

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)

"[Distinguished Voices Series With Robert B. Zoellick.](#)" Distinguished Voices Series.

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

Lorraine Boissoneault, "[When a Country Is Not a Country.](#)" *The Morning News*, February 4, 2015.

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

Jeremy Caradonna, "[Is 'Progress' Good for Humanity?](#)" *The Atlantic*, September 9, 2014.

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

Edwidge Danticat, "[The Long Legacy of Occupation in Haiti.](#)" *The New Yorker*, July 28, 2015.

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

Jill Lepore, "[What's Wrong with the Way We Work.](#)" *The New Yorker*, January 11, 2021.

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

Klaus Schwab, "[The Fourth Industrial Revolution: What it Means, How to Respond.](#)" *World Economic Forum*, January 14, 2016.

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

Prelude to the Global Era: Classroom Reading List

Books

William Dalrymple, *The Anarchy: The East India Company, Corporate Violence, and the Pillage of an Empire* (2019).

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

Niall Ferguson, *Civilization: The West and the Rest* (2011).

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)

David M. Oshinsky, *Polio: An American Story* (2006).

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

Kenneth Pomeranz, *The Great Divergence: China, Europe, and the Making of the Modern World Economy* (2001).

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)

Shashi Tharoor, *Inglorious Empire: What the British Did to India* (2016).

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)

Prelude to the Global Era: Classroom Reading List

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.

[Mapping the Haitian Revolution](#), Tang Institute, Phillips Academy.

An outstanding interactive map of the Haitian Revolution.

[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.