GLOBAL HISTORY

A SELECTED AND COMMENTED BIBLIOGRAPHY

put together by the
Network of Global and World History Organisations (NOGWHISTO)*
an IAO of CISH

for the
XXII International Congress of Historical Sciences
23 to 29 August 2015
in Jinan (China)

* The individual contributions from the members representing the regional and thematical organisations building the network are brought together by Matthias Middell and Katja Naumann. We thank everyone who has spent time and thoughts on this collection, especially Rokhaya Fall, Trevor R. Getz, Mikhail Lipkin, Patrick Manning, Barry H. Rodrigue, Shigeru Akita and Zhang Weiwei.
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Foreword

The Network of Global and World History Organisations (NOGWHISTO) was accepted as an affiliated organization of the International Committee of Historical Sciences (ICHS) at the previous ICHS congress in Amsterdam. It has therefore for the first time actively contributed to the programme of the 22nd ICHS Congress. The network acts as a co-organizer for the following sessions:
- Major Theme 3: Revolutions in World History: Comparisons and Connections
- Joint Session 7: New Order for the Old World? The Congress of Vienna 1815 in a Global Perspective
- Joint Session 9: Selling Sex in the City: Prostitution in World Cities
- Round Table 17: The International Commission of Historical Sciences and World History.

We are proud that global perspectives have received so much attention during this 22nd congress, the first one happening in Asia.

Between the congress of Amsterdam and now, NOGWISTO’s regional and thematic member organizations (representing Africa, Asia, Europe, Latin America, North America, and the International Big History Association) have held a series of congresses and workshops all over the world and will present to the audience in Jinan some outcome of these gatherings for which the interested reader may find more details on the websites of NOGWHISTO and its member organizations.

The network has prepared for a day and a half presentations on recent developments in the field of transnational, world, and global history, with the first part being devoted to different research perspectives at the interface of cross-regional encounters and global processes, and the second introduces big history as a new field of study.

Furthermore, the bureau of NOGWHISTO has initiated a bibliographical overview on the subject matter, following its core aim to promote world and global history and all other forms dealing with shared and entangled histories at various scales.

For compiling that overview, a division of labour seemed best to allow different expertise and perspectives to be included. The regional member organizations agreed to review the literature produced in their respective areas and to select the most important contributions to a debate that will undoubtedly go on in the years to come so that we would expect an expanded edition at the next congress of the ICHS.

In the tradition of earlier ICHS congresses when national committees submitted every five or ten years a volume with a commented bibliography on achievements of the respective academic community, we concentrate on the period 2010–2015; that being said, since the compilation at hand is the first of its kind some authors/editors included works that are older but still important in current discussions. In a similar vein, it was left open to the discretion of the authors to which extent the selected studies would be commented.

In general, we departed from the idea that global or world history writing has undergone in many parts of the world a process of professionalization, which leads to a situation where today not only very experienced members of the scholarly community write at the end of their career some sort of world or even universal history as a sum of the topics they had dealt with individually during their years of teaching and research but that historians devote their entire career to the methodologically reflected investigation of explicit problems from the large field of global history. This resulted in an increase not only of brilliant works of synthesis but also in a remarkable number of PhD theses and special monographs as well as of collective volumes coming from workshops where some of these experts have put their forces together to find answers to major problems in the interpretation of global processes.
In times of connected electronic catalogues and when almost everything can be found via the Internet – if not the e-publication itself at least the catalogue entry in a faraway library – there is much less a need for a complete bibliography of all the publications coming out of the different contexts, and with the sheer number of such publications the ambition of completeness becomes more and more an illusion since somewhere in the world someone will publish a new document just the day after the fixed deadline.

But what is eventually much more important than completeness is the orientation given by specialists in the ever-increasing flood of information. The question of which is the better scenario – to be hunted by interlibrary loan or to buy at websites where a scholarly article costs US$40 – is of urgent interest not only for many individual researchers but also for academic institutions lacking the necessary resources to simply buy everything. And we should not forget students who are looking for guidance on where to start reading and what.

There exist a lot of selected bibliographies and some identify the most relevant literature – relevant to the editor or publisher. Most of them, however, relate to either a specific topic or to a university course or a research project of limited scope. In addition, many focus on literature in the English language only and make availability from US- or UK-based publishers a key criterion. This does not mean that there are no important and prominent publications in world/global history written in the US or UK – after all English has become a sort of lingua franca among historians of the global – but it does not mean either that publications in English are the only ones representative of the scholarly discourse and even more so of the perception of global history in the various countries across the globe.

Many historians working on global processes insist that multi-perspectivity is crucial for understanding the past, as there are arguments underlining the possible existence of multiple modernities and the explanatory power of increasing interaction and mutual constituency between different pathways to political, socioeconomic, or cultural regimes. Such paradigms inspire the search for more empirical evidence and convincing conceptualization coming from different parts of the global community of historians. We therefore thought it important to start an endeavour that may be elaborated upon in the future and that demonstrates the variety of historical interpretations arising out of different practices of big, world, and global history. The following pages attempt at exhibiting parts of that lively research – an invitation to explore and to make use of it for everyone’s own studies.

Matthias Middell / Katja Naumann
On behalf of NOGWHISTO’s bureau acting as editorial committee for this bibliography
August 2015, Leipzig
World History Bibliography, by the Asian Association of World Historians

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5. Japanese-language books on World History (by Shingo Minamizuka, Hosei University, emeritus)
6. Collection of Documents of World History, published by Iwanami Shoten in 12 volumes, from 2005 (with a message from editor Masao Nishikawa)
7. Survey of Japanese books in world history (prepared by the Research Institute for World History, Tokyo, directed by Shingo Minamizuka)
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Note: The Majority of the books on World History in Arab World University libraries are translated English books.

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Part 3. English-language readings on World History, by Rila Mukherjee (University of Hyderabad)

I Asia General, from a World History perspective

Primary Sources:
Almagia, Roberto, Planisferi Carte Nauitiche e Affini dal Secolo XIV al XVII esistenti nella Biblioteca Apostolica Vaticana (Citta del Vaticano, MDCCCCXXXXIV, 1955), 4 vol.
Blaeu, Joan, Le Grand Atlas, Cosmographie Blaviane, 12 vols., 1663, vol. 11, L’Asie, plate Magni Mogolis Imperium, Amsterdam, Theatrum Orbis Terrarum Ltd., 1668,

Secondary Literature:

II Oceans, urbanism, ports, from a WH perspective


III Indian Ocean

Primary Sources:


Luiller, Voyage du Sieur Luiller aux Indes Orientales avec une Instruction pour le commerce des Indes Orientales, Paris: Claude Cellier, 1705.


Pires, Tome, A. Cortesao, tr., The Suma Oriental of Tome Pires, An Account of the East, From the Red Sea to China, written in Malacca and India in 1512-1515 and the Book of Francisco Ro-
Oriental Society
Schoff, Wilfred H., 'Navigation to the Far East under the Roman Empire', represented in Old Chinese Reco
Hirth, F., Primary Sources III.1, Marg
Subramanian, Indian
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Varthema,
Translation of Kitab al

Secondary Literature


III.1 Western Indian Ocean

Primary Sources:

Hirth, F., China and the Roman Orient: Research into their Ancient and Mediaeval Relations as represented in Old Chinese Records, Leipzig, Munich, Shanghai and Hongkong, 1885.

Secondary Literature


III.2 Eastern Indian Ocean

**Primary Sources:**


Secondary Literature


Ray, Haraprasad, Trade and Trade Routes between India and China, c. 140 BC-AD. 1500, Kolkata: Progressive Publisher’s, 2003.


This was the academic attainment of ‘World History’ studies in the 1960s and heavily influenced by the Marxist tradition in Tokyo. The series was divided chronologically into the ancient times (6 volumes), the Middle Ages (7 volumes), the modern times (10 volumes) and the contemporary period (6 volumes), with a volume of historiography and methodology. The first volume of each period dealt with ‘General Views of the times’ and it followed by individual articles on specific given topics. The way of division of times was very orthodox. Up to the Middle Ages, the world was divided into four zones of civilization: Europe (the Mediterranean), South Asia, East Asia and Central Asia. The modern times dominated the series, and started from the sixteenth-century through the beginning of European overseas expansion and ended by the outbreak of the First World-War. The 16 volumes dealing with the modern and contemporary times were almost a collection and assemblage of the detailed history of major nation-states, although the level of each article was very high. The basic framework of this series was based on the Marxist interpretation of ‘World History’ and reflected the traditional tripartite structure of the department of history at Japanese universities, heavily focused on West European History and Chinese History. Modern and contemporary history was greatly influenced by the Western-centered interpretation on ‘World History’.

『世界史への問い』全 10 巻、岩波書店、1989-1991 年 [Sekaishi heno Toi (Inquiries into World History)], 10 vols., 1989-91
In the 1970s and 1980s, the Marxist-dominated interpretation of ‘World History’ tended to lose its influence in Japan in the process of high-economic growth and its transformation by the two ‘Oil Shock’s in 1973 and 1979. The focal points of studies gradually shifted from political and economic histories to social and cultural ones. This series was the product of the ‘World History’ studies in the 1980s, and adopted a thematic approach to ‘World History’ rather than a systematic structure and formation in the 1960s. The editorial board emphasized the following three view points for ‘World History’ studies: (a) a study of relationship between the nature (natural environment) and human beings, (b) various kinds of social affiliation or associations or integration, and the reaction against them, and (c) the role of ‘regions’ in contrast to the nation-state framework. Ten volumes dealt with (1) nature in history; (2) skills of ordinary life and technology for production; (3) migration and exchange; (4) social cohesion; (5) norm and integration; (6) popular culture; (7) authority and power; (8) regions in history; (9) structurized world; and (10) state and revolutions. All topics of each volume-title were interesting and attractive themes for further research. However, as one of the co-editors, Minoru Kawakita, frankly admitted, ‘the editorial board including myself could not propose any concrete idea of World History for that series. So it is just an anthology of essays on various topics from all over the worlds in spite of its title’. This frank remark and fragmentary thematic approach represented a stagnant historiographical situation of ‘World History’ studies in the 1970s and the early 1980s.

However, before the coming of the millennium, two serious academic series on ‘World History’ were planned in the latter half of the 1990s. The changing situation and trends for ‘World History’ studies in the 1990s will be considered at the next section in full details. Here, we had better briefly look at some features of two important series, which gave us further directions of development of ‘World History’ and Global History studies in Japan.

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This is a challenging attempt to describe ‘World History’ not from the nation-states or countries but from the ‘regions’. The uniqueness of this series is to treat ‘regions’ not only as real and historical entities, such as East Asia, Europe and Africa, but also as changing and transforming units of analysis, influenced by interchange and mutual relationship. The titles of twelve volumes are as follows: (1) what are regions?; (2) images of regions; (3) elements of regions; (4) regional history of ecology; (5) regional history of migration; (6) regional history of time; (7) regional history of religion; (8) regional history of ordinary life; (9) regional history of the markets; (10) regional history of association and symbiosis; (11) regional history of the rule; and (12) new perspectives to the regions. The key concept of ‘regions’ was defined as functionally changeable units. The common topic of each volume is a theme-oriented one closely related to ‘Area studies’, including the agendas of cultural anthropology and ecology, and has a unique interdisciplinary character.

This is a new edited series by Iwanami publisher, almost after thirty years of the publication of the first series in the early 1970s. Compared with the first series, this new series reflects a new historiographical development on World History in Japan, as fully analyzed in the next section. Here, it is helpful to briefly refer to the composition of this new series. This series is composed of two separate but interrelated big categories: (A) chronological twenty-volumes, and (B) thematic seven-volumes. The former category (A) is similar to the previous series in that they intended to cover whole regions and all times from the ancient to the contemporary. The latter seven-volume category (B) is quite unique, focusing on simultaneity or simultaneous relationship beyond borders or regions. The following subjects are included: the empire and rule—legacy of the ancient times (vol.5); encounter and discovery—horizons to different culture and civilizations (vol.12); merchants and market—state with the networks (vol.15); migration and settlement (vol.19); industries and innovation—development and transformation of capitalism (vol.22); war and peace—messages for the future (vol.25); and the universal and the plural—contemporary cultures (vol.28). This category (B) is strongly influenced by the concept of ‘relationship or linkages’, which is one of the key terms for creating new ‘Global History’ after the mid-1980s. And Japanese history is integrated into the framework of ‘World History’ in this series.

In addition:
角山 荣 [Sakae Tsunoyama], 『茶の世界史』[Cha no Sekaishi (World History of Tea)] 中央公論新社, 1980年 [Tokyo: Chuō-Kōronshinsha, 1980].
Part 5. Japanese-language books on World History, prepared by Shingo Minamizuka


上原專禄 [Senroku Uehara], 『日本国民の世界史』[Nihonkokuminn no Sekaishi (World History for Japanese Nation) ], 岩波書店、1961 年[ (Tokyo: Iwanami-shoten, 1961) ]

江口朴朗 [Bokuro Eguchi], 『帝国主義の時代』[Teikokushugi no Jidai (The Age of Imperialism) ], 岩波書店、1969 年[ (Tokyo: Iwanami-shoten, 1969) ]


12 volumes, Edited by the Historical Science Society of Japan, Published by Iwanami Shoten, 2005—

The Historical Science Society of Japan has edited a collection of documents of world history, which is a long awaited enterprise for the students of history and is being published by Iwanami Shoten in 12 volumes. Below are the main titles of documents included in each volume. Each document, though abbreviated, is taken from reliable source and has commentary by a specialist of the topic.

