

## GLOBAL HISTORY AND GEOGRAPHY I HONORS SUMMER ASSIGNMENT



Dear Student,

Welcome to Global History & Geography I Honors. We know that you are eagerly anticipating the summer. While the summer is a time to relax, refresh, and reset, it is also a time to prepare for the rigors of Global Honors and its continuation in your sophomore year, World History Advanced Placement.

Much of this course will examine the achievements and patterns of civilizations and empires. You will analyze the political, economic, and social transition of the world's regions and their citizens. You will investigate how societies rise and how they collapse. To introduce you to the common theme of rise and fall of societies, this summer we would like you to examine Dr. Jared Diamond's argument on why societies collapse. In 2005, Diamond wrote *Collapse: How Societies Choose to Fail or Succeed*. Diamond analyzed the collapse of societies such as Norse Greenland, Rwanda, and the Maya. Diamond attempts to show the correlation between environmental factors and societal collapses. He argues that there are five conditions that lead to a societies collapse and one is generally present in the collapse of a society.

Your task is to watch a [TED Talks](#) in which Diamond discusses his book and thesis (click hyperlink). You will also read a *New Yorker* book review of *Collapse*, which is titled "[The Vanishing](#)" (click hyperlink). As you watch the video and read the article, take careful and detailed notes. Engage the sources.

After viewing the video and reading the article, write a thoughtful response in which you evaluate Diamond's argument. Review Diamond's thesis. Is his argument valid? To what extent do you agree or disagree with Diamond? What questions do you have about the ways in which societies collapse? Did Diamond miss any factors that might cause a society to fall? If Diamond's assertions are correct, is America going to collapse in the near future? Provide evidence to support your argument. You may use the accompanying chart as a guideline in helping you formulate your ideas and response paper. Be prepared for a class discussion on the topic.

### **Response Paper Requirements**

- 400 – 600 words (about two pages)
- Typed, double spaced, 12pt. Times New Roman Font, and 1-inch margins
- Full name in the header
- Stapled
- No first person (I, we, us, our, my). Write as an objective historian.
- Due Friday, September 20, 2019

It is our sincere hope that the assignment will intrigue you and challenge you. Have a great summer and we look forward to meeting you in September.

Sincerely,

Paul Davis, Lily Jasper, Fred Rickles & Mark Spiconardi  
Global History & Geography Honors Teachers

## **THE DEATH OF AN EMPIRE: OUR OWN?!?**

In *Collapse: How Human Societies Choose to Fail or Succeed*, Prof. Jared Diamond created a unified theory as to what contributes to the decline and fall of certain societies. One of his focal points was the case study of the Maya. What contributed to the abandoning of their cities? No one knows for sure but, with all civilizations, there are multiple reasons including climate change, hostile neighbors, alternative trade sources, and environmental problems. Rome, Greece, India and China all experienced these factors which contributed to the decline and fall of their classical civilizations. Looking thoroughly at the environment, identify some examples in our own society and attempt to solve the problem so that students in the future will not be writing the obituary of the United States of America.

<b><i>ENVIRONMENTAL PROBLEM</i></b>	<b><i>MODERN EQUIVALENT</i></b>	<b><i>SOLUTION</i></b>
Destruction of natural habitat		
Reduction of wild foods		
Loss of biodiversity		
Erosion of soil		
Depletion of natural resources		
Pollution of fresh water		
Maximizing natural photosynthetic resources		
Human toxins and alien species		
Artificially induced climate change		
Overpopulation		

**What is the fate of our society?**

# SUMMER ASSIGNMENT RUBRIC

## **Response to Jared Diamond's *Collapse***

- Demonstrates an understanding of Jared Diamond's arguments
- Contains relevant information and details
- Demonstrates analysis of topic
- Demonstrates engagement with the article and TED Talk
- Provides adequate evidence in order to prove thesis
- Historically accurate
- Well organized
- Articulated reaction and response to Diamond clearly

**Excellent** \_\_\_\_\_ **Good** \_\_\_\_\_ **Fair** \_\_\_\_\_ **Poor** \_\_\_\_\_ **Unacceptable** \_\_\_\_\_

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## **America's Current State**

- Demonstrates thoughtful consideration of America's current state
- Contains relevant information and details
- Provides relevant and accurate evidence to support assessment of America

**Excellent** \_\_\_\_\_ **Good** \_\_\_\_\_ **Fair** \_\_\_\_\_ **Poor** \_\_\_\_\_ **Unacceptable** \_\_\_\_\_

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## **Requirements**

- Addresses all tasks posed in the assignment
- Meets length requirement
- Proper citation
- Proper heading
- Grammar & Mechanics/No first person
- Typed (12pt Times New Roman)
- Double spaced

**Excellent** \_\_\_\_\_ **Good** \_\_\_\_\_ **Fair** \_\_\_\_\_ **Poor** \_\_\_\_\_ **Unacceptable** \_\_\_\_\_

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**Teacher Comments:** \_\_\_\_\_  
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**Grade:** \_\_\_\_\_