

AP Human Geography – Summer Assignment

Schumacher POB/JFKHS

Prisoners of Geography: *Ten Maps That Explain Everything About the World*

By: Tim Marshall

SYNOPSIS:

Maps have a mysterious hold over us. Whether ancient, crumbling parchments or generated by Google, maps tell us things we want to know, not only about our current location or where we are going but about the world in general. And yet, when it comes to geo-politics, much of what we are told is generated by analysts and other experts who have neglected to refer to a map of the place in question.

In ten, up-to-date maps of each region, Marshall explains in clear and engaging prose the complex geo-political strategies of these key parts of the globe. What does it mean that Russia must have a navy, but also has frozen ports six months a year? How does this affect Putin's treatment of the Ukraine? How is China's future constrained by its geography? Why will Europe never be united? Why will America never be invaded? Shining a light on the unavoidable physical realities that shape all of our aspirations and endeavors, *Prisoners of Geography* is the critical guide to one of the major (and most often overlooked) determining factors in world history. **Geopolitics: the analysis of geographic influences on power relationships in international relations.**

ASSIGNMENT:

Each chapter of this book is dedicated to a different country/region of the world where Marshall argues how geography plays an integral part in the geopolitical landscape.

- 1) Read the **Introduction** and **Chapter 1** on Russia. Analyze Marshall's arguments. provide a detailed summary of the introduction and chapter 1 (200-300 words). Find a current article on the Russo-Ukrainian war that reflects Marshall's argument in Chapter 1. Summarize the article and explain how it connects to Marshall's analysis of Russia (150-200 words).
- 2) **Choose** another chapter from the book and provide a summary (200-300 words). Find a current article on this region/country. Summarize the article and explain how it connects to Marshall's argument made in the chapter (150-200 words).

Due Date: Friday - September 13, 2024

