

**Social Studies Department**  
**2020 Summer Reading, Podcast & Movie**  
**Requirements & Recommendations**

**Required reading for AP US History:**

- 1- Nash, et al, *The American People*, Read the first 4 chapters
- 2- Joseph Ellis, *Founding Brothers: The Revolutionary Generation*.

“Big Picture” Questions: How does Ellis evaluate each of America’s founding fathers, particularly Washington, Adams, Jefferson & Hamilton? What are the origins of party factionalism in American politics? What role did the slavery issue play in the nation’s early political history?

**Required Reading for American Studies**

Please consult the English Department’s reading list for the American Studies summer reading

**Required Reading for AP Economics**

Charles Wheelan, *Naked Economics*

“Big Picture” Question: Can we (or the government) use incentives to change our own behavior? The behavior of others? What works and what doesn’t work?

**Required Reading for AP Psychology**

Leonard Mlodinow, *Subliminal: How Your Unconscious Mind Rules Your Behavior* As you read this book, does it change what you believe about the reasons behind the choices you make? Why might the human brain evolve as it did?

**Recommended Reading**

**9<sup>th</sup> Grade World History Recommendations:**

Lisa See, *Snow Flower and the Secret Fan*  
Stephen Greenblatt, *The Swerve: How the World Became Modern*  
William Manchester, *A World Lit Only by Fire*  
Gavin Menzies, *1421: The Year China discovered America*  
Jack Weatherford, *Genghis Khan and the Making of the Modern World*

Dava Sobel, *Galileo’s Daughter*  
Geraldine Brooks, *Year of Wonders*  
Peter Frankopan, *The Silk Roads*

**10<sup>th</sup> Grade World History II Recommendations:**

Mikhail Sholokhov, *And Quiet Flows the Don*  
J.M. Coetzee, *Michael K*  
Anatole France, *The Gods Must Have Blood*  
Chinua Achebe, *Things Fall Apart*  
Barbara Kingsolver, *Poisonwood Bible*  
David Fromkin, *A Peace to End All Peace*  
Alexander Solzhenitsyn, *The Gulag Archipelago*  
Isaiah Berlin, *Russian Thinkers*  
James Toll, *The Origins of the World War*  
Tony Judt, *Postwar; Ill Fares the Land*  
Art Spiegelman, *Maus (graphic novel)*

Ha Jin, *War Trash*  
Jung Chang, *Wild Swans*  
V. S. Naipal, *In a Free State*  
Trevor Noah, *Born A Crime*  
Pearl Buck, *The Good Earth*  
Robert Massie, *Peter the Great*  
Seng Ty, *The Years of Zero*  
Caroline Elkins, *Imperial Reckoning*  
Christina Lamb, Malala Yousafzai, *I am Malala*  
Marjane Satrapi, *Persepolis (graphic novel)*  
Anna Ornstein, *My Mother’s Eyes*

**11<sup>th</sup> Grade American History Recommendations:**

Mark Twain, *Adventures of Huckleberry Finn*

John Griffin, *Black Like Me*

Lillian Smith, *Killers of the Dream*  
 Deborah Ellis, *The Breadwinner*  
 Kevin Baker, *Paradise Alley*  
 Alex Haley, *The Autobiography of Malcolm X*  
 James Loewen, *Lies My Teacher Told Me*  
 Erik Larson, *Isaac's Storm*  
 J. Anthony Lukas, *Common Ground*  
 Edward P. Jones, *The Known World*  
 John Lewis, *The March (graphic novel)*  
 Doris Kearns Goodwin, *Team of Rivals; The Bully Pulpit*  
 Zora Neale Hurston, *Their Eyes were Watching God*  
 Ira Berlin, *In Human Bondage, The Rise and Fall of Slavery in the New World*  
 Fred Anderson and Andrew Cayton, *The Dominion of War, Empire and Liberty in North America, 1500-2000*  
 Richard Taylor, *Martha's Vineyard: Race, Property and the Power of Place*

