

AP European History – SUMMER Assignment, Summer 2017 for 2017-18

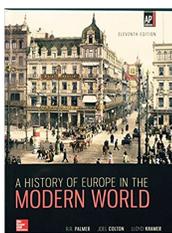
Your Summer Assignment is in 2 parts:

1. Read *The Return of Martin Guerre*, by Natalie Zemon Davis (1983 Harvard Univ. Press)



[ISBN # 9780674766914]. Respond to Questions on STUDY GUIDE (attached). Short responses are acceptable so long as they fully address the question and are your own work. **Due Day 1 of Fall Semester.**

2. Read pp29-48 in your the textbook and be prepared for a short, low-point reading quiz on Day 2 of Fall Semester. NOTE: Be sure to get 11th AP Edition: ISBN: 9780076632855. It



looks like this:

Any questions? Please email me, although I will (mostly) be out of email contact from June 2 – June 9 with the AP national reading of exams, June 18-25 at a Library of Congress teacher institute, and July 2-15 in England getting in tune with my Euro self.

The Return of Martin Guerre – Reading Guide and Questions

The book:

This book is the real story, reconstructed by Natalie Zemon Davis, a Princeton professor of early modern European history. It tells the story (famous in France for more than 400 years) of Martin Guerre, a young and relatively affluent peasant, who in the 1540s in a small town in southwest France, leaves his wife, child and property and is not heard from for years. He comes back – or so everyone thinks – but after three or four years of agreeable marriage, the wife says she has been tricked by an impostor and brings him to trial. The man almost persuades the court he is Martin Guerre, when at the last moment the true Martin Guerre appears. The case was written up in two popular accounts and has been a cause célèbres in France ever since: it has inspired a play, a film, two novels and an operetta. Jody Foster and Richard Gere were in a poorly done American recreation of it (Sommersby) set in the Civil War.

Prof. Davis poses the question the case presented to her:

“We often think of peasants as not having had much in the way of choices, but is this in fact true? Did individual villagers ever try to fashion their lives in unusual and unexpected ways?”

Her re-telling of the story of Martin Guerre tries to answer that question and we, as her readers, get to see an excellent historian explain how historians set about answering such a question as part of their craft.

Setting:

The early- and mid-16th century, or the post-Renaissance/early Reformation era, in southwest France. The primary action takes place in the village of Artigat, where the Daguerrre family has recently emigrated and changed their family name to simply Guerre. The main characters are as follows:

- Martin Guerre

- Martin's young bride, Bertrande de Rols.
- Martin's uncle, Pierre Guerre, who marries Bertrande's mother after she is widowed.
- The clever peasant Arnaud du Tilh (nickname: Pansette) from a village in another region, who some claim is the man who came to the village as Martin Guerre.
- Martin's four younger sisters
- The jurist/judge, Jean de Coras, whose account of the case, *Arrest Memorable*, became a bestseller.

Some key political players mentioned in the book:

- Phillip II – the Catholic king of Spain.
- Charles V (a Hapsburg), the Holy Roman Emperor (“emperor” of a huge amount of Western European lands in the 16th century, much of it in German-speaking regions – he is engaged in a series of wars, primarily with the French).
- Francois (or Francis) I and Henry II of France.

Some things to know about church and state and the religious climate of the time:

Although religion is a minor part of the story, there is some discussion of religion in the book, so this background may be helpful. French villages and villagers would see themselves as part of a Catholic parishes and dioceses (or bishoprics). The Protestant Reformation and Catholic Counter-Reformation (following the Council of Trent) are both underway in France and, as a result, France is split religiously.

While Lutheranism was the predominant Protestant sect in the German states, in France, the primary vein of Protestantism were followers of Calvinism, which had its birthplace in Geneva and followed the theology of a Frenchman that English speakers call John Calvin. Those French Calvinists were called Huguenots. The Huguenots were always a minority in Catholic France, but they were an important minority, with a large presence among the urban (including towns as well as large cities) merchant and educated professional classes. Among the Huguenots was the judge Coras who wrote the principal contemporaneous account of the case. (Coras was actually killed after writing his account of the case in the religious civil war in France that took place in the late 16th century.)

Please note that there were both civil and church (or canon) laws and legal courts (diocesan courts). You will see references to both legal systems. This case takes place in a civil court – first at a town called Rieux and later on appeal at a town called Toulouse. The local French courts were called *parlements* and really were much more than just a legal institution; in many ways they served a lot of local duties. French *parlements* are not the same as the English Parliament, which is a legislative body.

