There are no Triads of the Week™ for week 12, for the same reason that there were none in week 8. Our goal, as was the case in week 8, is for you—the students of History 100—to consider sets of three terms that can encompass large issues in the reading.

How to do this? The idea is that, as you do or review the reading, you should think about themes or concepts that seem to be emerging with particular prominence. It may be ideas or concepts that arise over and over again. Perhaps (I would say “probably”) more than three will emerge. So the task then is to determine which three terms or concepts, in combination with one another, do the most to encompass the readings or raise the most interesting questions. Once you have identified those three, you have triad™!

Again we may ask: What is the bloody point? The point is actually a big one: every day we are overwhelmed with information—call it “information overload.” One of the greatest challenges that we face in an information-saturated environment is making sense of it all. This means establishing hierarchies of what is crucially important, what is somewhat important, and what represents only detail. The task, in other words, is one of identifying and framing the problem that we seek to address. I made the point earlier that this skill is relevant in any line of work that you undertake after this course.

There will be an exercise in discussion section on this. You can be well prepared if walk into the room with a triad in your own head ready to go, or at least with an idea of a couple of the concepts that should definitely be included the triad.

Good luck.