

**AP* Achiever
Advanced Placement
European History
Exam Preparation Guide**

to accompany

A History of the Modern World

Tenth Edition

**R. R. Palmer
Joel Colton
Lloyd Kramer**

Prepared by

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Hinsdale Central High School**

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ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Chris Freiler has taught Advanced Placement European History at Hinsdale Central High School in Hinsdale, IL, since 1993. Before that, he taught AP United States History and Political Science at Morgan Park Academy in Chicago, IL. He has also served since 1997 as a reader and table leader for the AP European History annual exam scoring. From 1998 to 2002, Chris served on the Test Development Committee (and later as an independent consultant) for AP European History, in the process acting as the primary author for three different document-based questions used on the national exam. Recently, he was appointed to the College Board Commission to reexamine the AP European History curriculum. Chris earned his B.A. in history and political science from Northwestern University in 1987, graduating with Highest Distinction, and an M.A. in history from the University of Virginia in 1989. Beginning with the 2007 exam scoring, Chris will serve as Assistant Chief Reader. He is currently working toward an M.A. in philosophy at Northern Illinois University.

PREFACE

You the AP student will find several products on the market designed to help prepare you for the Advanced Placement European History exam. All can be useful in reviewing the material for this course. The author, a former member of the AP Test Development Committee and a leader at the annual exam scoring, designed the volume you now hold to be the most realistic and comprehensive test preparation manual available. The following features make it stand apart:

- This book covers standard political, diplomatic, economic, and intellectual trends, but also makes a special effort to incorporate essential social and cultural history that is increasingly emphasized on the exam.
- Practice multiple-choice questions were developed to mirror both the content and types of questions you will encounter on the exam.
- Document-based and free-response questions follow the format and approach of those on the AP exam.
- The comprehensive content review follows the analytical yet accessible narrative of Palmer, Colton, and Kramer's *A History of the Modern World*, 10th edition. It covers nearly every conceivable topic on the exam in a manageable length.
- "Heads Up!" and "Sidebar" features throughout the guide are designed to connect important topics, clarify common misunderstandings, or add important information to assist in your preparation for the exam.

We recognize that you have a choice in selecting the right review guide for your study; we trust that you will find this volume the best available.

A NOTE FROM THE AUTHOR

Welcome to your study of Advanced Placement European History. You should find the course material challenging yet rewarding, as the curriculum covers some of the most significant developments and events that affect our lives still today. Though the sheer amount of material—the people, places, events, art works, and literature—can often seem overwhelming, you will not be expected to remember everything. More important than memorization is the development of your historical thinking skills—understanding cause and effect, making connections within historical eras, analyzing primary sources for point of view, noting comparisons across historical eras—and your ability to express this knowledge in writing.

My experience as a teacher has shown me that virtually any motivated student can succeed in the course and on the AP exam. Two keys to success are (1) a commitment to develop your skills in historical and written analysis and (2) a supply of proven strategies to prepare for the exam. You will supply the first key; this guide will provide you with the second.

This book is organized into three sections. In the first section you'll learn how the exam is structured and scored. Important terminology and recent developments in the test, keyed closely to the course outline provided by the College Board, will be covered. This section also surveys important strategies for increasing comprehension of your daily reading, meeting the tasks required by the document-based question (DBQ), and empowering your writing in response to the free-response questions (FRQs). The second section contains the crux of this review guide, with chapters surveying important content of different historical periods. Significant coverage is given to social and cultural developments, which have been increasingly stressed on the AP exam. Each chapter provides helpful study tips, a brief discussion of interpretive issues, and review questions. You will also find a concise list of suggested readings.

This review guide is keyed to the text by Palmer, Colton, and Kramer, *A History of the Modern World*, 10th edition; however, it can be used on its own or in conjunction with any textbook. In some cases, I have combined two chapters or added material to a topic, all in an effort to highlight important historical themes and make *A History of the Modern World*, or any textbook for that matter, a useful tool in your preparation for the Advanced Placement exam.

The final section provides two full practice examinations, complete with 80-question multiple-choice sections, a DBQ, and two sections of free-response questions. In all, you will find over 300 multiple-choice questions with substantial answer explanations, as well as sample DBQ and free-response essays. Sample essays have been included in the belief that seeing writing that succeeds, and also that which is lacking, serves as the best way to hone your own writing skills. Finally, in the belief that chronology is important for understanding the skills of historical thinking, I have included three different timelines in the appendix to this volume.

Good luck in your review of the course!

Chris Freiler

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