

11th Grade

World History

Summer Reading

Read the [attached article](#) and answer the following questions before the first day of class.

1. What is the usual story of the Scientific Revolution?
2. How does the author challenge the usual story of the Scientific Revolution?
3. Who participated in the Scientific Revolution?
4. What were some negative social effects of the Scientific Revolution?
5. Does the author think the Scientific Revolution caused the Industrial Revolution?
6. You just read an article about scale and the Industrial Revolution. In that article, the author questioned whether the Industrial Revolution happened in Britain because of local or global factors. What do you think explains the emergence of the Scientific Revolution in Europe during the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries? Was this the result of local or global processes?
7. Using the networks frame, explain why the Scientific Revolution happened in Europe and how it might have led to the Industrial Revolution.

Summer Reading

Read the article [Syncretism](#) and answer the questions that follow. Be sure to use specific evidence from the article to support your answers. We will discuss the following questions in class and you will be graded for participation.

1. What is syncretism?
2. How and why does syncretism happen?
3. The article states, "As a Daoist might say, however, just as water changes its shape to fit the vessel, so do faiths and ideologies change to fit the contexts of the cultures that adopt them." Explain this quote and offer an example.
4. How did "Christian missionaries and preachers.... turn Roman infrastructure to their advantage?" In what ways did this lead to syncretic belief systems?
5. Who were the Nestorians and how do they reflect the process of syncretism?
6. How did the spread of Buddhism along the Silk Roads lead to syncretism in different regions? Offer an example.
7. How did political power play a role in reshaping belief systems?
8. How did the political adoption of religious belief systems impact the spread of these beliefs?
9. So, why does a Nestorian gravestone in Central Asia have both a Western calendar year and a Chinese Zodiac year inscribed upon it?
10. What are a couple of examples of syncretism that exist in our world today? (Try to come up with something that is not related to religion.)

Bonus-Is a pizza with pineapple an example of syncretism? Explain why or why not.