

## MAKING CONNECTIONS - THEMES IN HISTORY:

**OVERVIEW:** From the Italian Renaissance to the end of the Cold War several themes in history have influenced the development of what is now termed Western Civilization or the world in which we now live. Historians like to look for themes or patterns because they can help us better understand and appreciate what has happened in the past and perhaps even help us predict what may happen as events continue to unfold over time.

**TASK:** Of the following themes, which two themes do you think was most prevalent and influential in World History? Why? (Support your response with at least three separate and distinct examples; each example from a different time period or unit) **Note:** Each theme's questions are there to help you clarify the nature of the theme—and do not need to be answered directly. You will do this as you provide concrete examples from our course of study to illustrate each chosen theme. It may be extremely beneficial to use examples from your list of terms and readings on the preceding pages of this guide.

**THEME 1: REVOLUTION AND REACTION:** What has led people to make revolutionary changes? Is there a “cookie-cutter” pattern to revolutions? What are the positive and/or negative results of the changes brought about by these revolutions? **Colorado Social Studies Standards #1.1; 1.2; 1.3**

**THEME 2: POWER & AUTHORITY:** Who holds (or should hold) the power to govern? How did that person or group get and retain power? What system of government is most effective? What is the role and responsibility of the people toward the ruler and the ruler toward the people? Could everyone's interests be served in or by one international government? Why or why not? **Colorado Social Studies Standards #1.1; 1.2; 1.3; 4.1; 4.3**

**THEME 3. RELIGION AND ETHICAL SYSTEMS:** “Religion has been the primary cause of war and conflict in human history.” Assess the accuracy of this statement using at least one example from first semester and one example from second semester. How do religious beliefs impact or influence human behavior and interactions? How do various religious groups interact with one another? How do religious groups react toward nonmembers? **Colorado Social Studies Standards #1.1; 1.2; 1.3**

**THEME 4. RIGHTS AND RESPONSIBILITIES:** Describe how the rights and responsibilities of individuals have either expanded or contracted depending on the season in World History. Do all humans have natural rights? If so, who or what is responsible for defending or securing those rights? Does an international organization or a foreign country have the right or the responsibility to interfere in the internal affairs of other foreign countries to guarantee such rights? **Colorado Social Studies Standards #1.1; 1.2; 1.3**

**THEME 5. SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY:** What incentives have led men and women to engage in scientific thought and invention? How do people use the knowledge they gain about their world? How do new discoveries and inventions change and revolutionize the way people live? What potential challenges or questions might new scientific advancements and inventions pose to society? **Colorado Social Studies Standards #1.1; 1.2; 1.3**