

## HISP 11 U.S. History Summer Reading Assignment 2017

After World War One, black Americans fervently hoped for a new era of peace, prosperity, and equality. Black soldiers believed their participation in the fight to make the world safe for democracy finally earned them rights they had been promised since the close of the Civil War.

Instead, an unprecedented wave of anti-black riots and lynchings swept the country. From April to November of 1919, the racial unrest rolled across the South into the North and the Midwest, even to the nation's capital. Millions of lives were disrupted, and hundreds of lives were lost. Blacks responded by fighting back with an intensity and determination never seen before.

*Red Summer: The Summer of 1919 and the Awakening of Black America* by Cameron McWhirter is the first narrative history written about this epic encounter, focusing on the worst riots and lynchings including those in Chicago, Washington, D.C., Charleston, Omaha and Knoxville. The book chronicles the violence, while also exploring the first stirrings of a civil rights movement that would transform American society years later. The first part of your assignment is to read and annotate the book, with emphasis on the mechanisms that led to violence across the country during Red Summer. For each riot location explored in the book, keep the following in mind as you annotate:

- Was there one central cause, or several of equal importance?
- To what extent were the causes of the riot unique to the community involved?
- How did the interaction of economic, political, ideological, and social forces help create the background for the riot?
- Did the end of WWI, the rise of the NAACP, and the philosophy of Black leadership in America factor in to the riot?
- Are changes in "ideas" important in the causes of the riot beyond those mentioned in the point above?
- Were there individuals that could have helped to prevent the riot?
- What were the results of Red Summer hostilities on the African American Civil Rights Movement?

You will then write a 3-page essay that draws upon your annotations for support. The first two pages of your essay will focus on the riots that occurred in two communities during Red Summer, articulating the specific causes of violence in both communities as well as the role law enforcement, the military, or leadership had in ending (or spreading) the violence. For page three of your essay, you will need to first research the 'Black Lives Matter' movement as well as one of the recent racial clashes in America since 2014. Two examples for research are (1) the Ferguson unrest that followed the shooting of Michael Brown in 2014, or (2) the 2015 Baltimore protests that followed the death of Freddie Gray. These are only two examples, many other recent events could be chosen as your topic of choice for page three. In the third page of your essay, evaluate whether the causes of the recent racial clash you've chosen align with or diverge from those of the riots of Red Summer. Are there any similarities between the growth of the modern 'Black Lives Matter' movement and the growth of the NAACP in the book? Use support from *Red Summer* and from your research to back you up. At the end of your essay, please staple the article(s) you've used for support on page three. You will not need a separate bibliography page.

\*\*Bring your annotated books the first day of school to be turned in for credit.

\*\*You will also take a multiple choice reading quiz on the book the first day of school.

Lastly, if you have any questions regarding the assignment please contact Mr. Limonoff at [brett-limonoff@scusd.edu](mailto:brett-limonoff@scusd.edu) or Mr. Douglas at [tim-douglas@scusd.edu](mailto:tim-douglas@scusd.edu)