

**10TH GRADE REQUIRED HISTORY SUMMER READING
ACCELERATED LEVEL
2021**

***Guns, Germs, and Steel: The Fates of Human Societies.* Jared Diamond. WW Norton and Company. ISBN-10: 0393317552**

“A major advance in our understanding of human societies, *Guns, Germs and Steel* chronicles the way that the modern world came to be and stunningly dismantles racially biased theories of human history. Winner of the Pulitzer Prize, the Phi Beta Kappa Award in Science, the Rhone-Poulenc Prize, and the Commonwealth Club of California's Gold Medal” (From the publisher.)

Read the chapters indicated. Read actively, highlighting and commenting in the margins to better understand the text.

Answer the following questions in bullet points in your own words. These will be collected on the first day of school and will be graded. They will also help you with class discussion and an in-class essay during the first week of classes.

If you have any questions, please contact Mrs. Scheinmann (rscheinmann@jbha.org)

Prologue: Yali's Question

- 1. What is Yali's Question?**
- 2. What are three potential objections Diamond points out as he considers Yali's question?**

Chapter 4: Farmer Power

- 1. List advantages of agricultural societies over hunter-gatherer societies.**
- 2. How did agricultural domestication impact the growth of society?**
- 3. Study figure 4.1. Explain, using the chart, the differences between proximate and ultimate factors.**

Chapter 6: To Farm or Not to Farm

- 1. The transition from hunter-gatherer society to farming was gradual. What 5 factors encouraged this shift?**

Chapter 8: Apples and Indians

- 1. Why was farming easier in the Fertile Crescent?**
- 2. Why did New Guinea, despite being a farming economy, not experience the same societal benefits as farming societies in the Fertile Crescent?**

Chapter 11: Lethal Gift of Livestock

- 1. Why was the exchange of lethal germs between America and Europe so unequal?**
- 2. What are 4 characteristics of lethal epidemics?**
- 3. How did the development of domesticated agriculture help the spread of infectious diseases and epidemics?**

Chapter 14: From Egalitarianism to Kleptocracy--Read the first 14 pages

- 1. How does Diamond define Egalitarianism?**
- 2. List 3 ways food production contributes to societal growth.**