A  Distant Mirror  is the story of western Europe in the 14th Century viewed largely from the perspective of a French nobleman, Enguerrand de Coucy VII, who lived from 1340 to 1397. During de Coucy’s lifetime Europeans experienced the Hundred Years War, the Black Death, a series of papal wars in Italy, the Great Schism that set up two rival popes, and the early developments of the greatest creative period in European history—the Renaissance. These events kept the continent in continual turmoil and disrupted or challenged the political, economic, military, social, religious, cultural, and intellectual lives of western Europeans. If you do not fully understand some of the narrative, do not get discouraged. Focus on the “strange and great perils and adversities” that struck Europe in the 14th Century: plague, war, taxes, brigandage, bad government, insurrection, and schism in the Church (xiv). Note how the events developed and what changes they produced in the lives of people in all socio-economic groups. Look at the photographs to see how they complement or amplify the text. Don’t get bogged down deciphering spelling such as “grete and ferse batayle” (261); “cryinge theyre cryes” (261); and “wronge their handes and tare their heeres . . .parell of dethe” (262). These examples illustrate the value of standardized spelling—and demonstrate why I expect students to use correct spelling!

Make notes about the specific topics in each chapter and collect information cumulatively about how the events/developments affected the lives and beliefs/attitudes of various groups: peasants, “middle class”, aristocrats, rulers, churchmen/-women, women, children, minorities (Jews, Muslims, “foreigners”), and military personnel, practices, & ideas. Evaluate how these groups were affected: how they changed, why they changed, which group gained the most, lost the most, etc. What—if anything—did all people have in common? Also consider whether any of the situations or personalities are similar to any contemporary situations or persons.

Notice the dynastic change in France from the Capetians to the Valois rulers. In 1328, the Capetian monarch Charles IV (brother of Queen Isabella of England—wife of Edward II, mother of Edward III) died without an heir. The throne went to his first cousin Philip of Valois, who became King Philip VI in 1328. Philip VI inaugurated the Valois dynasty which ruled France until 1594. Beginning with Edward III, kings of England claimed the throne of France based on their descent from a French Capetian princess (Isabella, wife of Edward II), even though centuries-old French custom prohibited a woman from holding the throne of France or passing it to her heirs. England’s challenge to the Valois claim to the French throne was a major factor in the 100 Years War.

FOREWARD (xiii-xx)
Problems historians face when studying and writing about the past (Do these problems also apply to other historical eras, such as “Classical Athens”, “Han China”, or ‘Middle Kingdom Egypt’?)
Why historians have contradictory opinions about historical events and people
The roles that Christianity and chivalry played in the lives of Europeans in the 14th Century

CHAPTER 1 (3-23)
How Europeans viewed the material world, the spiritual world, and the Church
The impact of the Crusades
The 11-12th-century renaissance
France: Louis IX / king’s justice; functions of the 3 estates
Taxation

CHAPTER 2 (24-48)
Climate problems: what kind of problems, what effects
Evils in the Church & protests against evils, William of Ockham, Marsilius of Padua
Role of Christianity and the Church in people’s beliefs and lifestyle, anti-materialist views
Economic outlook, usury, rich vs. poor
Anti-Semitism
Inquisition
Demise of the Capetian dynasty
Origins of the 100 Years War

CHAPTER 3 (49-69)
Marriage arrangements; importance of “love”, money, and dynastic alliances in marriage
Infant and childhood mortality, attitudes about children
Personal grooming and hygiene
Time, calendar, clock, science
Literature and learning
Chivalry, “courtly love”, monogamy, adultery

CHAPTER 4 (70-91)
100 years War: new weapons (long bow, gun), tactics, expectations of participants, differing attitudes of
French and English knights towards commoners in the armies
Financing the war, money economy
English economic ties to Flanders, wool trade
Battle of Crécy (Aug. 26, 1346), Calais

CHAPTER 5 (92-125)
Short-term and long-term effects of the Black Death, 2 types of infection
Why Italy was hit hardest, why poor suffered the most, how death of sheep affected England
Medicine allied with astrology, Arab influence, “causes” (as interpreted then)
Anti-Semitic response/ideology
Results (117 ff): matrimony, morals, education, taxes, peasants, inflation, plenary indulgences
Religion: “Theory of Indulgences”, conditions in Rome, anti-clericalism
Art, depiction of “Death”

