

AP EUROPEAN HISTORY

SUMMER READING

I'm asking that you purchase two books for outside reading— *A World Lit Only by Fire*, by William Manchester, and *The Proud Tower*, by Barbara Tuchman. Both are easily found as used books; my copy of Manchester's book was 99 cents (plus shipping) from Amazon. Please read Manchester's book before the start of the school year, since his focus on the transition from the medieval period to the Renaissance compliments what we will cover as we start the course. Tuchman's book, which is set at the end of the 19th century, will be covered early in the second semester. You might want to read it over the summer if you'd like to avoid a busy reading schedule over winter break.

This summer's task:

A World Lit Only by Fire by William Manchester

Please answer the following questions for our first day of school. All of your answers must be typed, double-spaced, with your name in the upper right hand corner.

From the first section of the book:

1. How does Manchester perceive the medieval period? Give at least 3 examples or quotes from the book supporting his viewpoint that the Middle Ages was a world lit only by fire (provide page numbers in parenthesis for each example).
2. Martin Luther is rightfully credited with changing history and creating a new religion, but he certainly was not the first person to challenge the Catholic doctrine, practices, and behaviors. What other people in European history spoke out against the Church? Why was Luther more successful at staying alive and challenging the clergy?

After reading the second section of the book (*One Man Alone*, about Magellan), please answer these questions:

3. Was Magellan the "mightiest explorer in history" as Manchester says he was, or was he a lunatic with god-like delusions, unable to finish the job he'd started? Give several examples to back your position (again, please provide page numbers in parenthesis for each example).
4. Who had the greater impact on history—Luther or Magellan? Give several reasons for your choice.