

Summer Assignment

This summer we are going to cheat. We are going to read the end of the book on European History before we study the story from the beginning. Today, Europe looks a lot different than what it looked like during the Renaissance. However, in many ways it is also the same. This summer I would like you to read a book on the European Union and the current status of the Europe. Below is the title, author, and a review.

Title: *Europe's Last Chance: Why the European States Must Form a More Perfect Union*
Author: Guy Verhofstadt

In Europe's Last Chance, Guy Verhofstadt-former prime minister of Belgium and current leader of the liberal faction in the European Parliament-provides the essential framework for understanding Europe today, laying bare the absurdity of a system in which each member state can veto legislation, opt in or out of the Euro, or close borders on a whim. But Verhofstadt does not just indict the European Union, he also offers a powerful vision for how the continent can change for the better. The key, argues Verhofstadt, is to reform the European Union along the lines of America's federal government: a United States of Europe strong enough to stand with the United States of America in making a better, safer world.

A. Develop Context:

- Research the development of the EU from 1953 through 2000.
- Write a page explaining what key things led to the formation and success of the EU.

B. Read the book

1. As you read the book, annotate for both the main ideas and for contradictions you see- i.e take a dialectical approach to note taking.
2. You may annotate on the book directly or, if you have taken it from the library, compile your annotations in notes form separately.

C. Research and Write.

Using information from the book and your own research respond to the following question in 2-3 pages. Is the author's answer of a United States of Europe viable? What are the dangers inherent within? What are the benefits? Make sure you write in thesis format and make sure you cite and include a bibliography.

D. PRESENT

This assignment is due on Thursday, September 6th, 2018. Be prepared to discuss your paper's findings. Good luck students!! I look forward to seeing you all!