* * *

A Message from the Editors

With the collapse of the Soviet Union in 1991 a “sea change” took place. In consequence, most people, including historians, had to revise the view of the world they had hitherto held, whatever position they had taken toward socialism, which was one of the elements greatly affecting the 20th century. On top of that our hope that the new century would be better than the 20th, a century of wars, was frustrated at the very start of the 21st, and is being so until today. In order to spin hopes for the future in this grim situation, it will do much to reinterpret history, above all world history, on the basis of sure sources.

The task of building up an image of world history was tackled in Japan right after World War II, especially by the teachers at schools. Historians also expanded their frontiers toward various areas of the world, overcoming the traditional framework centered on China and Europe. There were changes also in viewpoints in the sense that many new aspects such as ordinary life and groups outside of a nation state became the topics.

The editors of this series, “Sources of World History”, tried together with more than 500 contributors to make the most recent achievements of Japanese historical community reflected. It took more than 10 years to get it into shape. Sources of various nature that shed light to different ages and societies were chosen, and translated into Japanese mostly from the original. We flatter ourselves, this series is a great adventure that no other historical community would dare to. Let us hope that this series will be put into practical use both in research and education.

Masao Nishikawa

For the Editorial Committee of the series within the Historical Science Society of Japan

Volume 1 The Ancient Orient and the Mediterranean World

Chapter 1: West Asia — before Achaemenian Dynasty
The formation and development of Cuneiform
Code of Ur-Nammu
Assyrian king’s campaigns into Syria-Palestine
The chariot horse training manual in Hittite etc.
Chapter 2: Egypt
Egyptian-Hittite Peace Treaty
Fifth Dynasty and belief in Sun God
Farming in the era of Middle Kingdom
The formation of the Valley of Kings
Strikes of artisans
Testament of Mrs Naunakht
The Hymn in honor of the Nile etc.

Chapter 3: Ancient Greece
Land allocations and forms of land ownership in Pyrrhus’ Kingdom
Commerce in Archaic period
The Spartan politeia
Reforms by Cleisthenes
The Corinthian War
The permission of the construction of precincts given to a merchant from Kition etc.

Chapter 4: Rome
Founding of Rome
The Law of Twelve Tables
Marius’ Reform of military system
Adjudication of water rights in Hispanic cities
The Assassination of Caesar etc.

Chapter 5: West Asia — After the Achaemenian dynasty
The conquest of Babylon by Alexander the Great
The diplomacy of Cleopatra
Tax Law of Palmyra
Documents of Manichaeism etc.

Volume 2 South Asia, Islamic World and Africa
Chapter 1: South Asia
On genealogy of the Indus script
Laws of Manu
The taxation system in Kingdom of Nepal
Teachings of the Sufis and Nizamuddin
The establishment and management of Taj Mahal
Caste groups and the caste system
The peace treaty between the Kings of Bhaktapur and Kathmandu etc.

Chapter 2: Middle East in the pre-modern era
Assembling of Koran
Great Conquest by the Arabs
The prosperity of Cordoba
The assassination of Nizam al-Mulk
The Crusades entering Jerusalem
Constructing Alhambra Palace
Chapter 3: African World
The pilgrimage to Mecca by Mansa Musa I
Kilwa Chronicle
Construction of great stones Zimbabwe
Kanem Empire on Lake Chad
A Letter from Congolese King of Afonso to the King of Portugal etc.

Chapter 4: The World of Indian Ocean
Successes of Muslim merchants
Karimi merchants and the trade over Indian Ocean
Muslim high officials in the dynasty of Ayutthaya
The occupation of Goa etc.

Volume 3 East Asia, Inner Asia and South East Asia I (Until the Tenth century)
Chapter 1: China — Yin and Zhou, Qin and Han
The legend of the flood control by Yu the Great
Five Overlords of the Chunqiu era
Burning books on the Chinese classics and burying Confucian scholars alive
Prospering Changan, the capital, and the vicinity
Policies of Guang Wu Di
Dian Kingdom in Yunnan and the gold seal
Sima Qian and Ban Gu etc.

Chapter 2: Wei, Jin and Nanbeichao Era
The Nine rank System
The Yongjia Rebellion
The Tuntian system of Wei
Dunhuang and Turfan manuscripts
Kumarajiva
Emperors of Northern Wei and Taoism etc.

Chapter 3: Sui and Tang
Founding the Imperial examination
The establishment of Codes
The canal construction by Emperor Wen of Sui
The trade between Emperor Yang of Sui and Western Regions
The reign of Wu Zetian

Chapter 4: Korea and Japan
The Record of Japan in the History of Wei
Japanese embassies to Sui Dynasty
The Tang invasion of Goguryeo
The trade between Silla and Japan
The Japanese diplomatic message to Balhae etc.
Chapter 5: Inner Asia
Equestrian nomadic state and shamanism
The Xiongnu’s rule over Western Regions
The Western Tujue’s rule over Central Asia
The commerce of the Sogdians
The West Uighur Kingdom and Manichaeism
The royal lineage of the ancient Tibetan kingdom etc.

Chapter 6: South East Asia
The Dong Son culture in the Bronze Age
Myth about the founding of Funan
The formation of the Khmer Empire
The theology of Java etc.

Volume 4 East Asia, Inner Asia and South East Asia II (The Tenth – Eighteenth centuries)
Chapter 1: Song, Liao, Jin and Western Xia
Rising of the Western Xia Dynasty
Flourishing Kaifeng
The new law (xin fa) by Wang Anshi
The Jingkang Disaster
Society and Culture of Khitan
Teachings of Zhu Xi etc.

Chapter 2: The Mongol Empire
Meeting of Temüjin and Wang Khan of Kerait
Yelü Chucai
Shaman and divination in Mongol
Flourishing Quanzhou
Astronomy in the Yuan Dynasty etc.

Chapter 3: Ming and Qing.
Portuguese Voyages to China
The Li Zicheng’s rebellion
Succession to the Throne of Huang Taiji
The Conquest of East Turkestan by the Qing Dynasty
Merchants of Shanxi and Huizhou
The production of chinaware in Jingdezhen
The Jesuit Mission in China etc.

Chapter 4: Korea and Japan
Foreign relations of the Goryeo Dynasty
Mongol invasions of Japan (Genkou)
Wokou (Japanese pirates)
The “Kangou” trade
“Saku-hou” regime
The marriage system in the Joseon Dynasty
The second Manchu invasion of Korea etc.
Chapter 5: Inner Asia
The Domination of East Turkestan by the Qing Dynasty
The establishment of the Timurid dynasty
The Campaign of Bukhara
The Rise and Prosperity of Oirats
Dalai Lama the IIIrd’s Mission in Mongol
The Dzungar’s occupation of Tibet
The Gurkha regiments etc.

Chapter 6: South East Asia
The Chola Dynasty’s conquest of Srivijaya
Penal laws in Vietnam under the Lê Dynasty
The Spanish domination of Philippine
Islamization of Java
Trades by Red seal ships and Japanese towns
The Bongaya Agreement etc.

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Chapter 1: Formation of the European World
The Druids and the Gaulish society
The Anglo-Saxon Chronicle
The reign of Visigothic kings
The Muslim invasion of Spain
The decree of Frankfort etc.

Chapter 2: The development of the European World in the Medieval Age
The code of Uppland
The Kalmar Union
Magna Carta
The Trial of Joan of Arc
Wars of the Roses
Beginning of the Reconquista
The Battle of Campaldino

Chapter 3: European societies and religions
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The Protection of the Jews
The foundation of the Hansa cities
Financial conditions in the medieval cities
The prosperity of Venice
The Rule of Saint Benedict
The Council of Constance
The deportation of the Muslims in the Kingdom of Castile
The execution of witches by burning

Chapter 4: Road to sovereign states — during the 16th and 17th centuries
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The Surrender Agreement of Granada
Treaty of Basel
Petition of Right
Elizabethan Poor Law
Treaty of Nerchinsk etc.

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Chapter 1: The Age of the Industrial Revolution and French Revolution.
Bill of Rights 1689
The steam engine of Watt
The Constitution of 1793
Organizing public education system
The disintegration of Holy Roman Empire
The establishment of the German Confederation
The Peninsular War and the origin of the guerrilla
The Bering’s expedition to Kamchatka etc.

Chapter 2: Vienna system and the reorganization of European nations
The recognition of the permanent neutrality of Switzerland
The Belgian constitution
The universal suffrage in France
September uprising in Frankfurt in 1848
The language policy in Switzerland
London World Exposition (The Great Exhibition)
The peace treaty of Prague etc.

Chapter 3: The Age of Imperialism
The South African War
Paris Commune
The centenary of French Revolution
Bismarck’s policy against socialists
Movements of “Fasci siciliani”
The Bloody Sunday
The Treaty of Berlin in 1878
Hague Conventions etc.

Chapter 4: Societies and Cultures in Modern Europe
Ruling peasants in Denmark
Emancipation of Serfs in Russia
A great earthquake in Lisbon
The limitation of the import of cotton cloths from India
The Haussmann’s renovation of Paris
The women’s suffrage in Scandinavian countries
The racism etc.
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The discovery of the Pacific Ocean by Balboa
An audience with the Inca King Atahualpa
The Mayflower Compact
The dietary life of indigenous peoples in Northern Canada etc.

Chapter 2: The formation of colonial societies
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Missionary works of Jesuits in a village
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The Toleration Act in Maryland
The Pequot War etc.

Chapter 3: Between independence and non-Independence
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The relocation of the Portuguese royal court to Brazil etc.

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Railways and nation building in Argentina
An account on the fur trade
The merger of the Hudson’s Bay Company and the North West Company etc.

Chapter 5: The national integration and recognizing self and others
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The abolition of slavery and the introduction of Asian immigrants etc.

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The Platt Amendment etc.

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The prohibition of the Sati
The Hindu widows remarriage act
The idea of anti-caste
The establishment of the Indian National Congress
Tilak’s arguments on Imperialism
Movements against the Partition of Bengal etc.

Chapter 2: Middle East
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The Treaty of Fez
Anglo-Afghan Wars etc.

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The advance of Germany and the construction of Qingdao
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Struggles of the Anti-Japanese Righteous Army
The argument of An Jung-geun etc.

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Part 7. A Brief Introduction to Series of World History in Contemporary Japan, prepared by the Research Institute for World History

The Japanese historiography has been producing lots of achievements on the study of world history. This is divided into two categories. One is the textbook of world history for the high schools, while the other was compilation of series of the histories of individual area of the world. The former achievement has been introduced abroad by Masao Nishikawa, a Professor Emeritus at the University of Tokyo, and others. But the latter achievement has not been introduced outside of Japan. Here we will try to characterize the whole series that have been published after the Second World War.

1. Under the strong influence of Marxism: Up to 1968-69
Complying series of world history started already since the end of the 1940s, the initiative of which was taken by several famous historians. Most of the series of world history in this period were under strong influence of Marxist history. This trend lasted until 1968-69 when the student movement against the established academism occurred.

1) The first important compilation of world history that appeared in Japan after the WWII was produced at the end of 1940s and only one series appeared in the 1950s.

This series was composed of 6 volumes; each had the title of “The Dawn of history,” “European history”, “Asian history”, “Japanese history”, “Modern history” and “How to view the history”. This series tried to overcome the pre-war world history that was too Japan-centric.

This was the collection of national (or regional) histories of the world from the ancient times. Although it had no intention to be world history, each national (or regional) history was of the best standard of that time. As there were not enough historians who studied histories out of Europe, lots of non-historians were the authors of the collection that appeared in the 1950s.

2) At the end of the 1950s, Seibundo Shinkosha published Sekaiishi Taikei (Outline of World History), edited by Kenichi Nakaya, Kentaro Murakawa, Kentaro Hayashi, Bokuro Eguchi et al, 17 vol., 1957-60 (『世界史大系』全17巻、誠文堂新光社、1957－60年).
This was the collection of articles on the history of individual area of the world. The main topics were “Greece and Rome”, “India and South East Asia”, “The Islam”, “East Asia” and “The Russian Revolution”.

3) At the beginning of the 1960s, there appeared two series of world history from famous publishers simultaneously. Both were of high standard, reflecting the achievements of historical studies that were reached by the end of the 1950s.
Since each volume was written by several specialists, there was no consistent viewpoint running through a volume. But the stories told in each volume were so interesting that it attracted many readers.

4) In the 1960s there appeared several series of the world history. The 1960s was a flourishing period of world history.

Each volume was written by one author. This series distinguishes itself by including 6 volumes written on Japanese history.

Basically this series was targeted at general readers, but the annotations which the specialists added to each book were quite useful for learning in classes.

It was composed of cross regional approach and regional approach according to the chronological order; for example, vol.8 the Age of Absolutism, vol.9 Ming and Qing Dynasty, vol.10 French Revolution, vol.11 Glorious Europe, vol.12 Light and Shade of American Continents, vol.13 South East Asia, vol.14 India and the Middle East, vol.15 Modern China, vol. 16 the Age of Imperialism. Each volume was written by individual author who belonged to the "Kyoto school".

