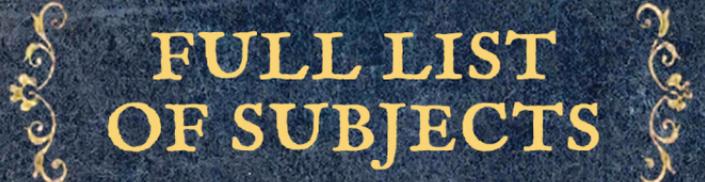




THE  
NEW CAVALIER  
READING SOCIETY

*HISTORY*  
*OF THE*  
*WORLD*



FULL LIST  
OF SUBJECTS

**ANCIENT GREECE.** Familiarise yourself with the Ancient Greeks as you follow their 800-year history from Achilles to Cleopatra. You'll trace the rise of Sparta and explore Athenian culture & politics before descending through the century of Plato—then watch on as Alexander's successors transform the Eastern Mediterranean into a series of empires in which inequality, powerlessness, & irrationality proliferate.

**HOMERIC POETRY & ANCIENT RELIGION.** You'll explore the composition, characters, & values of Western Civilisation's oldest work of literature: Homer's *Iliad*—before discovering the real strangeness of Greek temples & priests and all their Olympian Gods. As you dive sandal-first into the aboriginal values of Europe, you'll uncover a world in which poetry and religion both were intent on establishing & perpetuating justice.

**ANCIENT GREEK PHILOSOPHY.** Meet the radically curious Greeks who speculated for the first time about the physical composition of the universe—then came to Athens and practically invented education. You'll find out why Socrates is so seminal a figure in world history and unpack the philosophical sleight of hand by which Plato invented the immortal soul—before questioning just how wise is wisdom.

**PERSIA, EVIL, & FREEDOM.** You'll explore the history and operation of the enormous Persian Empire and discover how its royal religion introduced the opposition of Good & Evil. Persia was also in many ways the antithesis of democratic and polytheistic Greece—so you'll assess the nature and implications of those differences before tracing the 2 world wars in which they came into epic conflict.

**CLASSICAL ATHENS.** In just a few decades the Athenians invented democracy, freedom, equality, beauty, comedy—in history’s first tangible ‘Golden Age’. So you’ll explore what made such innovation possible and get to know the age’s most famous exponents & dissidents. Finally, through the interactions of Tragedy & Civil War, you’ll question with Sophocles & Euripides how and why such brilliance faded.

**ALEXANDER THE GREAT.** You’ll follow the career of perhaps history’s most influential person as he inherits Greece from his father then conquers the known world. After meeting Antiquity’s coolest dude—Diogenes the Cynic—you’ll accompany Alexander to Egypt as he becomes one of history’s richest people, exports Greek culture to as far away as Pakistan, and gradually convinces his followers—and the world—that mortals can be divine.

**ROME & CHRISTIANITY.** After meeting the trillionaire Octavius Augustus you’ll get to know the group of converts in his newly proclaimed Roman Empire who believe Jesus of Nazareth to be the Son of God. As Rome is beset with continual war, you’ll discover how and why successive emperors gradually enslaved 99% of Rome’s citizens—and as a new faith evolves & spreads you’ll explore how Christianity conquered Rome.

**THE FALL OF ROME.** As Christianity grows in influence you’ll tear down no-longer-acceptable statues and deem human nature corrupt. As St Augustine advises women on how to preserve their virginity & Atilla the Hun ravages Italy, you’ll get to know the Church leaders & barbarian aristocracies who replace the bureaucracy of the disintegrating empire. That is, you’ll explore why—and when exactly it was—that Rome ‘fell’, if fall it did.

**HINDU SOUTHEAST ASIA & ANGKOR WAT.** You'll follow the growth of Hinduism as it expands out of India and contributes to the civilisation that soon controls all of Southeast Asia. You'll then explore how that devout civilisation mastered the natural environment and walk through its incredible temple mountains—before suddenly coming upon the very relevant reasons as to why it so rapidly declined & completely disappeared.

**GOTHIC VENICE.** From lagoon refugees to adventuring soldiers & sailors, you'll build an entire city on water before exploring how Venetians used currency manipulation & trade monopolies with Egypt & Constantinople to turn themselves into Europe's wealthiest people. As the meeting point of East & West, you'll also explore the religious and artistic influences that made Venice—still today—one of the most beautiful cities on earth.

**THE REFORMATION.** With the advent of printing you'll for the first time be able to read the Bible—and soon have to decide whether or not to follow a German monk in attacking the most powerful institution on earth. As Germany & Switzerland break away from the Church and Henry VIII establishes his own, Wars of Religion rage for decades in Holland & France until finally Puritans and the Amish (and you?) flee for America.

**THE ENLIGHTENMENT.** As European thinkers contemplate New World 'savages' who are obviously happier & freer than they are, you'll explore how Locke, Montesquieu, Rousseau, & Hume all began to liberate the mind from centuries of 'civilisation'. And with Voltaire opposing the Catholic Church and the new Encyclopédie banned, you'll immerse yourself in the Age of Reason in France and Scotland.

**THE FRENCH REVOLUTION.** With the superiority of monarchy & Christianity in question, you'll witness bad weather & corrupt kings combining to cause a revolution. As France breaks out in liberty, equality, & fraternity—and as suspicion, atheism, & bloodshed replace hierarchy, religion, & custom—you'll explore one of modernity's most pertinent questions: what new systems should, or can, replace the old order of things?

