

AP World History Summer Assignment

A Splendid Exchange: How Trade Shaped the World by William J. Bernstein

All AP World History students are expected to read: *A Splendid Exchange: How Trade Shaped the World*. Students are expected to take notes as they read and bring these notes to class on the first few days of school so they can use them in the book discussion during class. These notes will help students be prepared to discuss the book and share their observations. The answers to the questions below, should be typed and printed, then turned in on the first day of class. If any student submits the same answers to the questions as another student, all students involved (regardless of role) will automatically receive a zero (0) for their first Test/Project grade (because it is plagiarism!). The same applies to any student who copies answers from the Internet or any other source. The penalty is a zero (0) on your first Test/Project grade. Students should bring their reading notes to class starting on the first day of class.

Tips for Reading:

- Read with a dictionary. **LOOK UP THE MEANING OF EVERY SINGLE WORD YOU DO NOT KNOW.** Write down the meaning of the word in your notes. Also, write down a factual statement using the word in the context it was used in the book.
- Whenever you find the name of the any country, city-state, city, river, body of water etc. of which you have no prior knowledge, look it up on a map to see where it is located.
- After each chapter, used the theme sheet, to identify which theme (sub-themes) was prevalent in the chapter and note it.

If you take these steps, you will be in good stead for the class. Put in this work now and the whole year will be a bit easier Insha'Allah!

Chapter 1: Sumer

1. Why was obsidian a major trade good in the stone age?
2. What is bronze?
3. What was the advantage of “money” (silver coins) over barter?
4. In what modern country was the Indus Valley civilization located?
5. Where was the “country of Punt”?
6. What was the Pax Romana?
7. How did the pepper trade create economic problems for the Roman Empire?

Chapter 2: The Straits of Trade

8. Why did the ancient Greeks have to trade?
9. From what three locations did the Greeks import wheat?
10. Why did the Greeks want to control the Hellespont and the Bosphorus?
11. What do Venice, Holland, and England have in common with ancient Athens?

Chapter 3: Camels, Perfumes and Prophets

12. What characteristics of the camel caused it to revolutionize trade in the Middle East and Africa?
13. How did Prophet Mohammed become involved in trading?
14. What were the political and economic “needs” that the author claimed contributed to the emergence of Islamic religion in the 7th century?
15. Why were the Muslims more interested in Asia than in Western Europe in the 8th century?

16. What very important craft did the Muslims obtain from the Chinese?

Chapter 4: The Baghdad-Canton Express

17. What did the Roman-Han era have in common with the Islamic-Tang era with regards to trade?

18. How did the author perceive Ibn Battuta's religion to be a hindrance to his observations and his attitude toward the world as he traveled?

19. Why did the Chinese decide not to continue the voyages of Zheng He and the treasure fleets?

Chapter 5: The Taste of Trade and the Captives of Trade

20. What was the most important category of product that Europeans traded between the 14th and 17th centuries?

21. What did the merchants of Europe trade to their counterparts in Alexandria and Cairo?

Chapter 6: The Disease of Trade

22. Where is Kaffa? What was its strategic and economic importance?

23. What two groups struggled over Kaffa in the early 1300s?

24. What effect did the plague have on the Mongols and on China?

Chapter 7: Da Gama's Urge

25. What was the importance of the Portuguese caravel?

26. What events and factors worked against Columbus getting any initial backing or support from the crowns of Portugal or Spain?

27. Why was the Treaty of Tordesillas negotiated? How was it different from the "papal line"? Who benefited most from this new treaty?

28. What were the two 'innovations' that Vasco Da Gama used that enabled him to reach the coast of India?

29. This port marked the vital eastern end of Indian Ocean trade and was the key to the Spice Islands.

30. What ports did the Portuguese open in China and Japan, respectively, by the mid 1500's? explain the trade the Portuguese carried out between them

Chapter 8: A World Encompassed

31. What role did Muslims, the Portuguese, and the Spanish play in diffusing sugar around the world? To what areas did it spread?

32. What was the significance of the Spanish "eight real dollar" or "pieces of eight"? How did it get its name? How/ why did it become the global currency of the 1600's and 1700's?

Chapter 9: The Coming of Corporations

33. How did Amsterdam become perhaps the most important port in Northern Europe, supplanting Antwerp?

34. What were the main rights and powers that were given to the VOC by its charter from the Dutch government?

35. Why were the Dutch considered a good fit with the isolationist Tokugawas in Japan?

36. What island (and city on that island) served as the base of operations for the Dutch VOC in their Asian commerce?

Chapter 10: Transplants

37. Before English industrialization, where did almost all cotton cloth come from?
38. By the late 1700's what area of the world became the largest supplier of raw cotton for the insatiable appetite of the British textile industry?
39. The British got into the tea trade primarily because they were losing out in the trade of what items?
40. Where do the British first start to plant sugar cane in the Caribbean? Why?
41. What European nations become the largest users/"consumers" of slave labor?
42. What was the main reason why the white traders played a minimal role in the capture or "enslavement" of the Africans? Who did that job for the Europeans?
43. Why did the British North American colonies need to import so many fewer slaves than the Caribbean or Brazil? What were the differences between the two areas?

Chapter 11: The Triumph and Tragedy of Free Trade

44. What impact did Robert Clive's victory at the Battle of Plassey have?
45. Why did the English get involved in the opium trade?
46. What was the result of the first Opium War?
47. To what extent did the controversy over the corn laws in the early 19th century reflect

Chapter 12: What Henry Bessemer Wrought

48. What impact did Henry Bessemer's blast process have on the world economy?
49. How did wheat production change as technology changed?
50. How did refrigeration change the economy?