This is the best achievement of world history in 1960s. It is divided into ancient times, medieval times, modern times and contemporary times, and each time has several volumes. Each time has its “general view” and then follow articles on European, Asian (non-European) history. This is the collection of specialized articles on the given topic and lots of articles were of the first standard at the time. It tried to place the Japanese history in the perspective of, first of all, Asian and then Euro-American history, showing that we have to advance hand in hand with Asian people. It was also the best product of the Japanese Marxist historians.
2. Losing strong influence of Marxism: the 1970-80s
Since the end of the 1960s, when university students protested the established academism in Japan, the Marxist history came to be challenged by the new approach of cultural and social history.

Though emphasizing the progress of culture, this series was written not on cultural history itself, but the development of world history.

This series pays special attention to historical aspects of life, such as "Civic life in poleis", "In the shade of the Islam", "The Industrial Revolution and people" and so on. With this approach, it attempted to reconsider the existent perception of history and to depict a new world history from the viewpoint of everyday life of people.

This is the best achievement of world history in the 1970s. The characteristics of this series is that, though narrative, it included histories on African, South Asian, Latin American and Arabic regions that were written on the basis of the newest achievements of historical studies in Japan.

This is an approach to world history through the viewpoint of nation and nationalism. It aims at overcoming national histories, stories of nation states, by placing "nation" and "nationality" in a specifically historical setting of world history. So the world is not divided into nations but into regions and historical background of "nations" are also investigated.

This series aims to describe world history from the viewpoint of mentalities of human being observed from pleasure, distress and desire. By using pictures and graphics, these 15 books attempt to represent feelings of human being regardless of time and space.

This is an approach to world history through the viewpoint of nation and nationalism. It aims at overcoming national histories, stories of nation states, by placing “nation” and “nationality” in a specifically historical setting of world history. So the world is not divided into nations but into regions and historical background of “nations” are also investigated.

Although this series contained numerous illustrations, it was orthodox in historical method. It tried to show the best achievements of world history after the *Iwanami Kouza Sekai Rekishi*.


This series tried to find new frontiers of researching and narrating world history through widening the perspective of individual historical studies. Each volume is written by one author. Most of the authors are originally Marxist but try in this series to find new perspectives beyond Marxist historiography. Some typical topics are "untouchables", "traditional transformation", "individuals and communities", "people’s society", "identities of national minorities" and "modernization".

3. After the Collapse of Socialism: From the 1990s to the present day

Series of world history in this period are characterized by the mixture of Marxist history, social history and postmodern history.


This series was the sincere amalgam of Marxist history and social history. It was not intended to describe world history but to investigate important methodological or individual topics in world history such as history and nature, technology, human movement (including migration), social association, discipline and integration, popular culture, authority and power, structuring the world, religion in history and state and revolution.


This series, criticizing the ethnocentrism and Euro-centrism, tries to construct world history from the viewpoint of regions. Volumes from 1 to 18 deal with histories of individual regions, such as China, West Africa, Latin America. The final two volumes deal with the historical problems which emerge from connections between the world and regions, explore methods of describing world history.


This series attempts among others to depict a new world history which sheds light from the historical perspectives upon the problems that humankind has yet to solve. Although each volume relies on the existing achievements of historical studies, it critically examines them to discover new perspectives. The reconsideration ranges from the fifteenth century to the present day, including the Japanese history, thereby the authors aspire to create a world history which should not be mere miscellanea of national histories.
Sekai no Rekishi (History of the World), edited by Koichi Kabayama, Mamoru Tonami, Masayuki Yamauchi, 30 vol., published by Chuokoronsha, 1996-99（『世界の歴史』全30巻、中央公論社、1996－99年）.
This series is a collection of volumes written by one or several specialists. Although this series is narrative, there are some volumes that reflect well the recent studies of social history in Japan. Among the topics are renaissance and the Mediterranean world, rise and fall of Latin American civilization, peoples and societies in Africa, challenge of modern Islam and traditions and development in Southeast Asia.

“Minami” kara mita Sekai (World History Viewed from the ‘South’), 6 vol., edited by Yoichi Kibata, Toru Shimizu, Yoshiko Kurita et al, published by Otsuki Shoten, 1999（『「南」から見た世界』全6巻、大月書店、1999年）.
This is a unique history of the world. It describes the history of the “South” of the world and challenges the conventional world history that are dominated by the view from the “North”. Although roughly compiled chronologically since the 16th century, each volume is simply composed of independent articles.

Approximately thirty years after the publication of the predecessor, Iwanami Lectures on World History, and “active discussions on world history” evoked by recent changes in the world, especially the end of the Cold War, this series is aimed at describing a new world history. In comparison with the previous series, each volume tries to apply various new research methods for integrated comprehension of individuality and synchronicity. Moreover, in view of the fact of the expulsion of Japanese history in the conventional series on world history in Japan, it attempts to include Japanese history as a part of world history.

This is an ambitious experiment of composing world history from the viewpoint of regions. It analyses “region” from various points of view, such as relations between historical researches and area studies, the multilayered structure of regions, nations, languages, religions, the formations and variations of cultures and regions, and regions beyond the limits of states. In sum, it questions the conception of region itself. For example, the vol.7 titled “The Regional History on Movement” discusses the mobility of humans. This movement of humans provides a new regional perspective and changes the old structure of area. Moreover, “Diaspora”, “Exile” and “Refugee” create new conceptions of region. Through these discussions, it can show the historical processes between human and region.

This series is a new version of the above-mentioned Sekai Kakkoku Shi (National Histories of the World). Although the concept that it is the collection of national (or regional) histories of the world from the ancient times is unchanged, each volume represents the best standard of the late 20th century.
Supplement:
It should be noted that in the recent decades there appeared dictionaries on world history that are different in the character from those made for the university entrance examination that had a long history itself.

- Yamakawa Sekaishi shojiten (Yamakawa Concise Dictionary of World History), Yamakawa Shuppansha, 2004
Part 8. Chinese language-books, prepared by Zhang Weiwei, Nankai University

Monographs:

Grounded in a Marxist historical materialism, the book is a multifaceted exploration of the process of historical development in the Middle East after the birth of Islam, while using historicism and comparative history as its method. Analyzing the emergence and development of Islam and explores the development of Islam over time and the various roles it plays as part of the political, economic and social life of the region. It notes that the original Islam emerged in Arab society as it was in transition from primitive society to civilized society. In this phase, Islam provided for the protection of private property.

Regarded as one of the most comprehensive works on world history in China, the book not only attaches great importance to the emergence of the “Eurasian Agriculture Belt” in the world of hunting and gathering, but also proposes four associated “concept systems”: Prior and Posterior, East and West, the Near and Far Eurasian Agriculture Belt, Core Civilization and Marginal Civilization, thus revealing that the evolution of civilization is the alternative process of balance and imbalance. It should be noted that the “core civilization” does not only mean the western civilization, but covers the whole Eurasian Agriculture Belt. Hence, Eastern civilization also belongs to “core civilization”.

Taking the theories of economic-social history as a framework, this book analyzes Capitalism in three parts: the relation between peasants and European Capitalism, the relation between European Civilization and Capitalism, and the comparison between China and the West. In balancing the economic elements and the non-economic elements well, the author also puts forward a new perspective on subjective right to investigate Capitalism.

This is the first large-scale and multi-volume series of world general history books in China that combining case studies and annalistic narratives. The volumes include theory and methods, economic development, political system, nation and religion, war and peace, international relations, thought and culture, China and the world, a total of more than 15 million words.

The book mainly deals with international relations in world history, aiming to narrate the evolution of macro-international systems for a thousand years. Combining IR theories concerned with world historical narration, the author strives to make use of latest achievements in theoretical research and historical investigation of both domestic and international academic circles. The author’s perspective is global and holistic, while his conception of history is evolutionary. The book covers not
only contents of traditional diplomatic history, but also political, economic and cultural dimensions of international relations. Theoretically, it is a book more or less with an interdisciplinary flavor.

This book/dictionary includes 4461 world history terms approved by Chinese National Committee for Science and Technology Nouns. These standard terms are used for research, teaching, production, management and publishing.

The seventeen papers edited into this symposium are all translated from English, and it is the first time for them to appear in print in Chinese. The original papers were initially published in the years from 1963 to 2007. According to the main contents, they can be divided into four groups: Conceptions of Global History, Periodization of Global History, Themes of Global History, and China in Global History. It can be said that these papers basically reflect the development process of global history from its rise in 1960s to today, and illustrate the objects and methods of global history study roughly, giving many new understandings of human history advancement and providing some cases of the interaction research.

This book is a comprehensive and systemic study on Japanese views of China since modern times in Chinese academic circle. It highly summarizes the stage characteristics and evolution path on Japan’s understanding of China since 1840, as well as, through thoroughgoing and painstaking historical investigation, not only does the formation and development of Japanese's understanding of China clearly demonstrating in front of the world, but it opens a window to see the Japanese nationality.

Based on primary sources and archaeological evidence, the book bridges the past scholarly tradition in China and the modern Silk Road studies, adopts a reciprocal perspective to examine the cultural, social and economic exchanges in the ancient world through the Central Eurasian connection in order to suggest a multi-centric, almost web-like silk world, to appreciate the complexity and diversity of ancient trade, and enriches the historical sources on the silk trade between China and Rome by utilizing and introducing multi-linguistic sources in Classical Chinese, Greek and Latin. The author also works to diversify the forms of historical sources by including materials from inscriptions, Buddhist sutras and archaeological remains.

The book provides macro-understanding of modern world history from the perspective of philosophy of history, and theoretical reflections through concrete historical facts and specific historical process, hoping to understand the essential characteristics of modern world history.
Articles:


In this changing world, one of the major tasks in world Historiography is how to construct a scientific and suitable system of general history, as to avoid some kinds of limitations. The author discusses the characteristics of western global history from historiography perspective, and argues that the overall understanding of human history could be deepened from two aspects. One of them is the construction of world history clues system, including two main lines and many branches, would help to grasp the longitudinal and transverse development of global history.


Global history has brought important inspirations to the study of Chinese history, with theoretical significance on top of new research materials, ideas and projects etc. In the view of global history, the study of Chinese history would adopt realistic perspectives and form new discourse of “Chinese history” and “China”. This paper summarizes related research findings and focuses around four issues: Firstly, to review the historical formation of China from the perspective of the frontier; Secondly, China and “pre-modern world system”: what is the true meaning of being open to the world? Thirdly, China and the East Asian sea world; Lastly, China and the rise of capitalism: to re-examine the dynamics and motivation of Chinese history. It is hoped that scholars can bring themselves to the awareness of the importance of global history in the study of Chinese history.


With the case studies of Guizot, Fukuzawa Yukichi and Liang Qichao, this article introduces the propagation process of European concept of “civilization”, which started from Europe to China by Japan. The nineteenth century European concept of “civilization” contained elements of imperialist ideology. In the course of the eastward movement and localized absorption of the basic connotations of “civilization”, we can trace a clear line of inheritance from Guizot to Fukuzawa and Liang. By analysing their opinions and the connections between them, this article can help readers to acquire a comprehensive understanding of the eastern oriented spread process of the concept of “civilization”.


This paper advocates a comprehensive and transnational way of telling our past, whereas provoking certain skepticism among Chinese historians. While some appreciate its criticism of Eurocentrism, others hold unfavorable bias toward this comparatively new concept of history, not only because its Western origin which inflicted great pain onto this old civilization, but more importantly, because of the “ideology discrepancy”. This paper strives to argue, that macro-history of the world shall be based upon the unity of human past, and that the pursuit after this unity shall be the premises of world history, thus determining the fundamental value of this discipline. Finally,
This paper concludes that within the current discourse system, each party shall amend and replenish their ideas, and together contributing to the founding of a truly harmonious world.

Liu Xincheng,刘新成:文明互动:从文明史到全球史,历史研究,2013年第1期,第4-10页
[Interactions of Civilizations: From History of Civilization to Global History, in: Historical Research, 01 (2013), pp.4-10]

With the development of the world history study and the arrival of the age of globalization, as a new and open concept, the global history has formed its own characteristics and is expanding and extending its theories constantly. Compared with other traditional viewpoints on world history such as the idea of progressive history or parallel history, the global history and its core concept—Interactions of Civilizations—offer a new guide to resolving the inherent contradictions of western civilization concept shaped since modern times and clarifying some questions about the unity and diversity of human civilization. Driven by the efforts of many global historians, the global history is still in the stage of developing and completing, and the value of Interactions of Civilizations is getting more prominent.

Shi Cheng,施诚:全球史研究主题评介,史学理论研究,2012年第2期,第123-128页

Since William H. McNeill’s The Rise of the West first came out in 1963, the global history study has formed a set of unique themes after 40 years of development, for example: the process of globalization, the periodization of global history, the cross-cultural communication (mainly involving the cross-cultural trade, migrations, biological exchange and diffusion of disease), the interactive relationship between the environment changes and the human history, and so on. This paper chooses and evaluates some selected publications about these themes, which allowed us to find out some features of global history study and some differences between global history and the traditional world history.

Sun Yue,孙岳:超越人类看人类？——“大历史”批判,史学理论研究,2012年第4期,第49-59页

Based on introducing the backgrounds of its emergence and its definitions, this article criticizes the “Big History” dialectically from the perspective of theory and analyses its advantages and disadvantages, expecting its development in the future. Although its core concepts such as “energy flow”, “complexity”, “the Goldilocks principle”, “collective learning”, etc, are scientifically pertinent, the author holds the views that it’s hard to lend themselves directly to definitions of the vicissitudes of human societies, gushing emotions within human individuals, and the fervency of faith and beliefs among peoples, etc. The dialectical criticism in the article will help readers to understand “Big History” fully.

