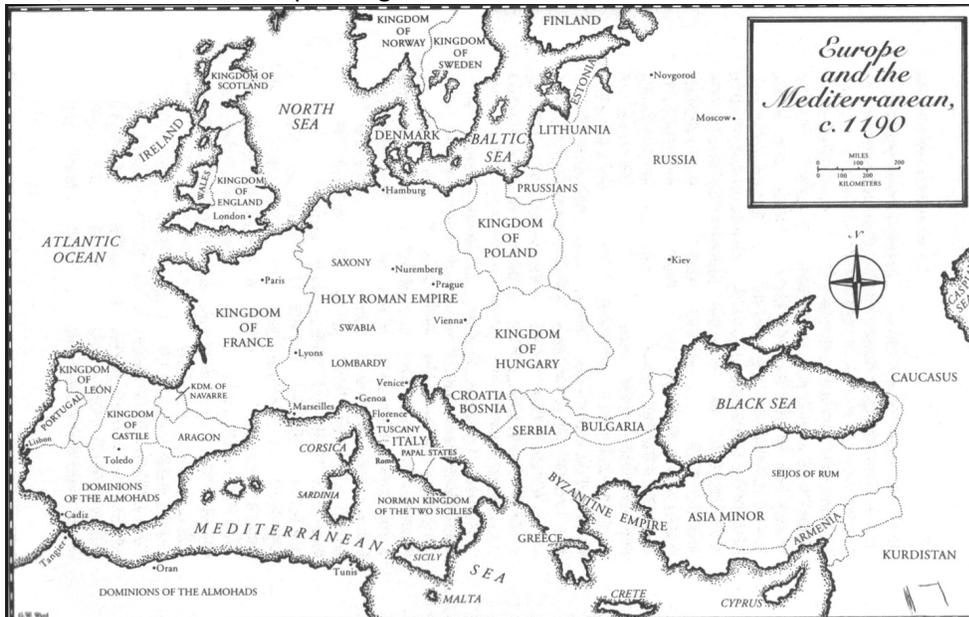
[A History of Modern Europe From the Renaissance to the Present \( PDFDrive \) \(1\).pdf](#)

After reading ONE of the options above, please choose and do only ONE of the PROJECTS below. Responses should be typed. Typed work will be run through <http://turnitin.com/>, so please take care to think and type in your own words and reflections in your responses (not just cut and paste); please discuss, interpret, and analyze in your own words, rather than simply re-summarizing the content of the book or its chapters by swapping around words and phrases. Look for efficient ways explain the BIG IDEAS.

- I. **PROJECT CHOICE ONE** (only goes with the Manchester book, although you could probably just as well accomplish with deep dives into Wikipedia, followed by reflective writing...
  1. First, if you choose the Manchester book, begin by reading William Manchester's “historical narrative” so named above, and then pause after the introduction and Chapter 1, to begin considering and completing the following tasks.
  2. Consider and write down William Manchester's **main historical arguments (theses)** about medieval thinking, **as continued in, or changed by** Renaissance thought, Humanist developments, or post-Renaissance “scientific age” thinking?
    - a. **After reading the whole book. . . Assess and substantiate who had the greater impact on Western History in particular, and the World. Was it Martin Luther or Ferdinand Magellan? \***
    - b. **Pre-essaying tip from another AP Euro teacher I know: Find ten quotes or facts supporting Manchester's thesis about the Middle-Ages.** For summer read accountability, make sure you cite the page numbers where you found the facts or quotes, then write an interpretive reflection on each quote.
  3. Select and explain what do you believe to be the five most fascinating short stories from the book? Be sure to cite the page numbers on which you found these facts.

- II. **PROJECT CHOICE TWO** → **Guided Reading Qs** which could be found from engaging with *any* of the sources above. **Email me with any questions which you have about this assignment.**  
[Martinm1@fultonschools.org](mailto:Martinm1@fultonschools.org)

First, here is a useful map to begin with!



**Part II – A Study Guide for Late Middle Ages Europe – Specifically crafted to go with a “A World Lit Only by Fire” if that is your choice. However, if you choose to read the Cantor book, only the first chapter of Merriman (at a minimum), Google, or struggle through Barbara Tuchman’s “Distant Mirror,” then you could loosely respond to the “Pre-Euro-Course Study Guide Preparation Qs” below. In other words, these questions, (namely and generally **identifying the continuities from** and-or **changes between** the Middle Ages and the Modern Age in Europe), is crucial to having a clue about how this course is contextualized in history. After Week One of your return to school, I will require your best 50 responses to your choice of the questions below. **Please include #12 or #13,** and please do not wait to start responding to your 50 Qs.**

**Section I – The Medieval Mind (pp. 3-28) – 1350s into the 1400s, all the way to Inquisition, 1490**

1. Read the first eight pages and give at least one example of the violence of the age.
2. How was violence, illness or hunger creating a paradox with the positions of the Church?
3. Who was the leading Christian writer/theologian of the time?
4. Why was Henry IV excommunicated? What was his penance and how effective was it?
5. Give one example of why the pagan gods were still so appealing to Medieval Europeans.
6. Briefly explain the origins of sainthood for the Christian church in Europe.
7. In what pagan way(s), were Europe’s pagan gods, and later saints used and-or merged into European folklore? (The answer is not stated directly in any of the books, so you’ll have to research and think about it. Hint, hint, research the Greek Pantheon, and Norse Gods)
8. Prior to the development of hereditary monarchy, who typically had to approve of each king (and-or prince or duke) prior to his coronation?

