

IB History of the Americas **Required** Reading List

Each student is **required** to read **two books**; Both books cover the growth of Imperial Empires in the lead up, and throughout WWII. Both of these are major topics that you will study in depth throughout your time in the History of Americas Class. It is therefore imperative that you read these books. For each book write a three page report; see the detail that follows:

Write a three page report for each book you have chosen to read (two books total) of the following books. Your response should be broken down as follows:

- Two page summary (typed not larger than 12 font and 1 inch margins)
- One-half page why or how you believe the book relates to history and or its importance in studying history
- One-half page recommendation to read or not to read with a justification of your opinion.

I should be able to tell from your book report that you have actually read the book and not the Spark notes version. If I cannot tell from your summary that you have read the actual book then your grade will suffer severely. **In other words give me specifics from the book**

We believe that it is very important that IB students keep their minds active during the summer months. The selections are designed provide an in depth study of some of the topics that will be covered during your IB History course.

Both book reports will be due the first Friday of the 2016/2017 school year. This will allow you to ask me any questions that you may have pertaining to this assignment. However both book reports should be completed on the first day of school so that only revisions will be necessary.

Summer reading list:

Soldiers of the Sun: The Rise and Fall of the Imperial Japanese

Army by Meirion Harries, Susie Harries

<http://www.amazon.com/Soldiers-Sun-Rise-Imperial-Japanese/dp/0679753036>

Meirion and Susie Harries have written the first full Western account of the Imperial Japanese Army. Drawing on Japanese, English, French, and American sources, the authors penetrate the lingering wartime enmity and propaganda to lay bare the true character of the Imperial Army.

The book covers its creation in 1868 until its final defeat in 1945. Soldiers of the Sun traces the origins of the Imperial Japanese Army back to its samurai roots in the nineteenth century to tell the story of the rise and fall of this extraordinary military force. This book does not sugarcoat the brutality of the atrocities carried out under the Japanese Army.. At the same time it provides insight into the dealings between the Army and the Navy, the Army and the Politicians and the Army and the people. This is a well-researched and very interesting book. It does start slow but gets very interesting as the book moves forward.

In the Garden of Beasts: Love, Terror, and an American Family in Hitler's Berlin by Erik Larson

<http://www.amazon.com/Garden-Beasts-Terror-American-Hitlers/dp/030740885X>

A mild-mannered professor from Chicago, Dodd brings along his wife, son, and flamboyant daughter, Martha. At first Martha is entranced by the parties and pomp, and the handsome young men of the Third Reich with their infectious enthusiasm for restoring Germany to a position of world prominence. Enamored of the “New Germany,” she has one affair after another, including with the surprisingly honorable first chief of the Gestapo, Rudolf Diels. But as evidence of Jewish persecution mounts, confirmed by chilling first-person testimony, her father telegraphs his concerns to a largely indifferent State Department back home. Dodd watches with alarm as Jews are attacked, the press is censored, and drafts of frightening new laws begin to circulate. As that first year unfolds and the shadows deepen, the Dodds experience days full of excitement, intrigue, romance—and ultimately, horror, when a climactic spasm of violence and murder reveals Hitler’s true character and ruthless ambition.