Jay Winik, *April 1865*  
 James Bassett, *In Harm's Way*  
 Stephen Puleo, *The Caning*  
 Tim O'Brien, *The Things They Carried*  
 Robert Dallek, *Nixon and Kissinger*  
 Mark Bowden, *Black Hawk Down*  
 Robert Woodward, *Plan of Attack*  
 John Dos Passos, *USA Trilogy*  
 Elaine Tyler May, *Homeward Bound*  
 David K. Johnson, *The Lavender Scare*  
 Candace Millard, *Destiny of the Republic*

**Senior Focus Recommendations:**

Tracey Kidder, *Mountains Beyond Mountains*  
*Food Inc.*, created by filmmaker Robert Kenner  
 Jonathan Kozol, *Amazing Grace*  
 Alex de Waal, *Mass Starvation*

Nicholas Kristof, *Half the Sky; A Path Appears*  
 Miles Howard, *The Early Voters*  
 Bryan Stevenson, *Just Mercy*

**Economics Recommendations:**

Michael Lewis, *The Big Short*  
 William Cohan, *Money and Power*  
 Levitt and Dubner, *Freakonomics*  
 Todd Buchholz, *New Ideas from Dead Economists*  
 Daron Acemoglu & James Robinson, *Why Nations Fail*  
 Malcolm Harris, *Kids These Days: Human Capital and the Making of Millennials*  
 Charles Wheelan, *Naked Economics*

Malcolm Gladwell, *The Tipping Point*  
 Rana Foroohar, *Makers and Takers*  
 Thomas Piketty, *Capital in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century*  
 George Akerlof & Robert Schiller, *Phishing for Phools*  
 Daniel Kahneman, *Thinking, Fast and Slow*  
 Abhijit Banerjee & Esther Duflo, *Good Economics for Hard Times*

**Financial Literacy Recommendations:**

Spencer Johnson, *Who Moved My Cheese?*  
 Steven Covey, *The 7 Habits of Highly Effective People*  
 Cary Siegel, *Why Didn't They Teach Me This in School?*  
 Tina Hay, *Napkin Finance: Build Your Wealth in 30 Seconds or Less*

Suze Orman, *The Road to Wealth*  
 Beth Kobliner, *Get a Financial Life*  
 Erik Wecks, *How to Manage Your Money When You Don't Have Any*

**Psychology Recommendations:**

Suzanna Kassen, *Girl Interrupted*  
 Leonard Mlodinow, *Subliminal: How Your Unconscious Mind Rules Your Behavior*  
 Victor Frankl, *Man's Search for Meaning*

**Personal recommendations for "great reads" from the  
 Social Studies Department:**

**from Kenny Artigues**

Timothy Snyder, *On Tyranny: Twenty Lessons from the Twentieth Century*  
 Daniel Quinn, *Ishmael*  
 Jostein Gaarder, *Sophie's World*  
 Michael Pollan, *The Omnivore's Dilemma* (there's also a version for 'young' readers)

**from Suzanne Bolles**

Eleanor Roosevelt, *The Autobiography of Eleanor Roosevelt*

**from Mark Chase**  
Jonathan Lethem, *Fortress of Solitude*  
Marlon James, *A Brief History of Seven Killings*  
Steven Levitsky & Daniel Ziblatt, *How Democracies Die*  
David Foster Wallace, *Infinite Jest*

**from Shanti Steckel Cooper**  
Patrick Radden Keefe, *Say Nothing: A True Story of Murder and Memory in Northern Ireland*  
J.D. Vance, *Hillbilly Elegy*

**from Christina Costas**  
Bryan Stevenson, *Just Mercy*  
Kristen Hannah, *The Nightingale*  
Kate Quinn, *The Alice Network*  
Lisa Wingate, *Before We Were Yours*