Wang Yongping,王永平:从“天下”到“世界”：汉代中国对世界的探索与认知,全球史评论,第三辑,2012年,第144-175页

In Han Dynasty, with a wider and deeper understanding of the world, there was a new world view being shaped among Chinese people. The author argues that the Han Dynasty saw an important open China. With Zhang Qian’s first and Ban Chao’s second exploration in Xiyu (west of China), China gained unprecedentedly fruitful understanding of the western world. As a result, the traditional notion of Tianxia worldview began to fall apart, giving rise to such new world—contingent
concept, as "foreign state", "enemy states", "xiyu (western region)", which provided the ancient Chinese with a new perspective on the true world.


The paper introduces the coexistence between Moslems and Christians in al-Andalus at the early stage of the Moslem conquest of the Iberian Peninsula from 711 to 756. Through some literature, the author argues, the Moslems established their control over al-Andalus through military conquest or peaceful agreements, the governing order bequeathed by the Visigoth Kingdom was maintained to a considerable extent, and a two-way process of acclimatization was under way. The Christians enjoyed freedom of religion provided that they paid the capitation tax imposed on them, and Christian churches operated normally as before the conquest, with no change in the issues that concerned them. The Christians did not view the Moslem conquest or Moslem rule as a religious threat, and a relatively peaceful relationship of co-existence remained.


The development direction of world history research in China is the construction of historiography with the style of a big country and Chinese characteristics. For this, the following four points are needed. We need first, to adhere to the guidance of Marxism to apply and develop historical materialism; second, to absorb the advantages of traditional Chinese historiography and expel the bad influence of Western historiography; third, to strengthen the training of interdisciplinary talents and adhere to a scientific and meticulous style of study; and fourth, to have distinctive Chinese characteristics.


In a noncentric and holistic perspective, the author argues that nationalized global or world histories are nothing but distorting mirrors full of pride and prejudice and that both objective global history and subjective global history are contingent resultants in a certain special and temporal context and heralds a globalization of global history and “Global Historians of All Countries Unite!” The author suggests that it is necessary for a global historian to develop a glober identity beyond her/his national identity and that a reasonable and intelligible global history which is closer to the objective global history should be a 3-D global history of the glober, by the glober, for the glober.


In China, “world history” as a concept was introduced from the West and has thus usually meant “foreign history/ies” and West/Eurocentric since China has had a long tradition of Sino-centric historiography from the very beginning. So, “Chinese history” and “world/foreign history” have been two separate disciplines. The author criticizes nationalized West/Eurocentric world history and holds that global history should be globalized rather than being westernized. The author introduces the development of world history in China and suggests that a 3-D global history including China should be studied from a glober identity in a noncentric and holistic perspective in terms of global disequilibrium and social physics.

The author introduces why and how he developed a noncentric and holistic perspective to global history from a glober identity during over 40 years of study and teaching of global history. The author holds that “Chinese history” and “world/foreign history”, which have been two separate disciplines, should be combined in China to develop a real global history in China and that a 3-D global history of the glober, by the glober, for the glober should be a global cooperation of global historians from all countries with glober identity from a noncentric and holistic perspective, which is a contingency and timing.


As a glober, the author argues that the “center-periphery” approach can’t provide an intelligible and significant picture for either Chinese history in particular or global history in general since it distorts the reality with a subjectivist prejudice based on superiority or inferiority from egocentrism and cultural or nationalist narcissism. The author holds that it is a real challenge to a global historian to establish a glober identity instead of a nationalist one because that global history is basically an axiological understanding, interpretation and description of what happened in the whole globe since only very recently there has been a so-called center-periphery structure in the light of West/Eurocentrism.


Human being is egocentric psychologically. So is a race/nation, a nation-state, or a culture/civilization. This is one of the reasons that global/world history has been understood, explained, taught or written in different centric perspectives, which can be fully seen in the cases of Sinocentrism, Western/Eurocentrism or any other centrisms in global history and study of global history. It is argued that psychological responses do matter in global history from a noncentric and holistic perspective because it is these feelings that decide what the elite and the mass do in global history and everyday life in a kingdom/empire/nation-state at a certain period of time. When, why and how a person/people developed a superiority complex or an inferiority one in cases such as Sinocentrism or Western/Eurocentrism is explored.


A globalized global history is not a one man’s or a national job but a global cooperation of a huge project. It is a great task for all global historians who have to find proper approaches and methods to it and have to cooperate with and learn from scholars from other fields in both social sciences and natural sciences. The innovation and development of IT industry and other relevant industries certainly provide global history with more scientific and reliable carriers and media. The Network of Global and World History Organizations, NOGWHISTO, is realizing unification of global historians and globalization of global history.
World History: A View from North America

by Trevor R. Getz (San Francisco State University), Candice Goucher (Washington State University), David Kinkela (State University of New York at Fredonia), Craig A. Lockard (University of Wisconsin), Patrick Manning (University of Pittsburgh)

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Introduction

The World History Association (WHA) is happy to participate in this sharing of bibliographies with our colleagues around the world. This collection of citations, prepared by four leading scholars, provides a view of the literature on world history as seen from North America. Of course there is an immense number of works, in many languages, that are focused on or relevant to world history, so that no single list can be definitive. For that reason we express thanks to the NOGWHISTO Headquarters office in Leipzig, especially Matthias Middell and Katja Naumann, for launching this project of sharing bibliographies prepared by each member organization of NOGWHISTO. We are pleased to show the results of our work and we look forward to reading and studying the bibliographies of our sister organizations.

The World History Association, founded in 1982 in the United States, was represented at the July 2008 founding meeting of the Network of Global and World Historical Organizations (NOGWHISTO), and was active in the 2010 Amsterdam congress of the International Committee of Historical Sciences (CISH), at which NOGWHISTO was formally recognized as the world-historical affiliate of CISH. David Christian and I served as the WHA representatives to NOGWHISTO during that time, and the World History Center at the University of Pittsburgh provided substantial support for the first two meetings of NOGWHISTO.

Membership and affiliation in NOGWHISTO has developed rapidly. The European Network In Universal and Global History (ENIUGH), founded in 2002, hosted the founding meeting of NOGWHISTO and has served as headquarters. The Asian Association of World Historians (AAWH), founded in 2008, has since held triennial conferences. The African Network in Global History / Réseau Africain d’Histoire Mondiale, founded in 2009, maintains connections across a vast continent. The Red Latinoamericana de Historia Global, founded in 2013, will soon hold its second major meeting. The International Big History Association, founded in 2010, includes members on several continents. The World History Association has participated actively in this institutional reshaping, which has led to creation of world-wide collaborations in the study of global historical phenomena.

In 2014 Trevor Getz of San Francisco State University became the WHA’s chief liaison to NOGWHISTO. In that role, he drew on several of WHA’s most skilled scholars to prepare this bibliography: Candice Goucher of Washington State University, Craig Lockard of the University of Wisconsin – Green Bay, and David Kinkela of the State University of New York at Fredonia. These scholars, in collaboration with Trevor Getz, assembled and revised the world-historical bibliography that is offered by the members and officers of the World History Association, with pleasure and with feeling of mutual support, to our colleagues in NOGWHISTO.

Patrick Manning
Director, World History Center, University of Pittsburgh
The theory and craft of world history


Dissatisfied with the long-entrenched Americocentrism and Eurocentrism of the history profession in North America (which included emphasizing or requiring Western Civilization courses in colleges and universities), most specialists in world history adopted an internationalist approach and, for the most part, sought to avoid privileging any particular culture or region. Some historians sought to link a particular country or region to the larger global or trans-regional context. World history required new ways of thinking historically beyond national borders, concentrating especially on the broader picture of connections between societies and patterns that transcended countries and regions. There was consensus that the story of humans over the broad sweep of history has some basic unity; few societies were ever completely isolated from others. Hence, understanding world history required much more than a collection of loosely-linked national and regional narratives. Yet, for practical reasons, many world historians, especially those teaching the subject in colleges and universities, where many students lacked knowledge of any countries or regions outside their own nation, emphasized both cultures and connections, rich regional coverage within a framework of the global Big Picture.

Out of this intellectual ferment came four highly influential historians whose first books appeared in the 1960s and helped shape the field intellectually while sparking a new world history. Canada-born William McNeill of the University of Chicago, trained in European history, borrowed ideas from cultural anthropology, emphasizing diffusion, especially of technology, and the impact this had on various societies. Although inspired by British historian Arnold Toynbee, McNeill's scholarship was more nuanced and broadly researched. McNeill's The Rise of the West: A History of the Human Community (University of Chicago Press, 1963), was the first major North American synthesis and grand narrative of the broad sweep of world history. This book, and later works on more specialized topics such as Plagues and Peoples, rev ed. (Anchor, 1998) on epidemic disease, incorporated Toynbee's emphasis on large-scale patterns of change and coherent civilizations but also provided a more comprehensive framework emphasizing processes transcending regions. To McNeill, change was produced by contacts and collisions between societies. As more information became available, McNeill updated his views over time, as can be seen in his volume The Human Web:: A Birds-Eye View of Human History (W.W. Norton, 2003), coauthored with J.R. McNeill.
The ideas of another pioneer, Marshall Hodgson, also at Chicago, were shaped by his focus on Islam and the Middle East, the pivotal intersection between East and West. His hemispheric interregional approach, outlined in several essays later collected in his *Re-thinking World History: Essays on Europe, Islam, and World History*, edited by Edmund Burke III (Cambridge University Press, 1993), and developed more deeply in his three volume *The Venture of Islam: Conscience and History in a World Civilization* (University of Chicago Press, 1974), offered the concept of the Afro-Eurasian Historical Complex, a single field of interaction linking much of Asia, Europe and large chunks of Africa into a comprehensible whole. Hodgson also pioneered the idea, adopted by McNeill, of "ecumenes," long periods when transregional trade and contact became commonplace. Leften S. Stavrianos, a Canada-born Balkanist, can be credited with the first efforts to globalize the high school and college curriculum, promoting the study of "global history" (as opposed to a Europe-based history) through his World History Project at Northwestern University and then writing innovative, widely used textbooks for use in secondary and higher education. Later, in *Global Rift: The Third World Comes of Age* (William Morrow, 1981), he wrote a stimulating modern history of the "Third World" using world-system concepts, and in *Lifelines from Our Past: A New World History* (Pantheon, 1989) offered an interpretative framework for understanding world history.

The fourth pioneer, Philip Curtin, a specialist on Caribbean and African history, became the most influential exponent of the comparative framework that provided the heart of the Comparative World History Program at the University of Wisconsin, where he trained a younger generation of world historians. Curtin introduced the concept of an Atlantic system linking the Americas, Europe, and Africa after 1500, focusing his writing on trans-Atlantic interaction (such as the Slave Trade), plantation systems, and kindred themes as well as on global trade patterns in books such as *The Rise and Fall of the Plantation Complex: Essays in Atlantic History* (Cambridge University Press, 1990), *The World and the West: The European Challenge and the Overseas Response in the Age of Empire* (Cambridge University Press, 2000), and *Cross-Cultural Trade in World History* (Cambridge University Press, 1984). Along with McNeill, Curtin was a patron of the World History Association, founded in the United States in 1982. With its conferences and publications (including the *Journal of World History*) the WHA has fostered research and writing on world history as well as teaching the subject at universities, community colleges, and secondary schools (including Advanced Placement courses).

Europe-based historians also influenced world historians in North America. In Britain Geoffrey Barraclough stressed themes, especially for the modern period; Eric Hobsbawm wrote influential books on European as well as comparative history and the twentieth century world, such as *The Age of Extremes: A History of the World, 1914-1991* (Pantheon, 1994); and Clive Ponting became a pioneer of world environmental and "green" history in his *A New Green History of the World: The Environment and Collapse of Great Civilizations* (Penguin, 2007). French historian Fernand Braudel and the Annales School strongly influenced some world historians, especially Braudel's analysis of the rise of a global economy and his sweeping examination of the Mediterranean basin.

Historically-oriented social scientists contributed greatly to the world history field. In the 1950s and 1960s the writings of modernization theorists, chiefly sociologists, economists, and political scientists, became the mainstream in American social science scholarship. But many world historians perceived modernization theory as too deeply rooted in Ameri-
can political ideology and it lost much of its credence. In the 1970s and 1980s some historians turned to the world-system ideas of American sociologist Immanuel Wallerstein and his followers. Wallerstein’s research on contemporary West Africa convinced him that scholars must better comprehend the colonial past to better understand the post-colonial present. That meant grasping the broader context, the world as a whole, abandoning the sovereign state as a self-enclosed “social system”. In the 4-volume *The Modern World-System* (1974-2011) and the much briefer *The Capitalist World Economy* (Cambridge University Press, 1979) and *World-Systems Analysis: An Introduction* (Duke University Press, 2004), Wallerstein postulated the rise after 1400 of a global economy shaped by European capitalism and imperialism and embracing and affecting all societies as the essential framework for understanding the experiences of individual nations. Some have criticized Wallerstein’s framework as too rigid and even Eurocentric; others have modified his ideas for their own approaches. In *Before European Hegemony: The World System A.D. 1250-1350* (Oxford University Press, 1989) Janet Abu-Lughod identified a pre-1500 world-system centered on the Middle East. Andre Gunder Frank, a controversial sociologist who earlier helped formulate dependency theory in Latin American studies, extended the world-system notion deep into antiquity in *The World System: Five Hundred or Five Thousand Years?* (Routledge, 1994) and also assessed the role of Asia in world history in *ReOrient: Global Economy in the Asian Age* (University of California Press, 1998). But some world historians mistrust scholarship based on theoretical or ideological thrusts.

