

## **History 11 Summer Reading Recommendations** **2022**

Teacher: Mr. Curtis

Hello Students! I hope you are enjoying the summer and especially this beautiful weather. This is Central New York's most pleasant season, so make sure you get outside to enjoy it.

And while you are outdoors, you'll want to get some reading done! I've got some ideas for that too! Remember **there is no required reading in the summer** for any of Curtis's classes; nevertheless you will want to spend a good portion of the summer in the company of a good book (or more than one). Whether you take these suggestions or not, the important thing is that you **read** -- fiction or current events, fantasy or history, humor, graphic novels, poetry, old books, new books -- whatever strikes you.

I've made some suggestions below;

**Robert Dahl, *How Democratic Is the American Constitution?* (New Haven: Yale University Press, 2003),**

Published soon after the 2000 election, this book examines the Constitution of the United States, comparing its provisions to what we commonly think of as "democracy."

**Joseph Ellis, *American Creation* (New York: Random House/Vintage, 2007) and *Founding Brothers* (New York: Random House/Vintage, 2002)**

Both of these excellent studies of early American politics can be read as full studies, or any chapters in each may be enjoyed as individual essays. Ellis is a fine writer and you are sure to find new ideas here.

**Perri Klaas, *A Good time to Be Born: How Science and Public Health Gave Children a Future* (New York: W. W. Norton, 2020)**

Klaas, a professor of journalism and pediatrics, delivers a brisk, authoritative account of how so many often fatal childhood diseases that were prevalent in the early years of the 20th century -- diphtheria, polio, tuberculosis, scarlet fever, etc. -- were brought under control through public health advances such as sanitation, vaccines, antibiotics and other lifesaving measures.

**Eric Foner, *The Second Founding* (New York: W. W. Norton, 2019)**

Foner examines the addition of the 13th, 14th and 15th amendments to the Constitution, arguing that their adoption remade the Constitution and remedied, to an extent, weaknesses that were found in that document from the beginning. He goes on to note that the *Plessy*-era Supreme Court, and Jim Crow laws passed by Southern legislatures, together made it impossible for those amendments to realize their full potential, proposing that this puzzle continues to present a challenge to Americans today.