CHAPTER 6 (134-35)
Violence in the 14th century

CHAPTER 7
158-161 Paris in 1356
172-176 Peasants in France

CHAPTER 9
208-219 Women, sex, marriage, Church’s view of women

CHAPTER 11 (232-245)
Free peasants, advantages, buying labor
Lifestyle of nobles in France and Italy --Galeazzo and Bernabò Visconti – their lifestyle, character, daughter’s
marriage to Lionel, son of Edward III

CHAPTER 12
249-252 Urban V’s attempt to return papacy to Rome
259-262 Jews, Black Death, dancing mania, witchcraft
263-264 Massacre at Limoges, French hatred of the English
266-269 John of Gaunt’s march to Aquitaine, Charles V’s tactics, French plunder people they had
“liberated” (are these like any current military / political situation?)

Events in the second phase of the 100 Years War: In 1371, England lost all the French lands it had gained
in 1347-49. The “Black Prince”, the oldest son of King Edward III of England, left France and returned to England,
age 38 and invalided by dysentery and gout. He died in England six years later. His brother, John of Gaunt, led
English forces on a disastrous march from Calais to Aquitaine in the summer of 1373. The next year France and
England signed a one-year truce.
### 14TH – 15TH CENTURY KINGS OF ENGLAND

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Monarch</th>
<th>dates of reign</th>
<th>wife</th>
<th>comments</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Henry III</td>
<td>1216-1272</td>
<td>Eleanor of Provence</td>
<td>son of King John</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Edward I</td>
<td>1272-1307</td>
<td>Eleanor, princess of Castile</td>
<td>defeated Wm Wallace/Braveheart</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Edward II</td>
<td>1307-1327</td>
<td>Isabella of France (dtr. of Philip IV)</td>
<td>Queen &amp; her lover deposed &amp; murdered Ed II; made 14-year-old Ed III king.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Edward III</td>
<td>1327-1377</td>
<td>Philippa of Hainault</td>
<td>In 1330 he avenged his father’s murder -- executed his mother’s lover &amp; put his mother in perpetual house arrest.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Children of Edward III & Philippa** (3 others died before 1368)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Edward</th>
<th>Lionel</th>
<th>John of Gaunt</th>
<th>Edmund</th>
<th>Thomas</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>(Black Prince)</td>
<td>Duke of Clarence</td>
<td>Duke of Lancaster</td>
<td>Earl of Cambridge</td>
<td>Earl of Buckingham</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>d. 1376</td>
<td>d. 1368</td>
<td>d. 1399</td>
<td>Duke of York</td>
<td>Duke of Gloucester</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Richard II</td>
<td>Henry IV</td>
<td>1399-1413</td>
<td>Henry V</td>
<td>1413-1422</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Henry VI</td>
<td>1422-1461</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### CHAPTER 14 (284-305)

Turmoil and lawlessness  (any comparison to current situations in the U.S.?)

Free peasants, legend of Robin Hood

Black death returns, John Wyclif, Lollardy, anti-clericalism—Why does John of Gaunt support Wyclif?

Role of John of Gaunt, Sir Peter de la Mare, Parliament, election of Commons, impeachment devised

Death of the Black Prince, Chaucer, death of Edward III, ascension of Richard II (ten years old)

**Developing sense of “nation” in France**

Renewal of 100 Years War, French depredations in Southern England, “destruction and terror”, attitude of English nobles about the fate of the towns/people attacked

### CHAPTER 15

306-311 Holy roman Emperor visit France—not his education, lavish lifestyle and entertainments
311-314 Drama, sex, violence
315-319 Religious dissent and sorcery become “evil”, women and sorcery, torture to secure convictions, new images and ideas about the “Devil”

### CHAPTER 16 (320-339)

Anti-papal and anti-clerical sentiments

Robert of Geneva—note his role early and later in the chapter

Massacre at Cesena, Feb.3–5, 1377—who did it, why, what results

---

Catherine of Siena, Pope Gregory XI

Election of Pope Urban VI, his reforms, conflict that follows

Election of Pope Clement VII (Robert of Geneva)

Schism -- why it happened, its effects on people’s thoughts and lives. Whom does Tuchman blame?

On 336 Charles V is described as overestimating “his capacity to control events”. Does he remind you of any ruler or leader in today’s world?

Role of propaganda in the Great Schism (is propaganda still used to lead or mislead?)

