

Welcome to IB Contemporary History!

Questions of historical causation are extremely complex; this is especially true for the causes of World War One. The causes of this massively destructive world war are much more complicated than the traditional interpretations we are used to studying in survey-style history courses. Now, as advanced history students, we explore multiple interpretations of history and investigate the historical complexities that surround events. When we start the year, we will begin with an in-depth study of the causes of WWI, but because there is such a vast array of different approaches to and interpretations of WWI, it is important that we get a head start on learning the material and understanding at least one perspective of this war. Throughout the rest of the course, we will review and assess a variety of interpretations of the events. After studying each unit, you may form your own interpretations of events and determine which historians you align yourself with more. Perhaps in the past, your teachers have been your historians- now you get to be the historians!

In order to be prepared for our year, you must purchase the following books and bring them with you to class when studying the appropriate units:

1) Martel, Gordon. Origins of the First World War, Revised 3rd Ed.
(paperback) ISBN-13: 978-1405874311 ISBN-10: 1405874317 (est. price - \$14 used, \$50 new) **Please purchase this book as soon as you can. It will triple in price as it gets closer to the beginning of the school year.**

2) Kagan, Donald. On the Origins of War and the Preservation of Peace,
(paperback) (est. price - \$2 used, \$10 new)
ISBN: 0-385-42375-6

*Needed for Semester 1

3) Walker, Martin. The Cold War: A History (paperback) (est. price - \$3 used, \$15 new)

ISBN 978-0-8050-3454-7

*Needed for Semester 2

