

Advanced Studies 19th Century Europe
Ms. Chhablani

Advanced Studies 19th Century Europe Pre-Course Prep

The Upper School History Department Pre-Course Preps are meant to prepare students for semester-long advanced courses. These assignments can be completed at any time prior to the course. Students are expected to come to class having completed the pre-course work. While there is no specific assignment attached to student choices, the enrichment work will be considered in the coursework during the semester.

Dear Students:

19th-century Europe's History is a rich and complicated one. Prior to the beginning of the course, I would like you to read and annotate at least ONE of the following. Here are some [guidelines for annotating](#). There will be an assignment directly related to the pre-class reading.

The Butcher's Tale: Murder and Anti-Semitism in a German Town by Helmut Walser Smith

One of the most dramatic explorations of a German town in the grip of anti-Semitic passion ever written. In 1900, in a small Prussian town, a young boy was found murdered, his body dismembered, the blood drained from his limbs. The Christians of the town quickly rose up in violent riots to accuse the Jews of ritual murder—the infamous blood-libel charge that has haunted Jews for centuries. In an absorbing narrative, Helmut Walser Smith reconstructs the murder and the ensuing storm of anti-Semitism that engulfed this otherwise peaceful town. Offering an instructive examination of hatred, bigotry, and mass hysteria, *The Butcher's Tale* is a modern parable that will be a classic for years to come.

The Communist Manifesto by Karl Marx and Friedrich Engels

Originally published on the eve of the 1848 European revolutions, *The Communist Manifesto* is a condensed and incisive account of the worldview Marx and Engels developed during their hectic intellectual and political collaboration. Formulating the principles of dialectical materialism, they believed that labor creates wealth, hence capitalism is exploitive and antithetical to freedom.

Queen Victoria's Matchmaking: The Royal Marriages that Shaped Europe by Deborah Cadbury

Queen Victoria's Matchmaking travels through the glittering, decadent palaces of Russia and Europe, weaving in scandals, political machinations and family tensions to enthralling effect. It is at once an intimate portrait of a royal family and an examination of the conflict caused by the marriages the Queen arranged. At the heart of it all is Victoria herself: doting grandmother one moment; determined Queen Empress the next.