

Advanced Placement World History Summer Assignment

There is no one definition of the term “history.” We can assuredly state, however, that the substance of this discipline has evolved far beyond the mindless and simplistic memorization of facts and dates. The study of history is an intellectually rigorous task that requires students to utilize varied sets of skills. The task for this assignment is to provide for you a glimpse of what this study involves, and for you to begin to develop some of the tools that you will need this year. This assignment will require you not just to read, but also to think critically and develop and defend your own conclusions about the questions and issues raised in the material. The nature of this assignment is similar to the many academic challenges you will face in AP World History.

Please do not hesitate to reach out to contact me over the summer at mbaker@mnsd.org if you have any questions or concerns.

This assignment will be **due on Tuesday September 3rd** upon our return from summer recess. You are welcome to submit the assignment via email early should you wish.

The Reading selection is available in print from a variety of booksellers and is also available in an online format via kindle.

Assigned Reading:

Spence, Jonathan. The Question of Hu. (New York: Vintage Books, 1988). ISBN: 0-679-72580-6

In addition to the narrative please read the foreword and notes section of the book. The numbers in the notes section refer to page numbers not individual footnotes.

Questions:

Respond to each of the questions below with **three separate** one to two page essays. Please use one inch margins, double spaced lines, and a twelve point font. Use parenthetical citations with a book page number, Example: (Spence, 36) to cite quotes or ideas from the book. Be sure to back your opinions with information and evidence from the text to support your positions.

1. What was the “question” of Hu? How would you have responded to that question and why?
2. To What extent was Hu’s committal due to cultural differences between he and Father Fouquet?
3. Does the author compile enough valid historical evidence to tell this story in a convincing manner? Why? What sources are missing? Why are they important?