

THE WORLD IN 1900

Paper #2

Review of a Historical Monograph

Due by: Friday, April 6, by midnight (Friday night/Saturday morning, the end of week 10). Upload your paper to Moodle. No need to print out a hard copy.

Length: 4-6 pp. Format: Chicago-style citations with footnotes or endnotes (see Sample Short Paper Online for additional details of format).

Assignment

Write a paper to examine a historical monograph (approved by me) as a source for understanding the world in 1900.

Some questions you should ask: What is the topic of the work? How does the author address it (with what sources and methods, in what form)? How does this work fit into a larger historiography? How successful is the work at delivering its argument? What light does this work shed on the world in 1900? How might it help us understand the themes that we have discussed—or the works that we have discussed?

Organize your paper as a book review. Take the time to explain the work to an educated audience that has not already read it. But don't stop at summary or explanation. Build your paper out of a critical examination of the book in light of the themes we have discussed. Summarize your critical perspective in the thesis of your paper.

Criteria for evaluation

The best papers will:

- explain the monograph well
- present an interesting critical examination of the book in light of the world in 1900
- deliver your critical perspective with well-chosen examples and strong analysis
- be well organized (with a strong structure and well-organized paragraphs)
- be well written (in clear, precise, direct prose)
- be free of small errors (of grammar, spelling, punctuation, format)
- cite all sources and use information ethically