

## **AP HUMAN GEOGRAPHY: SUMMER ASSIGNMENT**



Welcome to AP Human Geography!

We will be using 2 texts throughout the year. I recommend that you purchase both books so that you can highlight and write in them. They are both available on Amazon and other online sources or from former APHG students. If you prefer not to buy the books, Las Lomas will provide them for you, but you will not be able to mark them.

**1. Rubenstein, James. The Cultural Landscape: An Introduction to Human Geography, 11<sup>th</sup> ed. Prentice Hall. ISBN13: 9780132926584**

**2. Kuby, et al. Human Geography in Action. 6<sup>th</sup> Ed. ISBN: 978-1-118-42257-1**

\* Make sure you get the correct editions and that there is no writing in or pages torn out of the Kuby book.

You should also buy an exam review book. REA, Princeton Review, or Kaplan are all good options.

### **Part I: Summer Reading- “Collapse” by Jared Diamond & Current Events**

- Read the Prologue **and/or** watch the TED Talks video of Jared Diamond [https://www.ted.com/talks/jared\\_diamond\\_on\\_why\\_societies\\_collapse/transcript?language=en](https://www.ted.com/talks/jared_diamond_on_why_societies_collapse/transcript?language=en)
- **Read** Ch. 10: Rwanda, Ch. 11: DR and Haiti, Ch. 12: China, and Ch. 15: Big Businesses and the Environment. (Feel free to read the whole book, but you will only be expected to have read these chapters.)
- Familiarize yourself with some world news. Read *The New York Times*, *The Economist*, watch *60 Minutes* or *Frontline*.....

During the first weeks of school, we will have a **scored discussion** based on the discussion questions on the back of this page. I recommend that you take **detailed notes** as you read so that you will be prepared to participate in an in-depth discussion of these topics. Please put some thought into your comments and refer **specifically to examples** from the book and the current events. **I will not be collecting the notes**, but they are meant to help you remember your thoughts and examples for the discussion. Your discussion grade will be based on your level of preparation, reference to evidence (quotes/examples) from the book, and how well you stimulate further discussion. You will not get credit for vague answers. You will also be tested on the book on the first Unit test.

## **Part II: Open your Eyes!**

-Travel, observe, experience and think about the world beyond your typical daily experience. Watch the news, watch National Geographic Channel, read a newspaper or news magazine, see a foreign film. Watch people. Think about your impact on the world. How much gas, water, energy do you use? How much garbage do you create in a day? How do you interact with people from other cultures, races, religions etc.? Consider yourself and your role in the world.

Enjoy the summer and relax a bit. Be prepared to learn, work, and enjoy yourself next year. I am extremely excited about the course, and I hope you share my enthusiasm. See you in the fall.

Aloha,

Ms. Wentner

## "COLLAPSE" By Jared Diamond - DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

(USE **SPECIFIC** EXAMPLES/QUOTES FROM THE BOOK!)

1. **Be able to explain** the 5 factors (5 point framework) that Diamond claims have lead to the collapse of societies.
2. "I am writing this book from a middle-of-the-road perspective," writes Diamond in the introduction, "with experience of both environmental problems and of business realities" (p. 17). How successful is Diamond in staking out this objective position? How does he balance (or fail to balance) environmental concerns with business realities? (Consider his discussion of Chevron in Ch 15)
3. According to Diamond, how did the pressures of population growth contribute to genocide in Rwanda in 1994? What other factors may have contributed? Which factors do you think were the most influential in causing the genocide?
4. How important are leaders in determining the ecological success or failure of a civilization? (Think Ch. 11) To what extent did bad leadership contribute to or cause the collapses Diamond talks about?
5. Diamond writes that our world "cannot sustain China and other Third World countries and current First World countries all operating at First World levels" (p. 376). What does he mean by this? Can we ethically deny Third World countries the comforts and advantages that we in the First World enjoy? In your opinion, what should our leaders do to lessen or resolve looming conflicts over resources between First and Third World countries?
6. Relate at least 3 of Diamond's 5 lessons (from his 5-point framework) in "Collapse" with **at least three recent events** (Any major global events in the past 3 years). Do recent events support or contradict Diamond's 5 point thesis? WHY? HOW? Are these events signs of imminent collapse of modern civilizations or can they be handled in a way that reflects lessons learned from previous collapses? Be thorough in your comparison!