

Lesson II. Systems History

I. RESPONSE PAPER

Topic:

Please a) define and b) evaluate the soundness of one of the three central arguments (regarding unconscious versus conscious agriculture, the effects of ecology on the rate of shift to an agricultural society, and the effects of geography on idea diffusion, respectively) presented in Source Packet II.

Content Requirements:

Your response should be composed of no more than 500 words and comprise:

- An informative and meaningful title
- A thesis or topic sentence that
 - Briefly summarizes **one** of the three central arguments in Source Packet II
 - States your opinion on the validity of that argument
- At least three points of evidence supporting your thesis/topic sentence
- Detailed and explicit explanations for how the evidence supports your thesis
- A concluding statement (generally a recontextualized paraphrase of your thesis)
- Proper (Chicago-style footnote-bibliography) citation of the materials (either the lecture or the source packet) from which the evidence comes
- No outside sources—all you need is in the readings and lecture.

Formatting Requirements:

- Size 12 font
- 1-inch margins
- Double-spaced
- Header with your name, the due date, and assignment name
- Microsoft Word .doc or.docx file

Due Date

Please email me your completed work at swanberg@post.harvard.edu by Wednesday at 7:00 P.M. Any submissions after this time will be considered late and not accepted for letter grading though I will comment them for you.

II. DEBATE

In this debate, half of you will support all of Jared Diamond's central arguments, and half of you will refute them. The side for which you are arguing will be selected at random in two weeks, so you should be prepared for both.