**History 112**

**Term Paper Choices**

1. The Blue Puttees Soldier Biography Assignment – See attached for further details
2. What historical evidence exists to justify (or condemn) President Truman’s use of nuclear weapons on Japan in August of 1945? Was his decision the correct one?
3. The story of Fritz Haber is a polarizing one. Use evidence to decide if he will be remembered in history textbooks as a hero or a villain.
4. When assessing The Great Depression is it possible to single out one significant factor that was the major cause of this economic catastrophe?
5. Major historical events impact the lives of citizens around the world. Carefully examine the French Revolution and the results of this shift in power distribution. Was this Revolution a success in improving the lives of French citizen and their European neighbours?
6. It can be argued that the Industrial Revolution was a set-back for the rights of women. Evaluate this idea in terms of the role of women in industrial and pre-industrial society.
7. “The greatest gift of the Enlightenment was when society realized their lives were wretched, miserable and depressing.” Explain what the author of this statement means with consideration given to the nature of freedom. What was the most significant result immediately following the European period of the Enlightenment?
8. While Canada may have become a nation in 1867 it was during the Second World War that we shaped out national identity in the global community Discuss why historians see Canada’s involvement as a turning point in developing national pride separate from our colonial roots.
9. It is one of history’s most troubling questions – how did Adolf Hitler manage to gain power and popularity in Germany? Discover how this one individual managed to rise from an obscure corporal from WW1 to become the Chancellor of Germany and lead the world to a monumental global conflict.
10. Examine the causes and effects of the Cold War. What were the underlying causes of conflict between the United States and the Soviet Union? What were the effects of the Cold War on the United States, the Soviet Union, or other parts of the world?
11. Russian has always been a major influence on world events, especially at the beginning of the 20th century. What impact did the Russian Revolution have on the rest of the world?
12. “The blame for the Great War of the 20th Century lays at the feet of one man and one man only – Otto Von Bismarck of Germany.” Describe the evidence that exists to prove or disprove this statement? Should Bismarck share some of the blame for WW1?
13. Discuss the long and turbulent history of Western involvement in the Middle East and the rise of political instability in the region.
14. Communist ideology, in the form of its various “brands” (Leninism, Stalinism, and Maoism), has had a powerful impact on shaping political realities throughout the 20th century. In fact, the most consequential political events of the past century can neither be explained nor understood without a clear reference to communist ideas and the most significant attempts at their implementation. Research this economic and social system and discuss its ideals and pitfalls.
15. It’s incredible to think that a relatively insignificant individual, Gavrilo Princip, can have a monumental impact on global events. Research the key events that led to the act of terrorism that launched the beginning of World War 1.

**Essay Details:**

* Length: 1500 - 2000 words in length – approximately 6 pages
* Format: Typed, double spaced, 12 point Arial or Calibri font, Chicago style formatting
* I expect to see evidence of at least 3 *academic* sources – do not rely on internet sources that are not legitimate or licensed databases. If possible you should use primary source material. You should use a minimum of 4-5 sources for your paper.
* If your website does not have the name of the author, the date of posting, and references/bibliography that can be verified – do not use the website.

***If none of the provided topics are of interest to you it is possible to create your own question/topic as long as it is approved by me – a meeting time outside of class is best to discuss your guiding question.***