CFR Resources

Amelia Cheatham, “Puerto Rico: A U.S. Territory in Crisis.”
A brief introduction to issues facing Puerto Rico, which became a U.S. territory due to American imperialism. (2,800 words)

A recording of a CFR event where Robert Zoellick discusses the history of U.S. foreign policy and his recent book America in the World: A History of U.S. Diplomacy and Foreign Policy. (64 minutes)

Articles

A journalistic look at sovereignty and what makes a country in the case of Somaliland. (2,400 words)

A thought-provoking article that summarizes criticisms of industrialization. (1,600 words)

A short article by Haitian writer Edwidge Danticat on the legacy of foreign occupations in Haiti. (1,200 words)

A look at the history of work, from the Industrial Revolution to today. (4,300 words)

A brief description of the Fourth Industrial Revolution and what it could mean for society. (2,500 words)
Books

   An award-winning history of the British East India Company. (544 pages)

   A history of the early modern era that argues Europe rose to dominance due to six intellectual developments, including modern medicine and the fruits of the Enlightenment and the Industrial Revolution. Note that there is also a video of Ferguson summarizing his argument on this list. (402 pages)

Charles C. Mann, *1493: Uncovering the New World Columbus Created* (2011).
   A history of the Age of Exploration and the many changes that it brought, including the acceleration of globalization. (557 pages)

   Written by a social historian, this Pulitzer Prize–winning book tells the history of the fight against polio in the United States. (368 pages)

   A history of the early modern era that argues Europe industrialized and rose to global dominance (while China did not) due to environmental factors such as the presence of coal deposits and proximity to trade routes. (392 pages)

   An excellent and accessible introduction to colonialism in India and the Indian movement for self-determination. (288 pages)

Multimedia

“*Every Day is Ignaz Semmelweis Day.*” *Radiolab*, April 1, 2020.
   A podcast on the man who popularized handwashing. (36 minutes)
Niall Ferguson, “The 6 Killer Apps of Prosperity,” TED, July 2011. This talk lays out the arguments that Ferguson makes in his book Civilization: that the West rose to dominance due to six intellectual developments, including modern medicine and the fruits of the Enlightenment and the Industrial Revolution. (20 minutes)

“The Future of Work,” VICE News, November 20, 2019. A comprehensive look at how the economy and work may change in the coming years. An interesting comparison to the Industrial Revolution. (55 minutes)

“Reframing History: The Commentator,” Throughline, August 20, 2020. An introduction to Islamic thought from the eighth to the fourteenth century—a time that had some parallels to the European Enlightenment. (32 minutes)

“The Phony Health Craze That Inspired Hypnotism,” Vox, January 27, 2021. This video about a quack doctor illustrates the state of medicine in the eighteenth century, and the effort to investigate his claims is an excellent example of Enlightenment thinking at work. (9 minutes)

“Will Your Job Be Done By A Machine?” Planet Money, May 21, 2015. An interactive tool that evaluates how likely different jobs are to be replaced by automation. A nice companion to pieces on the Fourth Industrial Revolution and the future of work.

Resources

British Empire, British National Archives. A collection of sources about the British Empire compiled by the British National Archives.


World History Project, OER Project. An outstanding curriculum for World History that includes a number of resources about many of the topics covered in this module.