

Guns Germs and Steel Reading Questions and Essay

Directions: Below you will find study questions from Jared Diamond's Guns Germs and Steel. All answers to the questions below must be **handwritten** and turned in on the first day of school. Failure to complete these items in a timely manner can result in you starting the 2017 school year with a poor grade or even being dropped from the course. See suggested dates for completion of the questions. This will make your summer assignment much more manageable. :) Questions or concerns, I can be reached at [**kgavin@upatoday.com**](mailto:kgavin@upatoday.com).

Prologue

1. What is Yali's question? What is your answer to his question?
2. Describe at least two of the most common answers generally given to answer Yali's question.

Chapter 1

1. Describe the Great Leap Forward, when did it take place? Describe at least two factors that may have triggered the Leap.
2. Describe the argument taking place about "pre-Clovis" sites in North America.
(6/16/2017)

Chapter 2

1. What are the 8 main criteria Diamond uses to measure the difference between the various Polynesian peoples?
2. Give an example of each comparison listed above.

Chapter 3

1. Why did Pizarro capture Atahualpa?
2. Why did Atahualpa walk into the trap set forth by Pizarro? **(6/23/2017)**

Chapter 4

1. Describe the strengths farming societies had over hunter-gatherer societies.

Chapter 5

1. Which areas first developed agriculture independently?
2. Which areas are candidates for first developing independently but have some discrepancies?

Chapter 6

1. How does Diamond argue we need to think differently about the shift from hunting/gathering to agriculture?
2. What are the five main factors that may have caused the above shift?
(6/30/2017)

Chapter 7

1. How does Jared Diamond's description of plant domestication differ from how you may have seen it described in other settings?

Chapter 8

1. What are the three main advantages of the Fertile Crescent for food production?
2. Describe some of the main differences the Eastern United States and New Guinea had with the Fertile Crescent.

Chapter 9

1. List and describe the 5 reasons Diamond uses to explain the inequity of global animal domestication was not caused by human inadequacies.
2. What are the 6 reasons given by Diamond to explain why some animals are domesticated and some are not. **(7/7/2017)**

Chapter 10

1. Explain in detail why domesticated plants seemed to move much easier throughout Eurasia but not in Africa or the Americas.

Chapter 11

1. What is the connection between livestock and the development of advanced diseases? How did these diseases affect human history?

Chapter 12

1. Describe the two main reasons that some advanced agricultural societies did not develop writing.

Chapter 13

1. List and describe how three main factors contributed to uneven technology development. **(7/14/2017)**

Chapter 14

1. What are the 4 ways kleptocrats legitimize their power?
2. Why do people give away their power and goods to leaders?

Chapter 15

1. Compare and contrast the development paths of Papua New Guinea and Australia.

Chapter 16

1. List and describe some of the factors that helped East Asia (China) unify more so than the Europeans.

Chapter 17

1. Why does Diamond argue that S.E. Asia was particularly adept at defending Europe's colonization?
2. How and why were the ancient peoples of New Guinea able to resist Austronesian expansion? **(7/21/2017)**

Chapter 18

1. List and describe the three ultimate factors that Diamond discusses the main advantages Europeans had over the Natives of America.
2. What is the fourth possible factor, how does it possibly contradict the major argument throughout the book?

Chapter 19

1. Throughout the book Diamond has argued that time of development and connectivity to Eurasia are partly responsible for some societies being more developed. Africa has two of these characteristics but was still colonized by Europe. List and describe a few of the main reasons for this interesting occurrence. **(7/28/2017)**

Essay

1. Read through the Epilogue carefully. Diamond uses four main factors throughout the book that he believed determine human development. Your essay will have two main parts.
 - A. First- Evaluate each of these four factors in 1-2 paragraphs (evaluate means to discuss your **opinions** of these factors based on evidence.)
 - B. Second- Then discuss in 2-3 paragraphs the human geography he is less interested in and its merit or lack thereof (examples "great man" theory)

Your essay should of course have a strong thesis that binds the whole work together. Essentially in this essay you are reviewing the book and its merit and pointing out where his arguments might be particularly helpful or potentially problematic. Please remember to cite all evidence from the text and from external research. Please use MLA style citations and yes, you may type the essay.