Other social scientists, some with controversial views, had an impact on the field. Anthropologist Eric Wolf, in *Europe and the People Without History* (University of California Press, 1982), shifted the focus of world history away from Western elites and Europe to the non-Western masses. Setting a foundation for later studies on various commodities and trans-Atlantic connections, anthropologist Sidney Mintz, in *Sweetness and Power: The Place of Sugar in Modern History* (Penguin, 1985), showed how the rise of the sugar-based plantation economy in the colonial Americas had profound consequences for both the region and the world. Several other scholars with natural or social science backgrounds have explored various aspects of human history over large spans of time. In his provocative books, especially *Guns, Germs, and Steel: The Fate of Human Societies* (W.W. Norton) geographer Jared Diamond has examined, among varied topics, the factors that influenced the triumph of the West over the rest of the world and the causes of societal collapse. His views generated considerable debate; critics accuse him of environmental determinism.

A younger generation of scholars have now built on these diverse intellectual foundations to produce a flourishing, heterogeneous scholarship on various topics in world history. This work ranges from general macro-level surveys of the broad scope of world history, to studies of particular themes and patterns with global or trans-regional reach, to examinations of how particular regions or cultures fit into world history. However, there has been disagreement on what constituted world history. For example, at what point in time we can even speak of a truly world history as opposed to diverse and loosely-connected regional histories? Did world history and nascent globalization commence with human evolution and “Stone Age” societies, the rise of agriculture, the first cities and states 5000 years ago, the emergence of universal religions and great empires beginning around 2600 years ago and of Islam in the seventh century, the thirteenth century Mongol expansion that conquered or reshaped a large portion of Eurasia, the Western voyages of exploration and colonization in the 15th-16th centuries that connected the hemispheres,
or the globe-spanning empires and technologies of the nineteenth century? In books such as Bruce Mazlish and Ralph Buultjens, ed., *Conceptualizing Global History* (Westview, 1993), some historians also differentiate world history from what they label “global history”, which they center on globalization and the rise of global consciousness and hence apply most clearly to the last century or two and especially the contemporary era. While many historians ignore the millennia before the rise of the first urban societies and writing, considering them the responsibility of anthropologists, archaeologists, and natural scientists, a few historians have taken the longest, broadest, most macro-level perspective, posing an alternative conception of world history that has attracted great interest beyond the academic community. The proponents of Big History, especially the Australian David Christian in *Maps of Time: An Introduction to Big History* (University of California Press, 2004), the Dutch scholar Fred Spier in *Big History and the Future of Humanity* (Wiley-Blackwell, 2010), and the American Cynthia Stokes Brown in *Big History from the Big Bang to the Present* (New Press, 2007), situate human history within the general evolution of life on Earth and, beyond that, to the formation and growth of the cosmos beginning with the Big Bang some 14 billion years ago. Big History integrates the natural sciences, social sciences, and humanities into a comprehensible whole, seeking out common patterns, but requires a daunting depth and breadth of knowledge among scholars and teachers and to critics focuses too little on human activities. Christian’s work impressed Microsoft founder Bill Gates, who has helped finance and promote Big History study and teaching. In the midst of diverse topics and approaches, several themes have particularly interested North American world historians, among them cross-cultural interaction, long distance trade, migration, and environmental change. For example, in books such as *Old World Encounters: Cross-Cultural Contacts and Exchanges in Pre-Modern Times* (Oxford University Press, 1993) and seminal articles such as “Cross-Cultural Interaction and Periodization in World History”, *American Historical Review* (101/3, June, 1996), Jerry Bentley examined Eurasian interaction, including long distance trade and the spread of religions, during the Classical Era and Middle Ages. Ross Dunn has used the travels of the Moroccan Ibn Battuta to portray the Islamic realm of the fourteenth century in *The Adventures of Ibn Battuta: A Muslim Traveler of the 14th Century* (University of California Press, updated 2012). The literature on trade routes, especially on the overland Silk Road, is extensive; among the best summaries are Xinru Liu, *The Silk Road in World History* (Oxford University Press, 2010) *and Liu and Lynda Shaffer, Connections Across Eurasia: Transportation, Communication, and Cultural Exchange* (McGraw-Hill, 2007). Scholarship on the oceans and maritime history is spottier, with Lincoln Paine’s *The Sea and Civilization: The Maritime History of the World* (Alfred A. Knopf, 2013) the most comprehensive. Patrick Manning’s *Migration in World History*, 2nd ed. (Routledge, 2012) is one of the best studies on this topic. Alfred Crosby’s exciting examination of the diffusion of plants, animals, and diseases in *The Columbian Exchange: Biological and Cultural Consequences of 1492* (Greenwood, 1972) and *Ecological Imperialism: The Biological Expansion of Europe, 900-1900* (Cambridge University Press, 1986) sparked a greater interest in environmental and trans-Atlantic history. In contrast, the literature on global social, especially gender, history is sparse. Women account for half of humanity but have long been neglected by historians generally. Only in recent decades have scholars, among them Merry Wiesner-Hanks in *Gender in World History: Global Perspectives*, 2nd ed. (Wiley-Blackwell, 2011), Pamela McVay in *Envision-
ing Women in World History 1500-Present (McGraw-Hill, 2009), and Ann B. Waltner and Mary Jo Maynes in Family History as World History (2006), addressed gender issues, the roles of women, and the structure of families and childhood in a world history context. The recent history by Trevor R. Getz and Liz Clarke, Abina and the Important Men: A Graphic History (Oxford University Press, 2011) not only examines the challenges of recounting the life of an African woman during the colonial era, but makes a critical link between the field of world history and sequential art. It represents a remarkable advance in the rhetoric of world history through its success in conveying multiple perspectives and, in particular, women’s outlooks in the events and processes of the modern world.

Some important scholarship addresses particularly controversial issues in world history. For example, a lively debate has occurred in recent years around questions raised earlier by McNeill, Hodgson, Stavrianos, and Wallerstein: the rise and decline of the East (Asia and the Middle East) and the rise of the West. Some Europeanists, such as Toby Huff in The Rise of Early Modern Science: Islam, China, and the West (Cambridge University Press, 1993) and David Landes in The Wealth and Power of Nations: Why Some Are so Rich and Some Are so Poor (New York: W.W. Norton, 1998) claim that European cultures and technologies were more amenable to long-term success than their Eastern counterparts, a superiority clear by the later Middle Ages. Hence, the period after 1500 saw Western Europe rapidly outdistance “stagnating” Eastern societies. Opposing this view, scholars such as John M. Hobson in The Eastern Origins of Western Civilization (Cambridge University Press, 2004), Jack Goldstone in Why Europe? The Rise of the West in World History, 1500-1850 (McGraw-Hill, 2009), and Andre Gunder Frank in Reorient argue that, during the Middle Ages, China, India, and the Islamic societies were more advanced than a medieval Europe that imported ideas and technologies from the “East.” Furthermore, the very gradual “rise of the West” after 1500 did not necessarily imply Eastern decline. On the question of when and why Europe (primarily Britain) gradually eclipsed leading Asian societies, especially China, in wealth and power, an issue known as the Great Divergence, scholars such as Kenneth Pomeranz in The Great Divergence: China, Europe, and the Making of the Modern World Economy (Princeton University Press, 2000) and Frank in ReOrient argue that China remained dynamic and at least the equal of Europe well into the 1700s and perhaps into the 1800s. Jonathan Daly’s Historians Debate the Rise of the West (Routledge, 2015) provides a good analysis of the debate.

Some scholars have criticized much Western writing on world history, especially the books published before the 1990s, as rooted in a Eurocentric or Americocentric hegemonic dimension, despite the world historians’ aspirations to seek non-centric approaches. For example, in his History at the Limits of World-History (Columbia University Press, 2002) Indian scholar Ranajit Guha argued that the Western philosophy of history buttressed imperialism, led to the colonization of indigenous histories, and ignored the peasants and other marginalized subaltern groups in favor of emphasizing states and empires. In Eurocentrism (Monthly Review, 1989) and other works Egypt-born Samir Amin critiqued the Eurocentric bias and neglect of the Arab-Islamic world in the discussion of the rise of the West. Some Western scholars, among them American geographer James Blaut in The Colonizer’s Model of the World: Geographical Diffusionism and Eurocentric History (Guilford Press, 1993) and 8 Eurocentric Historians (Guilford Press, 2000), as well as British anthropologist Jack Goody in The East in the West (Cambridge University Press, 1996) and The Theft of History (Cambridge University Press, 2006), contend that the world history scholarship heavily reflects Western approaches to
knowledge. But criticism of teaching and writing world history in North America also comes from political conservatives, including politicians, who believe it devalues, and diverts attention from, the study of what they applaud as the Western European contributions to the United States and its culture.

To be sure, there remain major lacunae in our knowledge that will need to be filled in by a new generation of world historians, more of whom will hopefully come from Asia, Africa, and Latin America. And controversies among global historians still percolate over many issues, including the relationship between global and regional or national histories, the possibility of noncentric viewpoints, and the most appropriate methodological and pedagogical approaches. For example, should world historians aim at comprehensive “big picture” studies or more restricted focus on themes and patterns or on comparative studies? In North America world history remains a lively and increasingly international field expanding in both breadth and depth.

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Global studies of special value

It is sometimes said that any historical field (or sub-field) formally begins with the publication of its first academic journal. Thus the field of African history began with the Journal of African History in 1960 and the field of world history may be said to have begun with the publication of the Journal of World History in 1990. With a few important exceptions, the numbers of monographs influencing the practice of world history in North America began to explode around the same time that historians were establishing their new field. Twenty-five years later, their questions and the products of their research reflect greater diversity of subjects and sophistication of methods.

Outlining the key monographs in a sea of publications is always a daunting task, but addressing these works for the field of world history is even more complicated and capricious. In part, this is because the earlier generations of scholars writing influential works likely would not have self-identified as “world historians,” almost all were untrained in world history (most often beginning their careers as area specialists in African or Asian history and accustomed to thinking across broad spatial and temporal boundaries, but that discussion may be the territory of other NOGHWISTO affiliates), and some were not even trained as historians. However, their productivity created sweeping histories of interconnected landmasses, oceans, peoples, ideas, and things that helped to establish the familiar and far reaches of the burgeoning field.

The global studies of special value in the past 25 years have advanced the world-historical scholarship by harvesting new types of sources and contributing broad syntheses and innovative analysis and interpretation in some important new areas, often by reframing geography and materiality, imperialism, poverty, inequalities, and environmental issues. Some authors did this by taking small places and asking big questions, as in Donald Wright’s The World and a Small Place in Africa: A History of Globalization in Niumi, the Gambia, (M.E. Sharpe, 1997) a work about a small community (in West Africa) and that continues to inspire new scholarship in unexpected places. Others took a more conventional, if circuitous path by following people, objects, and ideas around the globe. Ross Dunn’s path-breaking study on The Adventures of Ibn Battuta (Berkeley and Los Angeles: University of California Press, 1986) inspired a slew of trans-hemispheric studies that introduced a global view of Islam and a window on the inclusion of Africa in world
history classrooms, by using primary source material to present the mobility of people and ideas long before the modern era. Decades later, Natalie Zemon Davis in Trickster Tales: A Sixteenth-Century Muslim Between Worlds (Hill and Wang, 2006) meticulously pushed the genre to new heights by approaching her sixteenth-century tale from inside the historian’s craft. The paucity and promise of primary sources found in all corners of the globe was behind Linda Colley’s The Ordeal of Elizabeth Marsh: A Woman in World History (New York: Anchor Books, 2007) and similarly commanded the biographical form to be truly world historical. Historians such as Merry Wiesner-Hanks, in The Marvelous Hairy Girl: The Gonzales Sisters and their Worlds (Yale: 2009) continue to write about women, who left no written record of themselves. Gendering world history still means asking new questions around the margins of neglected issues.

Not only people, but also objects—from codfish and tamales to soccer balls, boxes, and artist’s hats—have been followed along these global circuits. Jonathan Reynolds and Erik Gilbert, in Trading Tastes: Commodity and Cultural Exchange to 1750 (Prentice Hall, 2005) argue for the primacy of commerce as a force in world history. In an era of scarcity of publications in world history, Mark Kurlansky, Cod: A Biography of a Fish That Changed the World (New York: Penguin, 1997) and Franklin Foer, How Soccer Explains the World: An (Unlikely) Theory of Globalization (New York: Harper Perennial, 2005) have achieved influential success with some trickle-down for actual world historians. The history and circulation of commodities we find common in our modern world appear in Marc Levinson’s The Box: How the Shipping Container Made the World Smaller and the World Economy Bigger (Princeton, NJ: Princeton University Press, 2006) and Timothy Brook’s Vermeer’s Hat: The Seventeenth Century and the Dawn of the Global World (Bloomsbury, 2008). These important works remind us that world historians should have greater currency in the study of globalization.