**from Bette Crowley**  
Chimanda Ngozi Adichie, *Americanah*  
Colson Whitehead, *The Underground Railroad*

**from Melissa Gifford**  
Tom Standage, *History of the World in 6 Glasses*

**from Chris Kurhajetz**  
Kareem Abdul-Jabbar, *Giant Steps*  
James Baldwin, *Collected Essays*  
Daniel Kurtz-Phelan, *The China Mission: George C. Marshall's Unfinished War 1945-1947*

**from Andrew Langlois**  
Elaine Tayler May, *Homeward Bound*

**from Michael Lee**  
David Halberstam, *The Fifties*  
Steve Kornacki, *The Red and the Blue: The 1990s and the Birth of Political Tribalism*

**from Anna Malmede**  
Isabel Wilkerson, *The Warmth of Other Suns*

**from Emily Mikson**  
Ray Bradbury, *Fahrenheit 451*  
Nancy Isenberg, *White Trash: The 400 Year Untold History of Class in America*  
Sherman Alexie, *Flight*

**from Melissa Pham**  
Evan Thomas, *Robert Kennedy: His Life*  
V.S. Ramachandran & Sandra Blakeslee, *Phantoms in the Brain: Probing the Mysteries of the Human Mind*

**from Scott Spencer**  
Joseph Campbell, *The Hero With a Thousand Faces*  
Yuval Noah Harari, *21 Lessons for the 21st Century*  
Erik Larsen, *The Splendid and the Vile: A Saga of Churchill, Family, and Defiance During the Blitz*

**from Adam Weiss**  
Don Munton & David Welch, *The Cuban Missile Crisis: A Concise History*

### **For those who would like to listen, some podcasts...**

Back Story <https://www.backstoryradio.org/episodes>

Family Ghosts (family history): <https://www.panoply.fm/podcasts/familyghosts>

Hardcore History (history): <https://www.dancarlin.com/>

History on Fire (history): <http://historyonfirepodcast.com/episodes/>

Making Gay History (LGBTQ history) <https://makinggayhistory.com/>  
In Our Time (history of ideas): <https://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/b006qykl>  
The Lonely Palette (art history): <http://www.thelonelypalette.com/>  
The Memory Palace <https://themorypalace.us/>  
Ministry of Ideas (history of ideas): <https://www.ministryofideas.org/>  
More Perfect (Supreme Court cases) <https://www.wnycstudios.org/podcasts/radiolabmoreperfect>  
Radiolab (current events & investigative journalism): <https://www.wnycstudios.org/shows/radiolab>  
Revisionist History (history): <http://revisionisthistory.com/>  
Revolutions (history): <https://www.revolutionspodcast.com/>  
Slow Burn (in-depth history): <https://slate.com/slow-burn>  
Soonish (the future): <https://www.soonishpodcast.org/>  
Stuff You Missed in History Class (history): <https://www.missedinhistory.com/>  
30 for 30 (Sports, History & Culture): [http://www.espn.com/espnradio/podcast/archive/\\_/id/19472136](http://www.espn.com/espnradio/podcast/archive/_/id/19472136)  
Throughline (History behind the Headlines) <https://www.npr.org/podcasts/510333/throughline>  
Tides of History: <https://wonderly.com/shows/tides-of-history/>  
Who Makes Cents (history of capitalism): <https://whomakescentspodcast.com/>

Movies & Documentaries - Please explore these lists to find some of the best history-related movies

Documentary collections - [American Experience](#), [Frontline](#)  
[IMDB's Top 100 History Movies](#)  
[Smithsonian Magazine's Best History Movies of the 2010s](#)  
[Common Sense Media's Hilarious History Movies for all ages](#)  
Town and Country Magazine - [35 Great Movies Based on a True Story](#)  
The Week - [Relive 238 years of American History with these 42 movies](#)  
[Fordham University's Internet Sourcebook - Modern History in the Movies](#)  
[Esquire - 25 documentaries that will change your life](#)  
[Vogue - 66 best documentaries of all time](#)