

1 | Geographical/Chronological Scope

- General time period begins in 1500 AD, widely considered "the beginning of the modern world."
 - Continue to the end of the Cold War
- Initially focussing on the most populated regions in the 1500s time period (Asia).

2 | Units

- Hegemony and competition in the early modern world (1500+1648)
 - What is hegemony
 - Questions about structure
 - Why do certain empires rule
- Balance of power
 - Wars and alliances enforcing balance
 - How does this exaggerate colonization and colonialism
- Ideologies and technologies of the core and periphery
 - Disussing influence of Socialism, Liberalism, etc.
- Balance distruptions in WW1 and aftermath
 - Creation of new states
 - World order disruptions
- Another disruption: WW2
 - Challengers to liberalism: Fascism, Communism, etc
 - Major review assignment for this unit (analysis of a type of history and specific sources?)
 - * Potential review: Types of History.
- The bipolar world: US and USSR
 - Cold War
 - Decolonization
 - Regional conflicts

3 | Driving Questions

- How did technology transform the world from fragemented states into a economically united system of nation-states?
- How did liberalism, mercantilism, nationalism, and socialism aid these transformations?
- How did the contemporary world order emerge from the upheavals of modern history?
- How does studying the past help us understand future upheavals?

4 | Key Skills

- Uncover the general and specific causes of historical events
 - Specific event: archduke assassinated and WW1 started.
 - General event: What were the political circumstances that built up to WW1?
- Using and evaluating evidence critically
- Constructing and defending arguments with explanatory power
 - Try and make complex and messy things simple in our writing
- Expressing oneself in writing with clarity and logic
- Analyzing sources w/ attention to authorship, context, and methodology
 - Understanding bias and skew in sources and asking questions about what is cut out

5 | Historiography and Theory

- Historians are not stenographers. They interpret evidence to produce/debate historical narratives.
 - First essay will be comparing two different perspectives on the Ottoman empire
 - Move towards our own perspectives/understandings of history
- We will study contrasting narratives