Wyclif comes to turning point—his short-term and long-term impact and fate

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**WHAT IDEAS, ACTIONS, ATTITUDES, ETC. ARE EVIDENT THAT WOULD FINALLY PROVOKE SOME EUROPEANS TO THROW OFF THE CATHOLIC CHURCH AND THE PAPACY IN THE PROTESTANT REFORMATION?**
A Distant Mirror  Reading Assignment Instructions

PART I:  Read Foreward -- Chapter 4.  Part I is worth 45 points plus bonus points—each item is 3 points.  Select responses from the entire reading for Part I.

PART II:  Read Chapter 5 & remainder of designated text (see Reading Guide for specific selections).  Part II is worth 45 points plus bonus points—each item is 3 points.  Select responses from the entire reading for Part II.

• Do not copy terms or passages from the text.  If you cannot explain or express an idea or fact in your own words, then you don’t understand it.

• Write answers on the printed sheet using blue or black ink.  You do not have to write complete sentences, but give adequate information to demonstrate that you know what a term (event, etc.) means!  Include pertinent information such as location and time.  When describing a large group, such as “peasants”, specify whether your response applies to all, some, most, etc.

• When an item says “give an example”, cite a specific event, situation, etc.—not a generalization.

• For items pertaining to particular groups, give responses that apply only to that group.

• If a person’s name includes a number, you must include the number.  It may help if you keep a brief index of people/numbers (Charles V) for referral.

• Read the text carefully.  Be sure you understand the location, time, people, and other aspects of the story.

• Give the chapter & page number for each response, example:  1: 12.  I will deduct one-half point for each incorrect page citation.  Write the page citations after your text, not in the left-hand margin.

• Leave a 1-inch margin on both sides for grader’s comments.

• Write legibly.  Do not turn in work that looks like it was done by a 1st-grader.  You may need to write the response on another sheet of paper before filling it in on the assignment sheet.

• Correct spelling is required.  Use the text or a dictionary to verify the correct spelling or meaning of words.  Incorrect spelling will be penalized up to 15% of the score.
A Distant Mirror  Reading Assignment  PART I

I. Ms. Tuchman discusses the “hazards” of writing history / why historians disagree. Cite 2 “hazards” or difficulties.

1.

2.

II. Laymen’s dissatisfaction with (or outright opposition to) the Church and its officials—pope, priests, etc.—is called “anti-clericalism”. Cite 3 reasons for anti-clericalism.

1.

2.

3.

4. BONUS

III. Cite 2 attributes (characteristics, habits, attitudes, etc.) of the nobility.

1.

2.

3. BONUS
IV. Identify the city & country where Philip IV established the papacy.

V. Identify the pope who died shortly after being arrested by agents of Philip IV.

VI. Identify the king of England who initiated the 100?Years War.

VII. Describe 2 aspects of childhood / child-rearing in the 14th Century.

1.

2.

3. BONUS

VIII. Identify an invention / technology that was introduced in the 14th Century and tell how it was used.

2nd invention: BONUS

IX. What was man’s primary goal in the 14th Century?  See p. 59

X. Identify a superstition held by people in the 14th Century.  BONUS

XI. Identify a book read by people in the 14th Century.
A Distant Mirror Reading Assignment PART II

I. Describe a symptom of the “Black Death”. **BONUS**

II. Describe 3 results/consequences of the “Black Death”. (political, economic, social, etc.)

1.

2.

3.

4. **BONUS**

III. Cite an example of population decline resulting from the “Black Death”.

1.

2. **BONUS**

IV. Identify a medical treatments/skill used in the 14th Century and tell how it was used.

1.

2. **BONUS**

V. Identify the person who required Jews to wear a badge of identification--tell when.

VI. What was the “Truce of God”?
VII. Identify 2 ways Christians expressed anti-Semitism in the 14th Century.

1. 

2. 

VIII. Cite 2 attributes (characteristics, habits, attitudes, conditions) of peasants.

1. 

2. 

3. BONUS

IX. Identify a 14th-Century attitude about sex or violence.

1. 

2. BONUS

X. Cite an example of how the French or the English caused long-lived hatred of the other.

XI. According to Tuchman, who bears the greatest responsibility for the “Great Schism”? 

XII. Why was John Wyclif important? BONUS

XIII. Identify the woman who tried to resolve the “Great Schism”?