

Summer Reading Assignment

By registering for the AP World History course, I assume you are not only passionate about history, but also passionate about learning. This assignment will challenge your critical thinking skills as well as your independent study skills. Although a very short book, the *Communist Manifesto* provides unique challenges for its readers. This assignment is to help you form a guided analysis of the reading to better your understanding of the text. You are to read the *Communist Manifesto* by Karl Marx and Frederick Engels – please try and purchase the Penguin Great Ideas version. As you are reading the text:

- Bracket [] sentences that are central to the thesis the authors are presenting in the text.
 - a. Pick 5 sentences that you bracketed. Explain on a separate sheet of paper how each of these sentences supports the thesis of the work as a whole.
- Underline _____ words that you do not yet know what they mean and have a synonym written on top of or next to the word itself, explaining what the word you underlined means.
- Put parentheses () around names of people that are mentioned that have a specific relation to the text.
- Write **brief** summaries in the margins that analyze the key concepts written on those pages. **DO NOT** recopy the words in the text; you must use your own words and analysis.
- You must bring your book to the first day of class with your name on it and with all the markings as written above. This and the answers below will count as a test grade.

Answer the following questions on a separate sheet of paper.

1. What is the relationship between the bourgeoisie and the proletariat? Why does there need to be a class struggle?
 - a. What are the critiques of the bourgeoisie? Use specific examples from the text.
2. What critiques do the authors give of capitalism? Are they justified not only in the time period this book was written (Industrial Revolution – 19th century), but also in modern histories' terms?
3. What are the central tenets of communism as the authors believe it to be?
4. Why is there a need for a “communist revolution”? End result?
5. Why do the authors want to abolish private property?
6. After this “struggle” happens, what then? What of government? What of class systems? What of religion? What of private property? What of individual freedoms?
7. Are the authors correct in their belief that history is a story of class conflict? If so, can you provide specific examples from history to prove their statement?