

# The Alchemy of Air by Thomas Hager

Questions for Book: Answer the questions and resubmit this document to your instructor with the subject line: Alchemy of Air - your name - Ch. 3 - Ch. 5. Please save this document as AA\_02 \_your\_name

## Chapter Three

1. Why was guano so valuable? What is it?
2. In a couple of decades the guano on the Chinchas was gone. How many years did it take to collect? (p.33) How much guano was shipped?

## Chapter Four

1. What chemicals may be found in the Atacama Desert?
2. What did chemists learn to make from the caliche (sodium nitrate) that increased its value?
3. What is the chemical composition of gunpowder?
4. What was the nitrate war of 1879? It is also called the War of the Pacific.

## Chapter Five

1. By 1900 how were the nitrates imported from Chile being used in the United States?
2. By 1900 Chile was producing \_\_\_\_\_ of all the fertilizer used on earth? (*complete*)
3. How many tons of Chilean nitrate did Germany import in 1912 and how did that compare to the amount imported by other countries?
4. What was the Iquique Massacre. Why did it occur?