

This paper is due the first day of school, Wednesday, August 9th.

A HISTORY OF THE WORLD IN 6 GLASSES by Tom Standage (2005)

READ ALL DIRECTIONS BELOW!!!!!!!

The assignments listed below are **MANDATORY and you are on your honor as you complete this assignment. You may not work with anyone else, discuss answers, read or use other work done of this assignment. Everything must be completed only by you.**

Standage, Tom. *A History of the World in 6 Glasses*. 2006. ISBN-10(for paperback edition): 9780802715524 or ISBN-13: 978-0802715524.

Introduction

The particular book you have been assigned to read is one that provides an excellent and thought provoking look at world history through the humble beverage. What we drink is something most people take for granted, not giving it a second thought. As you will learn throughout this class; everything, from what we drink, to the clothes we wear, from the technology we use; to the religion we practice; everything has an interrelated history.

About the author:

Tom Standage is digital editor at The Economist, overseeing the magazine's website, Economist.com, and its smartphone, tablet and e-reader editions. Before that he was business affairs editor, running the back half of the magazine, and he previously served as business editor, technology editor and science correspondent. Tom is also the author of five history books, including "An Edible History of Humanity" (2009), "**A History of the World in Six Glasses**" (2005), a **New York Times** bestseller, and "The Victorian Internet" (1998), described by the Wall Street Journal as a "dot-com cult classic". He writes the video-game column for Intelligent Life, The Economist's lifestyle magazine, is a regular commentator on BBC radio, and has written for other publications including the Guardian, the Daily Telegraph, the New York Times and Wired. He holds a degree in engineering and computer science from Oxford University, and is the least musical member of a musical family. He is married and lives in London with his wife and children, and is currently working on his next book, on the prehistory of social media. It is entitled "Writing on the Wall: Social Media - The First 2,000 Years" (scheduled for release on Oct 15, 2013).

Tom Standage starts with a bold hypothesis—that each epoch, from the Stone Age to the present, has had its signature beverage—and takes readers on an extraordinary trip through world history. The Economist's technology editor has the ability to connect the smallest detail to the big picture and a knack for summarizing vast concepts in a few sentences. He explains how, when humans shifted from hunting and gathering to farming, they saved surplus grain, which sometimes fermented into **beer**. The Greeks took grapes and made **wine**, later borrowed by the Romans and the Christians. Arabic scientists experimented with distillation and produced **spirits**, the ideal drink for long voyages of exploration. **Coffee** also spread quickly from Arabia to Europe, becoming the "intellectual counterpoint to the geographical expansion of the Age of Exploration." European coffee-houses, which functioned as "the Internet of the Age of Reason," facilitated scientific, financial and industrial cross-fertilization. In the British industrial revolution that followed, **tea** "was the lubricant that kept the factories running smoothly." Finally, the rise of American capitalism is mirrored in the history of **Coca-Cola**, which started as a more or less handmade medicinal drink but morphed into a mass-produced global commodity over the course of the 20th century. In and around these grand ideas, Standage tucks some wonderful tidbits—on the antibacterial qualities of tea, Mecca's coffee trials in 1511, Visigoth penalties for destroying vineyards—ending with a thought provoking proposal for the future of humanity. He suspects it may hinge on our ability to facilitate clean supplies of **water** to an ever expanding population.

“10th Grade World History and World Literature are combining their summer reading into one assignment.”

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Directions for summer reading:

1. **Read the book.** You must read, not skim, the entire book. It is read by a large number of World History students each year. I think you will find it very interesting.
2. **INDEPENDENT WORK:** Please note that the use of any resources on the internet or printed or other students' work regarding this book to complete your assignments will be viewed as plagiarism. Plagiarism issues receive zero grade in RenWeb and are not eligible for resubmissions. In submitting your assignments, you are pledging that the work is the result of **only your effort.**
3. **DUE DATE:** Timely submission of the summer assignment is evidence of your commitment to the challenge of an HONORS level course. There should not be any late assignments. This paper is due the first day of school, Wednesday, August 9th.
4. **READING QUESTIONS:**
 - a. First, as you read, consider the guided reading questions below.
 - b. You should discuss these in a full page per section. That means excluding your title page which only has your Name, title of the Course, title of the book and the date you should have six full pages (you may have more).
 - c. Please type your responses in a #12 font size, New Times Roman, and double-space—you will receive a summer assignment project grade for this assignment.
 - d. The guided reading is just that to help guide you as you read and then create a framework for your response. Do not merely answer the questions but be thoughtful and discuss your thoughts and ideas. Do not just summarize the history the author presents. Your paper is a discussion of the ideas presented to you.

Guided Reading Questions – Consider these questions as you read through the book. You might address some of these topics/ideas in your paper. These questions will help form the basis of the discussions we have at the beginning of the year about this book.

“Beer in Mesopotamia and Egypt” (Chapters 1 and 2):

1. How might beer have influenced the transition from hunting and gathering (Paleolithic) to agricultural based (Neolithic) societies?
2. What does the story of beer tell you about social and gender roles in ancient SW Asia and Egypt?
3. How important do you think beer was in the growth and diffusion of the earliest civilizations? Would the earliest civilizations of SW Asia and Egypt have been as prosperous without the discovery of beer?

“Wine in Greece and Rome” (Chapters 3 and 4):

1. What does the story of wine tell you about social and gender roles in the Mediterranean world? How did this change over time?
2. Explain how the symposia and wine-drinking related to the development (and self-image) of ancient Greece (as compared to other parts of the world).
3. What effect does wine have on the development of Christianity and of Islam (separately)?

“Spirits in the Colonial Period” (Chapters 5 and 6):

1. How did spirits advance/accelerate colonialism?
2. In the 18th century, how did spirits change the balance of power amongst the western European nations (particularly Britain and France)?
3. How did spirits help in the building and shaping of early America (politically and economically)?

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“Coffee in the Age of Reason” (Chapters 7 and 8):

1. Why did coffee become known to Europeans as the “antithesis of alcohol”? And how will this change the intellectual development of Europe?
2. Was coffee the first true “global” beverage? Why or why not?
3. How (and why) did coffee play a pivotal role in the Enlightenment and French Revolution?

“Tea and the British Empire” (Chapters 9 and 10):

1. Why was tea important to China’s economy, and how did it affect China’s relationships with other countries?
2. Explain the relationship between tea and a) the Industrial Revolution, and b) the expansion of the British Empire.
3. Compare and contrast how the British trade in tea affected America and India.

“Coca-Cola and the Rise of America” (Chapters 11 and 12):

1. How does the story of Coca-Cola relate to the rise of capitalism and entrepreneurship in the 19th and early 20th centuries? How does this story show a larger global economic shift?
2. How did Coca-Cola become the world’s most recognized product?
3. How does Coca-Cola affect people’s views of the United States? Is the spread of Coca-Cola an example of “Americanization” around the world?

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