Imperialism and colonialism have been equally significant foci of world history monographs. At times these have been modern comparative ventures, as in Lauren Benton’s Law and Colonial Cultures: Legal Regimes in World History, 1400-1900 (Cambridge University Press, 2001) and Daniel Headrick’s Power over Peoples: Technology, Environments, and Western Imperialism, 1400 to the Present (Princeton University Press, 2012). Paul Kennedy’s The Rise and Fall of the Great Powers (Lexington, 1987) emphasized the economic order over military in explaining the end of empire. Other scholars have marshalled work that crossed spatial and chronological boundaries and led to new in-

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sights, including the vast exploration of empire, ancient to modern, contained in the re-conceptualising of imperial power in Jane Burbank and Frederick Cooper, Empires in World History: Power and the Politics of Difference (Princeton University Press, 2011). Crossing boundaries of scale, the interweaving of intimacy and larger political structures find voice in Tony Ballantyne and Antoinette Burton (eds). Bodies in Contact: Rethinking Colonial Encounters in World History, (Duke University Press, 2005) and in their Subjects: Gender, Mobility and Intimacy in an Age of Global Empire (Urbana and Chicago: University of Illinois Press, 2009) that traces relationships across boundaries and along global circuits. Heather Streets-Salter’s Martial Races: The Military, Martial Races, and Masculinity in British Imperial Culture, 1857-1914 (Manchester University, 2004) contributed to a more gendered perspective of the modern imperial world. At the other end of the chronological spectrum from Ibn Battuta, Maia Ramnath’s Haj to Utopia: How the Ghadar Movement Charted Global Radicalism and Attempted to Overthrow the British Empire (Berkeley: University of California Press, 2011) may have accomplished much the same type of journey across continents. Certainly, Ramnath and a number of other world historians have much more to say about the long trajectory of radicalism and the even longer history of violence.

William McNeill initiated another key shift in historical perspectives. His long career sustained an ability to rethink his The Rise of the West (University of Chicago, 1964), a work that not only found classroom adoption, but also appealed to an increasingly educated public in the post-war era. Following from his work that emphasized interactions and the work of other scholars (Wallerstein, Abu-Lughod, Manning, et al.) an interest in the units of analysis became paramount. Civilizations remained subjects of scrutiny in the influential work on world systems by Immanuel Wallerstein, head of the Fernand Braudel Center for the Study of Economies, Historical Systems and Civilizations, where he championed interdisciplinarity and continued an interest in key political questions of resistance against European domination of the non-European world (particularly in Africa and India). The larger civilizational and cultural units of analysis played out in Janet Abu-Lughod, Before European Hegemony: the World System A.D. 1250-1350, Oxford University Press, 1991 (1989) and Felipe Fernandez-Armesto, Civilizations: Culture, Ambition and the Transformation of Nature. Free Press, 2002 (2000), and William H. McNeill’s and John R. McNeill’s in their more recent The Human Web: A Bird’s Eye View of World History (Norton, 2003) apply the metaphor of webs to these interactions at varying scales of analysis.

Tackling chronological units of analysis has proven much more elusive. An interesting attempt to find common themes globally is John E Wills, Jr.’s book about a single year, 1688: A Global History (Norton 2001) that emphasizes Europe, and in The World from 1450 to 1700 (Oxford, 2009) the same author provides a concise history of the modern world, emphasizing global patterns and connections.

Probably one of the most important contributions to world history perspectives has been to reconfigure the geographic realms in which earlier historians had become mired. A notable example took place in the creation of the expanding subfield of Atlantic studies, the study of four continents propelled by Alfred W. Crosby’s singularly important The Columbian Exchange: Biological and Cultural Consequences of 1492, (Westport, CT: Greenwood Press, 1972), which demonstrated the global reach of trade and exchange and their impact on global politics and environment in the wake of Columbus. Several early works defined the contours of this field by linking the Atlantic world to capitalism and globalization in its widest arc, in part with the politicized scholarly work of Eric Williams in Capitalism and Slavery, (Chapel Hill: University of North Carolina Press, 1994)

Since the time of Braudel, world history scholars have set to sea not only on the Mediterranean and Atlantic Ocean (and Caribbean), but also in Oceania, and on the Pacific and Indian Oceans. In Edward A. Alpers’s recent The Indian Ocean in World History, (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2014), islands and continents have been placed within integrated regions and transcended chronological boundaries, and this has refreshed the scholarship of old regimes, nation states, and terrestrial emphases. None was more influential than Jerry Bentley, whose articles and books, especially Interactions: Transregional Perspectives on World History (University of Hawai‘i, 2005) and Seascapes, Maritime Histories, Littoral Cultures, and Transoceanic Exchanges (University of Hawai‘i, 2007), helped to reshape the field of world history in unique and productive ways.

In Something New Under the Sun: An Environmental History of the Twentieth Century, (Norton, 2000), J.R. McNeill applied the environmental systems theory to the patterns and processes of the global past. The impact of human activity on the environment was masterfully argued, predicting the fruitfulness of a Big History approach. After all, “like all historians, world historians create narratives of the past from records of individual and collective experiences, and they interpret the past in response to questions shaped by the world they live in.”3 Surprisingly, a world history of science and technology, (especially material science, nuclear power, and digital experience) are underexplored territories. Important exceptions include the work of Daniel Headrick and Michael Adas on technology and dominance, and particularly Daniel Headrick’s Technology: a World History (Oxford University Press, 2010). Big history proponents have pointed us towards the influential and productive intersection of world history and science. Scientist David R. Montgomery’s Dirt: The Erosion of Civilizations (University of California Press, 2007) and Stephen J. Pyne’s Vestal Fire: An Environmental History, Told through Fire, of Europe and Europe’s Encounter with the World. (Seattle: University of Washington Press, 1997) suggest the rich territory that awaits world historians of science, technology, and the environment. Likewise, Jim Ottaviani’s graphic history Suspended in Language: Neils Bohr’s Life, Discoveries, and the Century He Shaped (Ann Arbor, MI: G.T. Labs, 2009) is a pioneering work undertaken in a genre that holds great promise. Ironically, it remains the case that scholars outside the field of world history have attempted to ask questions of

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**U.S. History in the World: A field in transition**

Over the past twenty-five years efforts to internationalize U.S. history have transformed the field. Initially led by a handful of scholars, the shift from nation-centered histories to those that transcend borders and redefine national stories have become commonplace. Indeed, one only has to read job postings and book titles over the past five to ten years to recognize its maturation as a vital and innovative field. Despite this transformation, however, we should be cognizant that it is still very much a field in transition. Not surprisingly, world historians have played an influential role in the development of the field U.S. in the World. By seeking to explore connections that transcend broad temporal and spatial scales, world historians opened up new analytical terrain that changed our understanding of the past. But even as world history took root during the 1970s and 1980s, historians of the United States tried their best to ignore it, save for a few exceptions like Thomas McCormick’s *America’s Half-Century: United States Foreign Policy in the Cold War and After* (The Johns Hopkins University Press, 1989), a book that adopted Immanuel Wallerstein’s World Systems Theory to explore how U.S. power transformed the global periphery. Nevertheless, the division between the west and the rest were deeply ingrained within the discipline of American history.

By the late 1980s, however, a number of scholars began to consider how histories that transcend borders could sow the seeds for richer, more innovative approaches to national histories. Akira Iriye, for one, called on all historians to embrace “The Internationalization of History.” His provocative, presidential address to the members of the American Historical Association’s annual conference in December of 1988 asked for greater exchange with international scholars and, perhaps more importantly, spoke about the “interconnectedness of human history,” suggesting that history “belongs to the whole of humanity, not just to its segments.”

In 1991, the *American Historical Review* published a short forum on American history and international history. In it, the Australian scholar Ian Tyrrell argued that historians of the United States remained entrenched with the primacy of nationalism and the nation-state in the modern world, which reified the notion that American history was somehow distinct from the rest of the world. In other words, it was exceptional. His essay, “American Exceptionalism in an Age of International History,” challenged U.S. historians to move beyond these strands of historical thought. Tyrrell argued that the “paradigm of national history must be rigorously scrutinized from the perspective of alternative transnational approaches.” In contrast, Michael McGerr’s response to Tyrell’s position argued that the

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cost of writing transnational histories came with a heavy price. He wrote, “We are called on to surrender or at least de-emphasize (it is not always clear which), not only notions of American ‘exceptionalism’ but also the possibility of American distinctiveness, the pursuit of comparative history, and the practice of nation-centered historical writing.”6 Not surprisingly, these debates would continue over the next twenty-plus years as scholars of American history forged new directions of historical inquiry that challenged the primacy of the nation-state as the principal framework for historical analysis. This essay identifies some of the key contributions to the field of U.S. history in the world. It is not meant to be an exhaustive list of books; rather it seeks to pinpoint key texts, highlight important theoretical innovations and approaches, and reflect on the broader implications of this field of study. As the 1991 AHR forum shows, there has been much debate about the meaning, approach, and implications of internationalizing U.S. history. It is simply comparative history? If not, how and why is it different? Does the approach merely reinforce American power? It is a project that seeks to understand and explain the Americanization of the late 20th-century world? It is a study of American exceptionalism, the belief that the United States is not only different, but somehow more exceptional than other counties in the world? Or is it an approach that “de-centers” the nation, which marginalizes the distinctiveness of a particular American past? And, perhaps more importantly, what’s at stake? This essay will address these questions by looking at the work of scholars that shaped the field.

In 1999, the Journal of American History devoted an entire issue to exploring transnational histories of the United States. Titled “The Nation and Beyond: Transnational Perspective on United States History,” the issue offered unique perspectives on writing the history of migrations, Atlantic history, labor history, the history of race, and environmental history from a transnational approach. David Thelen, who edited the journal from 1985 to 1999 and was a leading proponent of internationalization, noted, “we wanted to observe how people, moving through time and space according to rhythms and relationships of their own, drew from, ignored, constructed, transformed, and defied claims of the nation-state.”7 For Thelen and other contributors to the special issue, the focus of transnational history represented a conscious decision to investigate the histories and interactions of people and ideas between rather than simply beyond nation-states. For historians of the United States, the transnational turn had begun. Similarly, from 1997 to 2001, a group of American historians gathered a series of meetings held in La Pietra, an estate outside of Florence, Italy, to discuss, debate, and question the nation as the central framework of historical analysis. Sponsored by the Organization of American Historians and led by American historian Thomas Bender, the conference represented a comprehensive rethinking of America’s past in a global context. Bender’s final report called for historians “to rethink the scales, temporalities, and networks of historical transformation.”8 Indeed, the La Petra report raised important questions about the nation and how to connect the history of the nation with global currents. In essence, rather than seeing the nation’s history as exceptional, participants of the La Petra conference argued that the nation’s history was just one among many. Some of the essays from the La Petra conference were published in Bender’s edited volume, Rethinking American History in a Global Age (University of California Press, 2002). Bender’s own

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2006 book, *A Nation Among Nations: America's Place in World History*, pushed these concepts further, claiming that Americanists “have limited our understanding of other parts of the world, and missed the ways other histories have been part of our own.”9 Undeniably, Bender and Tryrell have been instrumental in forwarding transnational approaches to U.S. history. But they have not been alone. For example, Daniel Rogers’s *Atlantic Crossing: Social Politics in a Progressive Age* (Belknap, 2000) challenged historians to transcend the “analytical cage” of national histories to explore connections “between them.” Rogers’s deft analysis of progressive reform in Europe and the United States moved beyond comparative history to explore the formation of American and European social politics, which was based on “a web of rivalry and exchange.” 10 Indeed, the concepts of connections and exchange undergird much of the literature of U.S. in the world. Some of the most innovative work in this field explores the question of race, identity, and politics. Penny Von Eschen’s *Race Against Empire: Black Americans and Anticolonialism* (Cornell University Press, 1997) showed how black activists across the African diaspora challenged racial discrimination, imperialism, and American Cold War policies. Louis Perez’s *On Becoming Cuban: Identity, Nationality, and Culture* (University of North Carolina Press, 1999) emphasized racial and national identity formation that transcended any one nation. More recently, Andrew Zimmerman, *Alabama in Africa: Booker T. Washington, German Empire, and the Globalization of the New South* (Princeton University Press, 2010) and Nico Slate, *Colored Cosmopolitanism: The Shared Struggle for Freedom in the United States and India* (Harvard University Press, 2012) draw attention to cross border movement of people and ideas that shaped and reshaped national and transnational politics.

Questions of race and the quest for civil rights in the United States have also been recast through an international lens. Mary Dudziak, *Cold War, Civil Rights: Race and the Image of American Democracy* (Princeton University Press, 2000) and Thomas Borstelmann, *The Cold War and the Color Line: American Race Relations in the Global Arena* (Harvard University Press, 2003) underscore the global dimensions of the American Civil Rights movement. Similarly, in *Satchmo Blows Up the World: Jazz Ambassadors Play the Cold War* (Harvard University Press, 2006), Penny Von Eschen shows how the U.S. State Department promoted jazz tours throughout Europe, Asia, and the Middle East to showcase the positive side of American race relations. Dizzy Gillespie, Louis Armstrong, Dave Brubeck, and Duke Ellington were some of the jazz greats who participated on these tours. Christina Klein’s *Cold War Orientalism: Asia in the Middlebrow Imagination, 1945-1961* (University of California Press, 2003) analyzed the proliferation of American representations of Asia during the early period of the Cold War. Under Klein’s skillful analysis, the Rogers and Hammerstein song “Getting to Know You,” from the musical *The King and I*, was more than just a Broadway tune, but an expression of American racial attitudes, economic and political interests, and cultural expectations in the Pacific World.