Some VOCAB/TERMINOLOGY that might help:

peasants: rural dwellers; can be economically relatively well-to-do or dirt poor

****seigniors:** nobility. Not much an issue in the town of Artigat, as you will learn, but you should recognize they had a wide and powerful set of privileges in early modern Europe that did matter when they were present. Those seigniorial rights are mentioned several times. [**this term is an important one and will show up often.]

parlement: a local court (not a legislative body)

testaments: the transfer of property through legal documents and wills

inter vivos: during one's life

sénéchal: The king's royal officer in charge of justice and control of the administration in

southern provinces of France.

humanist: a educated person “of letters” educated along the lines of the Renaissance ideal.

Erasmus, a leading Humanist in northern Europe, is mentioned several times in the text.

Council of Trent: the religious conference of Catholic bishops held in the mid-16th c. that set off the period of post-Reformation Catholic revival often referred to as the Counter-Reformation.

Jesuits: the leading order of priests committed to the goals of the Counter-Reformation

Flanders: today’s Belgium. A key area of commercial activity in early modern Europe.

Assignment: PLEASE RESPOND in writing to ___ of the following 25 questions. Please make it clear which questions you are answering. Your answers should be in full sentences, fully responsive to the questions asked, and your own work. NOTE: You might think about cutting-and-pasting the questions into a new Word document and responding below the questions.

INTRODUCTION:

1. What are some of the sources that Davis identifies as being available to historians to help them find answers to how illiterate peasants lived in the early modern era of Europe?
2. What does Davis say she hopes to accomplish with this book?

Chapter 1 – From Hendaye to Artigat – pp 6-18

3. How difficult was it for the Daguerre family to assimilate into the social life of Artigat? (In what ways did they and in what ways did they not assimilate?)
4. What significant event occurred for the (now) Guerre family in 1538? (...and what age were the 2 principal parties to that event?)

Chapter 2 – The Discontented Peasant pp. 19-26

5. What problems almost immediately confront the couple? What challenges does Davis suggest would have made life difficult for Martin in Artigat? And in his own family?
6. Where did Martin end up? Where did he lose his leg?

Chapter 3 –The Honor of Bertrande de Rols pp27-34

7. According to Davis, what did entering the adult women’s world mean for Bertrande and other 16th c. peasant women? ... What did becoming a widow mean?
8. What did it mean for Bertrande that she was “neither wife nor widow” after Martin’s departure? What happens in the summer of 1556 to change that status?

Chapter 4 – The Masks of Arnaud du Tilh pp 35-41

9. How would you describe the personality – and talents – of Arnaud du Tilh? How did his nickname (“Pansette”) fit with that image? How does Davis think Arnaud learned of Martin Guerre ... and his likeness to him?
10. According to Davis, how unusual was it for a 16th c. peasant to change his name and create a new identity? What, in particular, might have motivated Arnaud to take on the identity of Martin Guerre?

Chapter 5 – The Invented Marriage – pp 42-50

11. Why does Davis say the new Martin was so easily accepted within the village of Artigat. (That is, why might he be believed?)
12. To what does Davis attribute Bertrande’s acceptance of Martin upon his return? ... And how might Catholic law and theology on marriage have helped – or hurt – in that regard?

Chapter 6 – Quarrels – pp51-61

13. What do you understand to be the meaning of Martin’s new status as a rural merchant or capitalist? Why might Bertrande have been happy with that new status?

14. How did the new Martin's business or commercial activity run into trouble with Pierre Guerre? As the quarrels between Pierre and Martin became more pronounced, who ended up on each side?
15. What 2 events in summer/fall 1559 made the situation of Martin & Bertrande much worse? And to what effect for Martin (or Arnaud du Tilh)?

Chapter 7 – The Trial at Rieux -- pp 62-72

16. What ways might a 16th c. court or prosecutor establish identity? Could they do it without doubt remaining?
17. How many witnesses testified? [Were you surprised by the number? Why or why not?] On which major point did the witnesses pretty agree and disagree?
18. What were the considerations about whether to torture witnesses?
19. What was the court's verdict and/or sentence?

Chapter 8 – The Trial at Toulouse – pp 73-81 [the case is appealed to the court at Toulouse]

20. What was the nature of the court – and judges – at Toulouse? Who was Jean de Coras?
21. How did Martin's testimony go? ... What about Bertrande's?
22. How did Coras judge the testimony of witnesses? ... and particularly that of Pierre Guerre?

Chapter 9 – The Return of Martin Guerre -- pp 82-93

23. What explanations does Davis propose for why Martin may have returned?
24. How did different witnesses react to the arrival of the peg-leg Martin into the court at Toulouse?
How did peg-leg Martin react to the proceedings, and particularly Bertrande?
25. What was the trial court's ruling regarding Martin? And Bertrande?

Read Chs. 10-12. Be ready to discuss the ENTIRE book in class the first days back.