

Extra Credit Reading

GUNS, GERMS, AND STEEL

Name: _____

1. How does Diamond support his argument that modern whites do not possess superior intelligence to other peoples and, in fact, may have inferior intelligence?
2. What's the significance of the mass extinctions of 'megafauna' that took place with the advent of Cro-Magnon settlement?
3. Apply Diamond's six environmental variables to New Zealand and the Chatham Islands to explain why the Maori had such a great advantage over the Moriori.
4. Why does Diamond insist that 'proximate' factors are not enough to explain the broad course of human history and why the victors were victorious?
5. Outline the factors behind the 'broadest pattern of history' as laid out by Diamond.
6. Explain how scientists are able to determine fairly specific dates for the beginnings of food production and the domestication of each species.
7. List some other possible reasons why some hunter-gatherers failed to start producing their own food even after observing the technique.
8. Explain why it took longer to domesticate some species of plants than others, and why some plant food sources have yet to be domesticated even today.
9. Compare the situation in the Fertile Crescent with that in Mesoamerica. How did Mesoamerica have the agricultural disadvantage? How did that cause developmental delay in the region?
10. Why were the Major Five able to spread over the globe and not the Minor Nine?
11. How can the major axes of continents be applied beyond the spread of agriculture to explain the disproportionate advantage of Eurasian societies?
12. Did you like this book? Why or why not?
13. What did you learn about the scientific process by reading this book?