

# THE WORLD IN 1900

## Paper #3

### Wikipedia Page on “The World in 1900”

**Due by:** Sunday, April 29, by noon (the end of week 13). Upload your paper to Moodle. No need to print out a hard copy.

**Length:** 1200-1800 words. Format: Chicago-style citations with footnotes or endnotes (see Sample Short Paper Online for additional details of format).

#### *Assignment*

Your assignment is to write a paper that could serve as the Wikipedia entry for “The World in 1900.”

Before you begin, you should take a look at a few models to see the forms (and the pitfalls) of an online historical overview. See History.com’s take on “The Roaring Twenties,” online at: <https://www.history.com/topics/roaring-twenties>; Wikipedia’s “1900s (decade),” at: [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/1900s\\_\(decade\)](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/1900s_(decade)); Wikipedia’s “Belle Époque,” at: [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Belle\\_%C3%89poque](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Belle_%C3%89poque). As you will see, these give some ideas for an assignment like this, but they are not perfect models. I’ll share some critiques of these pages in class.

Also, before you begin, take a look at the Learning Goals of the Department of History, online at: <https://www.wooster.edu/academics/areas/history/goals/>

Your paper should provide a historical overview of this period we have studied, one that would be accessible to a reader that came to the subject without much background knowledge. It should include: a short introduction, a section on historiography, a series of themes with illuminating examples, and a select bibliography. Choose a small number of images to illuminate your story. Cite all sources and examples.

I won’t require additional elements that are common to Wikipedia entries. There is no need to include a table of contents, links in the text, timelines, lists of people, or external links.

However, if you do want to embrace additional elements of Wikipedia writing, you can see the Wikipedia Manual of Style, online at:

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Wikipedia:Manual\\_of\\_Style](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Wikipedia:Manual_of_Style)

Your paper should demonstrate the history learning goals of historical thinking, historical knowledge, critical reasoning skills, and clear communication.

Note: this is a work of synthesis. I don’t expect you to read anything beyond the sources we have already read. You may look to some of the textbook resources I shared for your tour of the world in 1900.

And note: I give the page length by word count, rather than number of pages. Include a word count for the text of your paper on the first page.

### ***Criteria for evaluation***

The best papers will:

- present a compelling, rich, thoughtful, and insightful historical overview of the world in 1900 (historical knowledge and historical thinking)
- deliver your historical overview with well-chosen themes, relevant examples and strong analysis (historical thinking and critical reasoning)
- be well organized (with a strong structure and well-organized paragraphs) (clear communication)
- 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