The shift to internationalize U.S. history has opened up rich analytical terrain to explore multiple meaning of race and gender during the imperial age of the late 19th century as well. Eric Love’s *Race over Empire: Racism and U.S. Imperialism, 1865-1900* (UNC Press, 2004) shows how racism shaped the interaction, subjugation, and rule over people of color in different parts of the world. Paul Kramer, *The Blood of Government: Race, Empire, the United States, and the Philippines* (UNC Press, 2006) underscored how the process of nation-building recast American ideas about race and nation. And Laura

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It may not come as a surprise to consider the imperial age as a logical place to investigate U.S. in the World. Indeed, the movement of Americans throughout the Caribbean and the Pacific in the late 19th century has been a source of countless books that describe Americans in the world. But the questions asked by Love, Kramer, and Briggs, among others, reveal the inherent political conflicts within and about the American past that had been overlooked by previous scholars, resulting in innovative historical narratives that emphasize exchange, connections, and struggle.

Similarly, work of the colonial period has often been transnational, even though scholars working before the transnational turn would not have identified with the concept. The transnational turn, however, has uprooted earlier narratives about European conquest of the Americas that simply ignored the agency of American Indians, slaves, or non-British subjects. Within the past twenty-five years, historians working on 17th and 18th century America have emphasized the role European settlers, American Indians, travelers and traders, and colonial powers have played in shaping the “New World” and the “Atlantic World.” Richard White’s influential book The Middle Ground: Indians, Empires, and Republics in the Great Lakes Region, 1650-1815 (Cambridge University Press, 1991) is perhaps one of the most well known works that not only rejected earlier histories of European conquest, but suggested that the Indians and Europeans shaped new forms of exchange. Lester Langley, The Americas in the Age of Revolution, 1750-1850 (Yale University Press, 1998) offered a comparative analysis of the American and Haitian Revolutions as well as the political upheavals in the Spanish colonies in the Americas. Even though comparative in its approach, Langley nevertheless considers the myriad forces that shaped revolution throughout the Atlantic. Alan Taylor, American Colonies: The Settling of North America (2001) and Daniel Richter, Before the Revolution: America’s Ancient Past (Belknap Press, 2011) illuminate the complexity of colonial North America and its history. Peter Linebaugh and Marcus Rediker’s influential book, The Many-Headed Hydra: Sailors, Slaves, Commoners, and the Hidden History of the Revolutionary Atlantic (Beacon, 2000) underscores the transient and multiethnic nature of the Atlantic World during the Age of Revolution. And J.R. McNeill’s Mosquito Empires: Ecology and War in the Greater Caribbean, 1620-1914 (Cambridge University Press, 2010) adds an environmental perspective to the complexity and tumult of the colonial Atlantic World.

Historians of nature have been at the forefront of the transnational turn. Alfred Crosby’s The Columbian Exchange: Biological and Cultural Consequences of 1492 (Greenwood Press, 1973) and Ecological Imperialism: The Biological Expansion of Europe, 900-1900 (Cambridge University Press, 1986) described how the movement of germs, plants, and animals reshaped the human and natural ecologies of North America in profound and surprising ways. In 1982, noted American environmental historian Donald Worster published his influential essay “A World Without Borders: The Internationalizing of Environmental History” (Environmental Review, fall 1982) calling for historians of nature to follow the movement of human, plant, and animal life across political boundaries. And in his 1999 essay, “The Nationalization of Nature,” the renowned environmental historian Richard White explored the “problem of scale,” arguing American historians have tied themselves to specific geographic scales, whether it be local, regional, national or international, without considering the interaction between them. He argued, “Environmental histo-
ries, it seems, parallel the history of the state, even though it is hard to believe that nature does itself.” White argues that environmental history provides a model to investigate the fluidity of borders—or “scales”—since, as he writes, “no single scale can be sufficient for understanding the many problems under examination.” Historians, therefore, should avoid the “simple binary choices in scale between the national and the global.”

In this regards, literature on nature, resource extraction, and the flow of agricultural commodities across borders has been a significant part of this research project. In *Insatiable Appetite: The United States and the Ecological Degradation of the Tropical World* (University of California Press, 2000), Richard Tucker showed how Americans’ desire for timber, fruits, coffee, and sugar reconfigured tropical lands. John Soluri, *Banana Cultures: Agriculture, Consumption, and Environmental Change in Honduras and the United States* (University of Texas Press, 2005), and Greg Grandin, *Fordlandia: The Rise and Fall of Henry Ford’s Forgotten Jungle City* (Picador, 2009) both underscore how American efforts to extract resources from the tropical world reshaped the people, governments, and businesses that moved within and between disparate parts of the world.

Thomas Andrews’s award-winning book *Killing for Coal: America’s Deadliest Labor War* (Harvard University Press, 2008) takes a somewhat different track. Rather than looking at how Americans sought to extract resources beyond the boundaries for the United States, Andrews explores how the mining of coal in the American West brought together “mineworkers of many races and more than thirty nationalities.” For Andrews, the story of the Ludlow miners’ strike and ensuing violence “offers new perspectives on the interconnected social, political, economic, and environmental changes” to industrialization and provides a way to explore the “intersection of physical energy and social power in the industrial world.”


Indeed, scholars of the American West as well as the Mexican and Canadian borderlands region both inform and transform the transnational turn. “If frontiers were the places where we once told our master American narratives,” Pekka Hämäläinen and Samuel Truett wrote in their 2011 article “On Borderlands,” “then borderlands are the places where those narratives come unraveled.” For his part, Samuel Truett has been a lead-

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While the U.S.-Mexican borderlands have received much attention, scholars have been somewhat indifferent to the history of the Canadian border. Recent works, however, suggest a change is underway. Sterling Evans’s edited volume, *The Borderlands of the American and Canadian Wests: Essays on Regional History of the Forty-ninth Parallel* (University of Nebraska Press, 2008) calls attention to the complex histories of the northern borderlands region. More recently, Kornel Chang, *Pacific Connections: The Making of the U.S.-Canadian Borderlands* (University of California Press, 2012) re-orient borderlands history by “taking into account regions and historiographies beyond the Americas” and into the “larger parts of which it was a part.”¹⁵ For Chang, the history of U.S.-Canadian borderlands is also shaped by its connection to the Pacific world. Taking a more continental approach, Benjamin Johnson and Andrew R. Graybill assemble an interesting set of essays investigating histories of America’s northern and southern borders in *Bridging National Borders in North America: Transnational and Comparative Histories* (Duke University Press, 2010).

While borderlands history emphasizes the significance of specific places, scholars have explored the movement and meaning of things around the world to describe America’s global presence. Emily Rosenberg’s *Spreading the American Dream: American Economic and Cultural Expansion, 1890-1945* (Hill and Wang, 1982) shows how Americans “sought to extend their technology-based economy and mass culture to nearly every part of the world.”¹⁶ It does not take into consideration how non-Americans accepted, rejected, or modified American mass culture, however. In his expansive book, *Dominance by Design: Technological Imperatives and America’s Civilizing Mission* (Harvard University Press, 2006), Michael Adas underscores the significance that American technologies played in shaping the nation’s foreign policies since the 19th century. More recently, Jennifer Van Vleck shows how the American airline industry, particularly the now-defunct Pan-Am Airline, forged a renewed sense of American technological supremacy throughout the world in *Empire of the Air: Aviation and the American Ascendancy* (Harvard University Press, 2013). Thus, Pan-Am’s demise symbolized the failure of American industries to adjust to the structural changes of the late 20th-century global economy.

Kristen Hoganson, *Consumer Imperium: The Global Production of American Domesticity, 1865-1920* (UNC Press, 2007), and Victoria de Grazia, *Irresistible Empire: America’s Advance through 20th-Century Europe* (Belknap Press, 2005), examine how the flow of consumer goods across borders shaped the meaning of domesticity, femininity, and modernity. For Hoganson, the movement of European goods into the United States served to reinforce social status and American visions of a “cosmopolitan domesticity.” De Grazia, on the other hand, posits that American consumer goods and mass marketing created a “market empire,” where groups like the Rotary Club served as foot soldiers to remake the European economy in American style. With the U.S. clearly positioned at the

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¹⁶ Emily Rosenberg’s *Spreading the American Dream: American Economic and Cultural Expansion, 1890-1945* (Hill and Wang, 1982), 13.
center of analysis, these works examine the history of consumption from multiple perspectives—from the outside in and from the inside out.


What has also emerged in the literature are the ways in which state and non-state actors cooperate, intersect, or challenge each other as they engage the world beyond U.S. borders. This is particularly noticeable in the literature on American relief, humanitarian aid, and international development efforts throughout the 20th century, particularly Julia Irwin’s *Making the World Safe: The American Red Cross and a Nation’s Humanitarian Awakening* (Oxford University Press, 2013) and David Kinkela’s *DDT and the American Century: Global Health, Environmental Politics, and the Pesticide That Changed the World* (UNC Press, 2011).

For historians of the 20th century, particularly diplomatic historians, the move to internationalize U.S. history has not been as particularly challenging. Nevertheless, scholars in this field have provided illuminating studies that move beyond the study of diplomatic agreements or conferences to consider a broad range of economic, social, cultural, and environmental issues. Erez Manela’s *The Wilsonian Moment: Self-Determination and the International Origins of Anticolonial Nationalism* (Oxford University Press, 2009) is one such case. Instead of focusing exclusively on the Paris Peace talks in 1919, Manela explores how Wilson’s ideas of self-determination and equality resonated throughout the colonial world, in places like China, Egypt, India, and Korea. The failure of Wilson’s vision to become a reality at home, in Europe, and throughout the world created a lasting distrust between anticolonial nationalists and the west.


Scholars have also begun to produce rich synthesis on American history from an international perspective for classroom use. Edward J. Davies II’s short yet illuminating volume, *The United States in World History* (Routledge, 2006), explored how exceptionalism masked “patterns of human interaction that join the United States and its citizens to the

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17 Thomas Zeiler, “The Diplomatic History Bandwagon: The State of the Field,” *Diplomatic History*
world and its diverse peoples (2).” Carl Guarneri’s America in the World: United States History in Global Context (McGraw-Hill, 2007) argued that “we can reach a deeper understanding of American history by situating it in the wider world to which it has always been connected” (xiii). Ian Tyrrell’s Transnational Nation: United States History in Global Perspective since 1789 (Palgrave Macmillan, 2007) builds on his remarkable career and advocacy in the field of U.S. history in the world. And rather than see transnational history as an alternative means to examine that history of the United States, Tyrrell argues “that the nation itself is produced transnationally; that is, the regional and global context of security, economic competition and demographic change means that the boundaries of the nation have had to be made. They do not exist in isolation (3).”

Other pedagogical works abound. In 2008, the Organization of American History edited America on the World Stage: A Global Approach to U.S. History (University of Illinois Press, 2008), which provided content chapters as well as strategies to teach the history of the Civil War, the American West, Religion, and Reform, just to name a few, from a global context. Carl Guarneri and James Davis, Teaching American History in a Global Context (M.E. Sharpe, 2008), is an important resource that offers syllabi, conceptual models, teaching strategies, and short essays from some of the key scholars in the field, many who were mentioned in this essay. Moreover, the 2005 report “Internationalizing Student Learning Outcomes in History: A Report to the American Council on Education” identifies some key concepts and themes that support the teaching and learning of U.S. history in the world. The report can be found on the American Historical Association’s website.

While the move to internationalize American history represented a departure from the past, it also reawakened strands of historical thinking from generations ago. In 1941, the noted American historian Arthur Schlesinger Sr. remarked, “History as conventionally written stresses national differences—even when not genuinely such—to the neglect of national similarities. This emphasis [glosses] over the fundamental interdependence of peoples.”18 As scholars, teachers, and learners consider the place of American history in a global context, it is clear that we cannot ignore the boundaries of the nation-state, nor can we be bound by them.

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World history textbooks in North America

The contemporary world history textbook in the United States owes a lot to its antecedents in the great synthesists of the early and middle years of the twentieth century. These scholars – Oswald Spengler, Christopher Dawson, Arnold Toynbee, and others – created popular and scholarly distillations of the western, and in some cases global, past that were in many cases used in history classrooms. Yet no book was more influential in the development of world history textbooks and the world history classroom than William McNeill’s 1963 The Rise of the West.19 Grand in scale, yet still relatively brief and quite accessible, this was the kind of book that could be required reading for a quarter-long or semester-long world history course. Moreover, it was affordable in the context of the US classroom, where students were (and remain) generally required to purchase copies of

their textbooks. Finally, its narrative style and chronological organization appealed strongly to historians, diverging somewhat from the contemporary work of Emmanuel Wallerstein, which tended to find its way more into the sociology classroom. Yet there were still relatively few world history courses needing a textbook in the 1960s. The long and gradual evolution of the world history course in the United States is detailed by Gilbert Allardyce in his article “Towards World History: American Historians and the Coming of the World history Course”, Journal of World History, 1 (1990), 23-76. Despite a number of precedents, such courses only flowered in the mid-1970s, when they began to find favor in a university setting. A number of factors contributed to this efflorescence, including the rise of the area studies fields such as Asian, African, and Latin American studies and the corresponding increase in practitioners (and hence instructors) who had no stake in existing western civilization courses. Perhaps even more significant was the increasing diversity of the population of the United States and Canada. Multi-ethnic college students demanded university curricula relevant to their history and heritage, and equally importantly states and provinces began to mandate world history to serve their increasingly multi-ethnic high school student bodies. In response, colleges and universities had to offer world history courses to serve not only history students and general education audiences but also their teacher education programs. The general model they adopted was to enlist their area studies specialists to teach world history survey courses, usually either alongside or replacing existing western civilization surveys, and usually in tandem with a US or Canadian history requirement.