9. How much knowledge did the peasantry have of the Great Schism of 1378?
10. To what extent did the peasantry have a sense of time?
11. What roles did the peasantry occupy, typically, and the church in their lives?
12. **Research and briefly report on ONE famous cathedral pilgrimage town and its history. (Could involve learning about chateaux or cathedrals, could be Spanish or French. (Spain – St. James de Compostela. Any of the Medieval French Chateaux**  
<https://www.spottinghistory.com/tag/chateaux-of-hauts-de-france/1/> **St Denis, Riems** or the ancient **Louvre Castle** (underneath the present day museum)
13. **Research and report on the fabulously wealthy [Duke of Berry](#), and manuscript books created to honor his reign. How was the class system in Medieval Europe maintained? Just offer a brief description.**
14. How would the Renaissance challenge the ideas above? (The answer is not stated directly in your book, so you'll have to think about it, and form up an extended response.)

**Section II – The Shattering** (Social Problems and Corruption in the Church, pp. 31-86)

15. Read the first six pages and give one example of how and why secular rulers used torture or execution.
16. What were the differences and similarities in simony, pluralism, nepotism, and indulgences?
17. Give one example of how religious leaders used torture or execution from pp. 37-40.
18. What were “indulgences” and how did they work?
19. What happened to the Lateran Council’s decree of clerical celibacy?
20. What is nepotism and how was it used by the popes? Give an example.
21. In a word, with what offense did Girolamo Savonarola charge Alexander VI, the Spanish Borgia Pope?
22. How did Alexander try to buy his silence?
23. What did Alexander eventually do with Savonarola?
24. What was the Holy Roman Empire?
25. What percentage of the population lived in small villages?
26. Name all the occupants of the family bed.
27. On what did poor people sleep?
28. What could happen to a traveler during a famine?
29. How tall were men (on average)?
30. At what age did most women die?
31. Give one example of how table manners have changed since the Middle Ages.
32. Describe one of the superstitions on page 61; give one example from page 64 of what could happen to travelers.
33. **Defend or refute:** “Robin Hood robbed from the rich and gave to the poor.”
34. At what age could a girl legally marry? At what age could a boy legally marry?
35. By what method(s) did girls convince boys to marry them?
36. Who were the cleanest people in Europe; and why were they so clean?
37. How did Alexander VI use his daughter, Lucrezia Borgia, for political gain? (Hint: think of annulment).

**Section III – Rebirth and Reform** (...Arts, Learning, pp. 86-131, and the Protestant Reformation, pp.131-219)

38. What was Copernicus' theory of the universe and how did the pope react to it?
39. Why were some people suspicious of Leonardo da Vinci?
40. Who invented the moveable type?
41. What is the overall estimate for male and female illiteracy?
42. Read pages 98-99. What effect do you think literacy and printing had on the Church?
43. What were the three main disciplines taught at medieval universities?
44. What did Renaissance professors declare to be superior to the three traditional fields of study?
45. Who was the leading humanist?
46. True or False, (with an explanation). Humanists were more concerned about the here and now instead of the ever after. (Whether they be Classical Italian Humanists or Northern Christian Humanists), what values did northern and southern Humanists share? How did they differ in how they expressed their beliefs in a Christian God?
47. Why did Erasmus leave Rome for England at some point?
48. What was the title of Erasmus' first book, and who did he attack in it?
49. Martin Luther's *Ninety-Five Theses* were, in part, a response to the selling of indulgences by whom?
50. According to Luther's father, since children were born wicked, it was virtuous for parents to do what?
51. **True or False:** Luther tried at reconciliation with the pope. Explain.
52. What did Luther do with the papal bull of excommunication?
53. Why did Luther publish in vernacular German instead of Latin or Greek? Read pages 166-174. Why do you think the secular leaders (the members of the Diet) supported Luther?
54. What was the major issue that divided Protestants?
55. Read page 190 and describe Calvin's attitude toward criticism. Give examples.
56. Read page 191 and describe how much "fun" life was in Geneva. Give examples.
57. Roughly how many people were killed by Charles V's army when it invaded Rome? Who did the Church blame?
58. What title was Henry VIII given by the pope in return for his efforts in suppressing Lutheranism?
59. What did Henry use as justification for his annulment?
60. Why could the pope NOT grant Henry VIII his desired annulment?
61. What kind of reputation did the Boleyn women have? Was it deserved?
62. How much of English land was owned by the Catholic Church?
63. What happened to Thomas More after he spoke out against Henry?
64. Which of Henry's daughters finally restored order to England?
65. What family replaced the Tudors on the throne of England?

Choose one topic below to write an LEQ essay, just a solid thesis paragraph really.

66. **Write a brief free-form essay**, on who was the most crucial to the development of the Renaissance in Modern Europe, (1) Martin Luther (by extension Erasmus), (2) Ferdinand Magellan (who attempted circumnavigation), or (3) the Medici Family in Florence. Support your choice!

**67. Are there any great questions which I have not asked here? What other topics or issues would form a great intro to the course in Modern European History, 1450 to the Present?**