

List of Possible Topics

So now we come to everyone's favorite part choosing a topic. This is by no means and sometimes can be even harder than the actual paper itself. I wish from the bottom of my heart that I can let you research any topic that you want at any point in history. However we are limited by the scope of our class. Your topic must come from **World History, in the time frame from Prehistory up to and including the Byzantine Empire** after the Civil War. So year wise Prehistory- 1683. There are many wonderful and interesting topics that you can find within this very small time of history. As I said in the beginning of this class history is unique in that there is something for everyone to engage with. I will provide a partial list of topic below based off your textbook. They will primarily be chapter and section titles. You are more than welcome to take one from the list but you are not limited to the list. All topics whether on the list or not will require my prior approval with your prospectus.

Chapter 1: The Beginnings of Human

Society

Stone Age

Invention of Fire

Invention of Farming

****This era would be a very challenging era to do research on because there is so much we do not know. If you choose this just buyer beware....

Chapter 2: The Fertile Crescent

The Land Between Two Rivers

Importance of Scribes

First Cities of Mesopotamia

Sumerian Religion

Fertile Crescent Empires

The Babylonian Empire

Assyrian Empire

Assyrian War Technology

Fall of Assyria

The New Babylonian Empire

Nebuchadnezzar

Persian Empire

Zoroastrianism

Wars of Expansion

Darius I

Xerxes

The Persian Immortal

The Legacy of Mesopotamia

Hammurabi's Code

Roles of Scribes

Cuneiform

Mediterranean Civilizations

Phoenicia, trade, alphabet

Israelites

Abraham

Moses

King Saul

King David

King Solomon

Judaism

Beliefs

The Ten Commandments

Women of Judaism

Jewish diaspora

Influence on later religions

Chapter 3: Ancient Egypt

The Geography of the Nile

Rulers of Egypt

Specific rulers or specific dynasties

Construction Projects

Egyptian Religion

Specific god/goddess, responsibilities or powers

The Families of Gods

Mummification

Pyramid building, and shift to Valley of Kings

Egyptian Afterlife

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The Great Pyramid
Ancient Egyptian Culture
Social classes
Slavery
Women in Ancient Egypt
Hieroglyphics
Science and Medicine
Ancient Nubia (we did not cover in class but definitely has some interesting things to look into)
Relationship with Egypt
Importance of Archery
Kerma Culture
Napata and Meroe

Chapter 4: Ancient India

The Indus and Ganges River Valleys
Climate and importance of monsoons
Mohenjo-Daro
Advanced City Planning
Aryan culture
Hinduism
Specific god/goddess
Hindu myths
Beliefs of Hinduism
Teachings of Hinduism
Buddhism
Siddhartha Gautama
Teachings of Buddhism
Empires of Ancient India
Maurya Empire
Ashoka
Gupta Empire
Scientific Understanding of the Guptas

Chapter 5: Ancient China

The Geography of Ancient China
Shang Dynasty
Zhou Dynasty
Importance of Family in Ancient China

Confucius and His Teachings
Confucius
Life
Teachings
Influence
Warring Kingdoms Unite
Shi Huangdi
The Great Wall
The Terracotta Army
The Han Dynasty
Wudi
How the Hans fell
Achievements of Ancient China
Silk Road
Han Technology

Chapter 6/7 Ancient Greece

The Rise of Greek Civilization
Minoans
Mycenaeans
The Trojan War
Greek Dark Ages
Democracy in Greece
Religion, Philosophy and the Arts
Religion
Specific god/goddesses, responsibilities and powers
Oracles
Philosophy
Socrates
Plato
Aristotle
Sophists
Other Schools of Philosophies
Arts
The Parthenon
Architecture
Theater
Drama
Comedies
Daily Life in Athens
Agoras

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- Private Life in Athens
- Women in Athens
- Slavery Athens
- Athens and Sparta
 - Living in Sparta
 - Growing up in Sparta (differences for boys and girls)
 - Importance of Military in Sparta
- Greco-Persian Wars
 - Battle of Marathon
 - Battle of Thermopylae
 - Destruction of Athens
 - Battle of Salamis
 - Greek Victory over Persian
 - Peloponnesian War
 - Delian League
 - Peloponnesian League
 - Reasons for War
 - The End of the War
 - The Fall of Athens
- Spread of Greek Culture
 - Philip of Macedon
 - Alexander the Great
 - Alexander's Wars of Expansion
 - Alexander's End
 - Hellenistic World
 - The Olympics
 - Math and Science
- Chapter 8/9 Ancient Rome
 - The Roman Republic
 - The Etruscans
 - Patricians v. Plebeians
 - End of the Republic
 - Julius Caesar
 - Caesar's war in Gaul
 - Death of Julius Caesar
 - Civil War following Caesar's death
 - The Roman Senate
 - Punic Wars
 - The Roman Empire
- Augustus
- Other Emperors
 - Caligula
 - Nero
 - Commodus
- The Five "Good" Emperors
 - Nerva
 - Trajan
 - Hadrian
 - Antoninus Pius
 - Marcus Aurelius
- Roman Architecture and Technology
 - Coliseum
- Roman Law
- Roman Daily Life
 - Roman Citizenship
 - Roman Social Classes
 - Bread and Circuses
 - Gladiators
 - Roman Family Life
 - Paterfamilias
 - Roles of Women in Rome
 - Slavery in Rome
- Christianity and the Roman Empire
 - Rise of Christianity
 - Judaea
 - Beliefs of Early Christianity
 - Roman Fears of Christianity
 - Spread of Christianity
 - Roman Reactions to Christianity
- The Fall of Rome
 - The splitting of the Empire and how it was made whole again
 - Constantine
 - Mercenary Armies
 - Economic Problems of the Empire
 - Moving the Capital
 - East-Constantinople
- Chapter 10: Byzantine and Muslim Civilizations
 - The Byzantine Empire

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| Justinian | The Five Pillars of Islam |
| Justinian's Code | Quran |
| Theodora | Role of Women |
| Nika riots | The Religious Schism |
| Roman Catholic and Orthodox | Muslim Civilization |
| Schism | Omar Khayyam |
| Second Golden Age | The Golden Age of Muslim |
| The Fall of Constantinople | Civilization |
| The Beginnings of Islam | Mathematics and Science |
| Muhammad and his mission | Literature |
| Nomadic Bedouins | The Rise of the Ottoman Empire |
| Mecca and Medina | |

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