**IB 20th Century World Topics**

**What is IB 20th Century World Topics?**

* World Topics is the continuation of the DP history course students started their junior year. Students spent their junior year conducting an in-depth study of the history of the Americas, giving focus to the following areas:
  + The Civil War, 1861-1865
  + The Great Depression and the Americas, 1929-1939
  + The Cold War and the Americas, 1945-1981
* The student’s study of history this year will be devoted to studying the rest of the world, with focus given to the following topics:
  + Causes and Effects of 20th-Century Wars
  + The Move to Global War – Military Expansion, 1931-1941
  + The Cold War

**Pre-requisites**

The successful completion of the History of the Americas, as well as passing the VA/US History SOL is required. Students should have a firm grasp on the following skills and fundamental knowledge:

* Able to analyze primary, secondary, and visual sources, especially with regard to the source’s origin, purpose, values and limitations.
* A firm grasp on how to write an analytical essay.
* Confident reading abilities.

**Suggested Readings**

While none of these books are required readings for the course, they will provide a foundation in several units of study for the school year:

* Causes and Effects of 20th-Century Wars
  + A.J.P. Taylor – *The First World War* and *The Second World War*
  + Niall Ferguson – *The Pity of War: Explaining World War I*
  + Paul Kennedy – *Rise and Fall of the Great Powers: Economic and Military Conflict from 1500 to 2000*
  + Donald Kagan – *On the Origins of War and the Preservation of Peace*
* The Move to Global War – Military Expansion, 1931-1941
  + Richard Overy with Andrew Wheatcroft – *The Road to War*
  + Stephen J. Lee – *The European Dictatorships, 1918-1945*
  + A.J.P. Taylor – *The Origins of the Second World War*
  + Richard Storry – *Japan and the Decline of the West in Asia 1894-1943*
* The Cold War
  + John Lewis Gaddis – *We Know Now: Rethinking Cold War History*
  + Robert Service – *The End of the Cold War: 1985-1991*
  + John Lewis Gaddis – *The United States and the Origins of the Cold War, 1941-1947*
  + Britta Bjornlund – *The Cold War Ends: 1980 to the Present*