World History Name:

Mrs. Barnes Date:

Theories of Development Block:

Dr. Jared M. Diamond is a professor of geography, environmental health sciences, and physiology at the University of California, Los Angeles. Perhaps his most notable contribution is to the studies of human development and the success of human societies. In his most well-known publication Guns, Germs, and Steel: the Fates of Human Societies, for which he won the Pulitzer Prize in 1998, Diamond theorizes that a society’s potential for advanced development was not determined by race or creed, or by time and experience, but by access to domesticated animals and cultivated plants. He summarizes this theory into the idea of “geographic luck”: that simple location and naturally occurring plants and animals determine the level of success a particular civilization will have. To what extent do you agree with this theory?

In your own words, restate Jared Diamond’s theory:

What evidence does he use to support his theory?

Is his theory accurate? Why or why not? (refer back to specific pieces of evidence in your response).

What might his critics argue?