

WORLD HISTORY II (312)

World History II: Modern World History from the Renaissance to 2001

Summer Reading Assignment

Mr. Wilson Notre Dame Academy

Summer Reading Assignment:

Select one of the following books as your summer reading assignment. Write a three-page essay discussing the main themes and importance of the book. You may write this as if you are a journalist writing a book review. When you return to Notre Dame Academy in September, be prepared to discuss your essay with the rest of your class. Use quotes from your readings in your essay and be prepared to tell us “what you learned” or what was your “take-away” from reading the book. This should be an enjoyable beginning to your academic year and will start you out with an exam grade.

Buck, Pearl. *The Good Earth. Life in China prior to World War I.* Write a brief two to three-page essay about Pearl Buck’s life in China prior to the Great War. This book received the Pulitzer Prize in Literature in 1932.

Remarque, Erich Maria. *All Quiet on the Western Front.* The life of a German soldier in World War I. Write a two or three-page essay on what life was like for a soldier fighting in World War I. Why was this an anti-war novel.

Hochschild, Adam. *King Leopold’s Ghost.* The author discusses the horrors of European “Imperialism” in the Belgian Congo in Africa in the 19th and early 20th Centuries. Write a brief two or three-page essay of the genocide and atrocities of King Leopold’s invasion of the Congo.