**THE FIRST FLEET AT BOTANY BAY.** As Britain decides to send its surplus criminals to New South Wales you'll sail to Sydney Cove and struggle to establish a viable penal colony there. As rum becomes currency and convicts try to run away to China, you'll take a deep dive into the nature & extent of Aboriginal culture as it's left with no choice but to interact with a new and fundamentally different civilisation.

**NAPOLEONIC EUROPE.** As a Corsican officer takes control of Revolutionary France, you'll follow Napoleon as his military genius conquers most of Europe. Self-proclaimed as the continent's new Emperor, you'll then weigh Napoleon's modernising achievements against rebellion in Spain & failure in Russia—and as he passes the height of his power you'll reflect with Lord Byron on the nature of genius, power, & mortality.

**THE SETTLING OF AUSTRALIA.** With British rule established in New South Wales and its population of convicts & immigrants growing, two irreconcilable value systems—British & Aboriginal—come into increasingly tragic conflict. As Australia is turned into pasturage (and the village of Melbourne is founded) you'll follow the legal & social processes by which ownership of a continent was decided, and a race of people condemned.

**FROM AYUTTHAYA TO THAILAND.** When Southeast Asia's wealthiest & most bizarre city is so obliterated that its population has to relocate, you'll follow the Siamese downriver to establish Bangkok in its stead. With European empires soon threatening Siam's divine kings, you'll explore the modernisation programs that keep their reign & country independent—but which reform their mystical world into earthly irrelevance.

**THE RUSSIAN REVOLUTION.** Get to know the one event that defined the 20<sup>th</sup> century. As a vast rural society is upended by a year of revolutions, you'll witness a Communist coup that becomes a brutal Civil War. As Lenin & Trotsky try to keep their Revolution alive you'll discover Terror as a political tool and watch as their new government begins to enslave its own people in order to rebuild the country it just destroyed.

**COMMUNIST RUSSIA.** With Stalin in charge of the Soviet Union, you'll explore how & why every aspect of Russian society was brought under ideological domination. You'll discover the horrors of collectivization & witness the famine in Ukraine—and see the appalling mechanisms of The Great Purge. As finally World War II approaches, you'll ask yourself why so many Westerners praised & idolised the Soviet Union in the 1930s.

**ISRAEL & PALESTINE UNTIL 1949.** You'll visit Ottoman Syria with Mark Twain to find out what Palestine was like when European Jews began seeking refuge there—and spend most of World War II with the leader of Palestine's Arabs in Nazi Berlin. After recounting what little the world did to prevent the Holocaust you'll explore the causes of the war that led to the creation of Israel and the dispossession of most of its Arab population.

**VIETNAM UNTIL THE FRENCH.** You'll learn all about a society based on the Chinese Confucian order as its lords & mandarins colonise the plains of eastern Southeast Asia. You'll then trace how France slowly conquered Indochina then exploited its resources—and make several visits with Graham Greene to Vietnam—as a communist insurrection led by Ho Chi Minh takes on an exhausted European power, and wins.

**NAZI GERMANY.** Explore the cultural trends and & historical events that led to the founding in Germany of a new political movement: National Socialism. You'll track the Nazis' many hatreds and modern methods as they turn themselves into Germany's largest party—then you'll witness a terrifyingly rapid cultural & societal transformation as Europe barrels towards the most destructive war in human history.

**THE COLD WAR & SOUTHEAST ASIA.** With the USA and the Soviet Union competing furiously for power in a post-war world, you'll explore how culture, countries, & outer space became ideological battlegrounds. You'll then uncover the brand-new CIA using jazz, movies, & money to promote American freedom in Southeast Asia—until finally it's decided that only military intervention can save South Vietnam from communism.

**THE VIETNAM WAR.** With America committed to keeping its Cold-War promises, you'll follow half a million American soldiers into the jungles of Vietnam. As LBJ loses control and Nixon & Kissinger take over, you'll see the war expand into Cambodia & Laos before 3 Southeast Asian countries turn communist. And as atrocities accelerate to the point of madness, you'll explore the culture & causes of The Vietnam War.

— SUGGESTED SETS OF SUBJECTS —

**Your Tutor's Favourites:**

*Ancient Greek Philosophy*  
*The Fall of Rome*  
*Hindu Southeast Asia*  
*The Enlightenment*  
*Israel & Palestine*  
*The Vietnam War*

**Antiquity:**

*Ancient Greece*  
*Homeric Poetry & Religion*  
*Classical Athens*  
*Alexander the Great*  
*The Roman Empire*  
*The Fall of Rome*

**Medieval to Modernity:**

*Gothic Venice*  
*The Reformation*  
*The Enlightenment*  
*The French Revolution*  
*Napoleonic Europe*  
*Ayutthaya to Thailand*

**Western Civ Contrasted:**

*Persia, Evil, & Freedom*  
*Hindu Southeast Asia*  
*The First Fleet at Botany Bay*  
*Ayutthaya to Thailand*  
*Israel & Palestine*  
*Vietnam Until The French*

**The 20<sup>th</sup> Century:**

*The Russian Revolution*  
*Israel & Palestine*  
*Communist Russia*  
*Nazi Germany*  
*The Cold War*  
*The Vietnam War*



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