Spring Semester World History Research Paper

Mr. Ferrin

As students here at Marquette University High School you must learn to be effective writers in order to be successful here, in college, and in your future work place. This paper is designed to help develop your writing and research skills as well as how to draw conclusions and form arguments about historical events.

Over the course of this semester we have explored and will explore topics such as Industrialization, Imperialism, World War I, World War II, and the Cold War. These topics are vast in their scope, and contain more information than we can possibly cover in the time allotted to us. In order to help further your learning in one of these topics you will need to choose one of the prompts below that you wish to analyze and form a conclusion about once you have done so. Using scholarly research as evidence, you must create a thesis that makes an argument about your topic. There will be benchmarks over the next few weeks that will be help manage your progress through the paper.

Prompts

* In 1937, the Imperial Japanese Army entered the Chinese city of Nanking where a number of atrocities were committed by the troops stationed there. Ever since the event has been a hot button issue between the Chinese, who see it as a massacre, and the Japanese, who view it as a military incident. Research the Nanking Massacre and using the evidence you find, create a thesis that argues for the Chinese point of view or the Japanese point of view.

(2nd: Chavez, Bremer, Martel 3rd: Doucette, Chavez, Fregoso)

* During the later stages of the Cold War a number of political figures loom large when it comes to foreign affairs. One of the most prominent was Margaret Thatcher, the first female British Prime Minister, who was known as the Iron Lady. She is seen as an important figure of British politics and international affairs. To what extent, did Margaret Thatcher influence British politics during and after her term as Prime Minister?

(2nd: Marshall, Mikolajczak 3rd: Koehler)

* Typically, a number of provisions within the Treaty of Versailles are considered some of the major causes of World War II. Historians say that these provisions gave way for dictators and totalitarian regimes to seize power in Europe. Was the Treaty of Versailles responsible for the rise to totalitarian governments or were there other factors that had a great influence on these types of government gaining control?

(2nd: Zagorac, Schubilske, Lichucki 3rd: Reno, Hickey, Campos)

* In the late 1800s, a country was considered great and powerful if it had colonial holdings to bolster its economy. The United States was now different as it sought imperialistic holdings within the South Pacific and Latin America. The longest lasting legacy of United State imperialism in Latin America is the Panama Canal. Was the United States justified in pushing for Panamanian independence from Colombia in order to gain land for the Panama Canal?

(2nd: Brandt, Hunter, Astorga 3rd: Carrig, Buettner, McKenna)

* As we discussed in class, the question of who is responsible for starting World War I is hotly contested event to this day. Historians do not really agree, but the general consensus is that Germany started the war. However, there are still people who disagree with that conclusion. In your opinion, who is to blame for starting World War I?

(2nd: Roder, Barlow, Pacheco 3rd: Preciado, Spadafora, Janisch)

* In 1978, President Jimmy Carter met with Egyptian President Anwar el-Sadat and Israeli Prime Minister Menachem Begin at the Presidential retreat known as Camp David. During these twelve days of secret meetings, these three world leaders signed what would become known as the Camp David Accords. This agreement was designed to create a framework for peace in the Middle East. This framework dealt with the Palestinian territories, but was written without participation of the Palestinian people and was condemned by the United Nations. Should the Palestinians have been invited to the negotiations? Why or why not?

(2nd: Ragnoese, Allaqaband 3rd: Gruss, Kahler)

* Developed in the 1950s and 60s, Liberation Theology was developed by Latin American clergymen as a synthesis of Christian theology and Marxist socio-economic ideas in order to emphasize social concern for the poor and oppressed people. However, because of its incorporation of Marxist ideas it was met with resistance in the United States. To what extent do we see this theology play a role in the Catholic Church today?

(3rd: Schramm)

* From 1948 to 1991 the citizens of the country of South Africa lived under a system of racial separation known as Apartheid. This system saw a white minority dominate an African majority and pass laws that favored whites in almost every way. For some of the same time that Apartheid was in place, Jim Crow laws were in place in the American South. Which form of systematic segregation was worse and why?

(2nd: Hegemann, Leiker 3rd: Chappelle, Beauchamp)

* For a majority of our nation’s history, the United States had a policy of isolationism when it came to foreign affairs. However, that began to change when they came into conflict with the Spanish during the Spanish-American War. After this war, the United States fell back on its old policy and remained isolationist until the final year of World War I. Discuss three factors that played a role in the United States entering the conflict in its final year. Which of these factors had the greatest influence in encouraging the United States to break with its isolationist policy and support the Allies in the final year of the war?

(2nd: Schwister, Daczko 3rd: Ochalek, Lopez, Milbrath)

* With the new economic opportunities popping up during the Industrial Revolution across Europe, groups of people who had been shut out of society began to push back for better access to new opportunities and rights. The biggest of these groups would be women. British suffragettes such as Emmeline Pankhurst led the charge for more rights for women. How effective were these early women’s rights advocates at advancing the situation of women?

(2nd: Carr, Vargas 3rd: Anguiano, Wagner)

Important Dates/Deadlines

3/14 – Research Organizer Due

3/21 – Paper Outline Due

3/28 – Final Paper Due

Order of Assembly

1. Cover Page
2. Paper
3. Bibliography

Sources

Your paper should include a minimum of 5 scholarly sources as evidence to back up your thesis. You must include:

* At least 2 book sources
* At least 2 database articles/sources
* At least 1 scholarly website

Primary sources are acceptable as scholarly sources.

Your Final Paper must be turned in by the beginning of the period on the due date or it will be considered late.