

Summer Reading Essay – AP and Honors

Greetings European History scholars! Your summer reading is going to be a somewhat daunting task for those of you concerned to memorize every fact that passes before your eyes while reading. *The Struggle for Europe*, by William I. Hitchcock, is densely packed with facts to support his overall argument – so packed that it may slow you down tremendously at first. However, learning to push through this information to get to the main points will provide you with immensely helpful tools to succeed in this course.

It will take you at least two weeks of dedicated time to read, so please do not delay your reading. I encourage you to try to read no more than a section in a day, which will be an impossible pace should you wish to maximize your reading comprehension; more realistically, you should aim to read one chapter a day for sixteen days (each chapter is approximately 30 pages in length). Additionally, please try to make all those days occur in a row, in order to give your brain time to absorb and organize this material – which covers the history of Europe from the time when your grandparents were alive, through the birth of your parents, and then your life's beginning. By understanding what Europe has gone through in the last sixty-five years, you will be ready to plunge into the study of European History with both feet.

Assignment:

1. Identify the four main factors that Hitchcock will examine in his book (found in the introduction)
2. Explain how each of those four factors plays a role in bringing Europe to its current place in the world. You must give at least one specific example to illustrate each factor from each major section of the book for a total of 16 specific examples.
 - a. Section 1 – Aftermath (Chapters 1-4)
 - b. Section 2 – Boom (Chapters 5-8)
 - c. Section 3 – Rebels (Chapters 9-12)
 - d. Section 4 - Unity? (Chapters 13-16)
3. You will use your examples to answer the following prompt: *What factors led Europe to be able to rebuild from the utter destruction of World War II, beginning in 1945, into both an economic and political powerhouse by the end of the 20th century (2000)?*
4. You may also want to read various news articles on the following websites to better inform your analysis:
 - a. http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/in_depth/europe/2003/inside_europe/default.stm (for news discussion)
 - b. <http://www.thebigproject.co.uk/news/> (Check the European News in English section)
 - c. http://europa.eu/index_en.htm (European Union website in English)

5. The entire paper should be double-spaced, 12 point Times New Roman font, standard pre-set Microsoft Word margins, with a cover sheet that includes your title, name, and period. Under no circumstances should your name, title, or any other filler information appear on any page that contains your responses to your assignment choices. The paper is worth 150 points, and will be your first major grade of the school year. The maximum length of your paper is 6 pages, minimum is 4 pages, not inclusive of the cover page and bibliography. Your cover page format is attached at the end of this document and must be followed exactly.
6. *Due Date:* Your paper will be due on **Monday, 30 August 2010** at the beginning of your class, before the bell rings. Late papers will be penalized 15 points, with an additional 15 point penalty per day late.

My Paper's Title
Ann E. Student
6 January 2009
Period 1