

Course Title: *Geo-Political Book Club*

Instructor: Christy Buss

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Class Time and Meeting Dates: Once a month on Wednesdays (8/27, 9/17, 10/15, 11/19, 12/17, 1/21, 2/18, 3/25, 4/15 and 5/20) 2:00 – 2:50 PM EST

Course Description:

Join us for an engaging book club. We meet once a month over the school year to discuss a different geopolitical book. This book club is perfect for the homeschooled teen who is looking to add to their yearly book list or for the student who has an interest in world politics.

Students will read and discuss a variety of books covering an array of issues. We will meet ten times for a lively and insightful discussion about the books and the main political issues each one tackles.

In addition, students will be asked to come up with their own questions for each book and share their thoughts with me and the class.

Course Objectives:

1. To gain a more comprehensive understanding of key geopolitical issues and global political systems
2. To develop critical thinking and analytical skills through the evaluation of political themes, historical context, and the impact of the geopolitical decisions presented in the books
3. To contribute thoughtful questions and insights that encourage dialogue around complex political issues
4. To practice articulating ideas clearly and respectfully, engaging in discussions that promote understanding of different viewpoints within the realm of global politics
5. To build a diverse reading foundation, gaining exposure to different authors, regions, and political ideologies
6. To encourage thoughtful reflection on major geopolitical events and trends, considering how these issues shape the world

The following books were chosen for the 2025-2026 school year:

1. *One Day, Everyone Will Have Always Been Against This* by Omar El Akkad
2. *The Folly of Realism: How the West Deceived Itself About Russia and Betrayed Ukraine* by Alexander Vindman
3. *How to Feed the World: The History and Future of Food* by Vaclav Smil
4. *Cobalt Red: How the Blood of the Congo Powers Our Lives* by Siddharth Kara
5. *Gambling Man: The Secret Story of the World's Greatest Disruptor, Masayoshi Son* by Lionel Barber
6. *Black Wave: Saudi Arabia, Iran, and the Forty-Year Rivalry that Unraveled Culture, Religion, and Collective Memory in the Middle East* by Kim Ghattas, Nan McNamara, et al.
7. *House of Huawei: The Secret History of China's Most Powerful Company* by Eva Dou
8. *The Nvidia Way: Jensen Huang and the Making of a Tech Giant* by Tae Kim
9. *Soldiers and Kings: Survival and Hope in the World of Human Smuggling* by Jason De León
10. *Everyone Who Is Gone Is Here: The United States, Central America, and the Making of a Crisis* by Jonathan Blitzer