

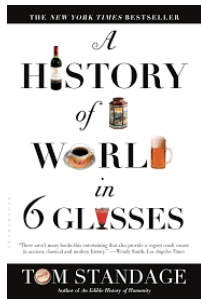
“A History of the World in Six Glasses”

by Tom Standage

Jonathan Fickley

jonathan.fickley@fcspaladins.org

You may choose any format: paperback, Kindle, or E-book. I would **NOT** suggest audio as listening to a book activates a different learning center of the brain and it is hard to take effective, quality notes.



Your history summer assignment is to read *A History of the World in Six Glasses* by Tom Standage. *A History of the World in 6 Glasses* tells the story of humanity from the Stone Age to the 21st century through the lens of beer, wine, spirits, coffee, tea, and cola. Beer was first made in the Fertile Crescent and by 3000 B.C.E. was so important to Mesopotamia and Egypt that it was used to pay wages. In ancient Greece wine became the main export of her vast seaborne trade, helping spread Greek culture abroad. Spirits such as brandy and rum fueled the Age of Exploration, fortifying seamen on long voyages and oiling the pernicious slave trade. Although coffee originated in the Arab world, it stoked revolutionary thought in Europe during the Age of Reason, when coffeehouses became centers of intellectual exchange. And hundreds of years after the Chinese began drinking tea, it became especially popular in Britain, with far-reaching effects on British foreign policy. Finally, though carbonated drinks were invented in 18th-century Europe they became a 20th-century phenomenon, and Coca-Cola in particular is the leading symbol of globalization.

Assignments: Reading about history is not enough; you must also learn to “do” history.

- I. Read the Book: This is an enjoyable and interesting book. It might not be quite what you expect out of a required reading for history. Read! Do not skim the book.
- II. Take notes while you read. Journaling notes on reading, thoughts, etc.

While you are reading and taking notes consider the questions below on each chapter. Your journaling is **NOT to answer these questions but to consider these questions while you read. You will take a test over the book at the beginning of the school year. You will be able to use your journal. So take careful, summarized notes. Your journal will be due on August 14th in class. Make sure your notes are clear, neat, legible and organized. You may also incorporate visuals and drawings into your notes as well.**

In reading and taking notes, students are advised to consider the following:

“Beer in Mesopotamia and Egypt”

1. How is the discovery of beer linked to the growth of the first “civilizations”?
2. What is the relationship between beer and writing, commerce, and health?

“Wine in Greece and Rome”

1. How did the use of wine differ from that of beer in ancient Greece and Rome?
2. How and why did wine develop into a form of a status symbol in Greece?
3. How did the use of wine in Roman culture differ from that of ancient Greece?
4. What is the relationship between wine and empire, medicine, and religion?

“Spirits in the Colonial Period”

1. What is the origin of distilled spirits?
2. What is the connection between spirits and colonization?
3. How was the production of spirits connected to slavery?
4. In the 18th century, how did spirits help Britain have a more superior navy than France?

“Coffee in the Age of Reason”

1. Who did Europeans get coffee from and how did it spread to Europe?
2. Describe coffee's effect on the global balance of power (in terms of commerce).
3. How did coffee play a pivotal role in the scientific revolution?
4. How did coffee play a pivotal role in the “financial revolution”?
5. How did coffee play a pivotal role in the Enlightenment and French Revolution?

“Tea and the British Empire”

1. How did the consumption of tea in Europe differ from how it was consumed in China or Japan?
2. How did tea transform English society? Who were its main consumers and what were some of the new rituals that surrounded tea?
3. How was tea an integral part of the Industrial Revolution?
4. What was the connection between tea and politics?
5. How was tea connected to the opium trade and the Opium War of 1839-1842?
6. What role did the tea trade and production play in the British rule over India?

“Coca-Cola and the Rise of America”

1. What was the relationship of coke and World War II?
2. How was coke thought of by the communists during the Cold War?
3. What is meant by “globalization in a bottle”?
4. How did Coca-Cola come to be seen as an American value? How did this help and hurt Coca-Cola (and, in some ways, America itself?)

THE BIG PICTURE

1. Of the six that the author discusses, which beverage do you think has played the most significant role in history?
2. What do you think is the beverage for the next era in history? Do you agree with the author's choice in the epilogue?