The two main textbooks that helped to launch this transformation were McNeill’s A World History, the revision and condensation of his The Rise of the West, and Leften Stavrianos’ 1971 Man’s Past and Present: A Global History. Both of these books were built around a core of western or European studies, at least where the construction of modernity was concerned, but both aimed to look at the building of modernity through the interaction between the “west” and the “rest”. Over time, moreover, both volumes increasingly moved towards a more multi-centric treatment of the world, although large gaps remained in both book’s treatment of Southeast Asia, the modern Near East, Sub-Saharan Africa, and Oceania.

Other early volumes were more clearly adapted from a western civilization model, and tended to place the rest of the world in a subordinate position. Perhaps the best-selling of these was John P. McKay, Bennett D. Hill, and John Buckler, A History of World Societies, (Boston: Houghton Mifflin, 1982), adapted directly from the volume by the same authors, A History of Western Society, (Boston: Houghton Mifflin, 1979). In its first edition, A History of World Societies devoted more than 700 pages cumulatively to Europe, and only 59 to the history of South Asia and 88 to China. Each chronological period opened with a chapter on the west, with other regions relegated to the back pages. Yet over time this balance shift, and by the early 1990s McKay et. al. featured not only more pages devoted to the different regions of the world but also to cross-cultural and global themes.

By this time, major textbooks had begun to emerge that were built around attempts at chronological coherence and global coverage. The first of these was Peter N. Stearns, Michael Adams, and Stuart B. Schwartz, World Civilizations: The Global Experience, (Harper Collins, 1992). This volume also emphasized civilizational, rather than national, sequences and a structure designed to emphasize comparison and contrast between

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them. Chapters and brief features juxtaposed, for example, industrialization in Russia and Japan or crises of modernity in Islamic and Chinese civilizations. Despite continuing lacunae for some periods in African, Polynesian, and American history, the authors aimed for and generally achieved an overall balance. Another popular feature they pioneered were a series of instructive analytical essays that introduced students to the discipline and practice of history.

In 2000, the most successful world history textbook of all time was launched by two historians at the University of Hawaii. Jerry Bentley and Herbert Ziegler’s *Traditions & Encounters* (Boston: McGraw Hill, 2000) was built around a focus on networks and connections in global history that was rapidly becoming the core of the field of world history. The authors also successfully captured regions and periods otherwise de-emphasized in competing textbooks, particularly Polynesia. This was perhaps partly due to their awareness of the new sources and opportunities for capturing the histories of non-literate societies already in practice among their colleagues studying Polynesian history from and in Hawaii.

*Traditions & Encounters* captured the imagination of many instructors with area studies backgrounds, and quickly came to dominate the growing world history market. This growth was a result not only of the expanding college market but also the introduction in 1999 of the World History AP exam for high school students. This curriculum in this secondary market was much more standardized than that of college and university courses, and hence was powerfully influential in the publication of new textbooks. Perhaps most important was its emphasis on transnational networks and connections, a focus that Bentley and Ziegler matched precisely, contributing to the success of their textbook.

Publishers and authors who followed Bentley and Ziegler largely sought to emulate this approach, but often found it difficult to cover and connect many time periods and parts of the world. Thus they began actively putting together teams of authors to construct volumes. One successful team included Richard Bulliett from Columbia University, Pamela Kyle Crossley from Dartmouth, Daniel Headrick from Roosevelt, Steven W. Hirsch from Tufts, and David Northrup of Boston College. Their book, entitled *The Earth and Its Peoples* (Boston: Houghton Mifflin, 1997) was initially built around the theme of technology & environment, proposed by Headrick, to which a theme of diversity & dominance proposed by Bulliett was later added. These emphases reflected a growing interest in environmental and technological histories within the world history field, as well as a balance between political and cultural issues. They also effectively utilized the strengths of the scholars involved. At the same time, the authors attempted to provide the scaffolding to make the textbooks useful in high schools as well as universities. In the end, the chapters effectively settled around the same level of writing, although they diverged somewhat in their adherence to the themes. Nevertheless, the volume was broadly embraced by instructors.

Other teams were built around a core of faculty who had worked together to construct survey courses at a single institution. One important example was *Worlds Together, Worlds Apart* (New York: W.W. Norton, 2002). At the heart of the volume were senior scholars Robert L. Tignor and Gyan Prakash, who had built the world history course at Princeton University and then enlisted their colleagues Jeremy Adelman, Stephen Aron, Stephen Kotkin, Suzanne Marchand, and Michael Tsin. By virtue of their co-location, this group were able to meet and sketch the themes of the volume and each chapter together, beginning with the period from the Mongol supremacy to the present day. An earlier volume later followed at the author’s request. Because the team contained specialists
from many regions and as a result of this careful methodology, the first edition of Worlds Together, Worlds Apart was both erudite and decentered from a western civilization past. By contrast to Traditions & Encounters, it did not hew quite as closely to a focus on networks and connections, being instead heavily thematic in approach. It was also written at a somewhat higher level initially, with chapters exceeding 15,000 words. Later editions aimed more at the large community college market reduced those chapters to under 10,000 words. This reflected a general move towards shorter editions. In 2008, for example, Heather Streets-Salter helped to write a brief edition of Traditions & Encounters that has renewed the popularity of that title.

The number of world history textbooks entering the market increased in the next decade. Among the most eclectic was Felipe Fernández-Armesto’s The World: A History, (Upper Saddle River: Pearson Prentice Hall, 2011), which veered back and forth in the composition of its chapters while keeping a firm focus on narrative. Fernández-Armesto aimed to combine a global vision with a close attention to sources, many of them quite unconventional. He drew on cutting-edge demographic and environmental analyses while also paying attention to sex, art, philosophy, and music. Other contributions of the era were equally unique. In general, however, four pronounced trends emerged in this period. The first was the frequent addition of primary sources and pedagogical features to the textbook. The second was an increase in brief editions. Third was an attempt to provide multiple scopes by connecting the global and the local. Finally, there was a general move to chapters focused around themes rather than geography. While not all textbooks embraced each of these shifts equally, they nevertheless reflected important trends in the field.

Craig Lockard’s Societies, Networks, and Transitions: A Global History (New York: Houghton Mifflin, 2008) exemplified a number of these trends while at the same time showing great continuity with Stavrianos’ and McNeill’s seminal works. It was one of the earliest texts to try to focus on the lived experiences of individuals within broader global narratives, and also included primary source excerpts. While largely choosing to retain geographic chapters, Lockard bridged these with thematic chapters on transnational networks and themes. Later editions published by Wadsworth (2011) and Cengage (2015) include essays on controversies within the field as well.

Robert Strayer’s Ways of the World: A Brief Global History with Sources (New Boston: Bedford/St. Martins, 2011) entered the market as a relatively brief volume with primary sources authored by a scholar who had been teaching the survey course since the 1980s. Ways of the World largely retained a geographical structure, but it embraced a number of features including philosophical musings on the nature of history by the author. Perhaps the newest feature of the book was its orientation towards pedagogy, exemplified in subsequent editions by the combination of thematically focused documents and images with narrative text in each chapter. Some editions of the textbook also included features that focused on individuals and places within a broader historical context. John Langdon and Edward Judge similarly designed Connections: A World History (New York: Vango Books, 2009) around brief chapters with a focus on learning. Subsequent editions published by Pearson books included a number of features including an extensive geography & cartography program.

The size of the world history field also allowed for different texts to claim positions along the spectrum from humanities to social science and even biological and physical science approaches. Peter Von Sivers, Charles Desnoyers, and George B. Stow claimed a social science position with Patterns of World History (New York: Oxford University Press,
2012). This project actually began in the late 1990s, when the three were readers for the AP European History exam, and reflected their awareness of the difficulty students had in sorting through masses of material for threads of coherence and meaning. Patterns was quite long, but Oxford University Press also introduced a brief edition. Moreover, while chapters were arranged somewhat by geography the authors emphasized helping students to read across the chapters for thematic patterns. The second edition added a unique feature entitled “Against the Grain” that explored examples of societies, events, and experiences that ran counter to the patterns explored in each chapter. Ross Dunn and Laura Mitchell’s Panorama: A World History (New York: McGraw-Hill, 2015), similarly focused on explicating global patterns through a social science approach, and exemplified the move to thematic chapters while putting geography in the background. One distinguishing feature of this text was its “Panoramic Views”, which provide global cartographic representations of major global trends.

More towards the humanities side of the field was Candice Goucher and Linda Walton’s World History: Journeys from Past to Present (New York: Routledge, 2008). When introduced, this was undoubtedly the most thematically-focused of the major world history textbooks, and a number of these themes were heavily oriented towards the study of culture. These included the household and family, community, and memory and culture alongside environmental, political, social, and economic themes. It also included embedded primary sources and was integrated with the Bridging World History (http://www.learner.org/courses/worldhistory/) website, giving users access to a wide range of digital resources.

Meanwhile, human history was integrated with the history of the universe and life on earth through the “Big History” approach taken by David Christian, Cynthia Brown, and Craig Benjamin in Big History: Between Nothing and Everything (New York: McGraw Hill, 2013). Within a framework of investigating the past, these authors integrate insights from such diverse disciplines physics, chemistry, biology, anthropology, and history. The first edition of this book doesn’t focus on individual experiences, social history, methodology, or primary sources, choosing instead to focus on major threshold events and world-spanning patterns.

As the North American market for textbooks shows no sign of decreasing, new volumes are coming into publication every year. This includes Worlds in Motion: A Dynamic history of Humankind, by inveterate world historians Erik Gilbert and Jonathan Reynolds (Pearson/Prentice Hall, 2016). This volume aims to present world history through the overarching theme of “motion”, promising perhaps the most dramatic liberation yet from geography-focused approaches to the global past. The authors plan to deliver this theme through three key arguments: that people and things move constantly, that human identity is complex and changing, and that even our understanding of world history is constantly in motion. Like many other new volumes, Worlds in Motion will be accompanied by a number of pedagogical tools, especially aiming taking advantage of new technologies and social media. As this project hasn’t yet been published, it isn’t possible to evaluate it fully.

As these volumes show, there is still no dominant model for a world history textbook in the North American market. Many volumes are written by teams of specialists, but other equally successful works remain sole-authored. Their diversity, along with new (and often brief) editions of existing volumes and an increasing range of supplementary materials, meant that world history instructors today are more easily able to find textbooks suited to their expertise, student audience, and approach to the past. Among the most important of

The focus of most classrooms, however, remains on the textbooks themselves. Nor do these volumes merely represent broad surveys distilled from research publications in the field. Rather, like the work of Stavrianos and McNeill a half-century ago, they tend to forge new ground and help define where its practitioners will go in the future. Moreover, North American-published world history textbooks have a significant political and social impact, even on a global scale. Many of the major textbooks described in this section have been translated into multiple languages and are available worldwide. For example, despite its recent publication date, *World History: Journeys from Past to Present* has been translated into Portuguese, Korean, and Chinese. This internationalization of textbooks has sometimes led to controversy. In 2014, for example, the nationalist Japanese Prime Minister, Shinzo Abe, demanded that McGraw-Hill withdraw Traditions and Encounter’s description of Japan’s World War II military brothels. The publisher declined to do so. Even greater controversy has attended world history standards and textbooks in a domestic U.S. setting. In 1994, National Endowment for the Humanities head Lynne Cheney attack world history standards developed by university historians and secondary school teachers recruited the National Council for History Standards as being unpatriotic, although she had not in fact read the standards themselves. As a result, the Senate voted 99-1 to reject the standards and to require that future standards emphasize ‘western civilization’, confirming that a world history perspective, while increasingly embraced by teachers and professional historians, remained controversial in the United States. This was the opening salvo in a conflict over interpretations of both global and domestic history that raged throughout the 1990s in the United States and that to some degree continues today.

Within these conflicts over the meaning of the global past, world history textbooks are important battlegrounds. Their significance can be explained partly by the nature and scope of the subject matter, and partly by the unique history of the field and the audiences it serves. As world history increasingly becomes a common experience in high school and university classrooms, the import of teaching materials increases. The World History Association and textbook authors understand this trend, and thus teachers and teaching play an important role in conferences, publications, and scholarship in world history in North America.

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Bibliographie portant sur l’Histoire Globale, by Rokhaya Fall (Université Cheikh Anta Diop, Dakar)

Il faut préciser tout de suite qu’à notre connaissance, les ouvrages publiés ne sont pas catégorisés ouvertement comme portant sur l’histoire globale. Leurs auteurs non plus ne se réclament comme étant “global historians”. C’est là où se situe la difficulté dans ce genre de travail, puisque contrairement à ce qui se passe en occident ou même dans l’espace asiatique, en Afrique, c’est de manière encore timide que l’histoire globale (ou histoire mondiale chez les francophones), commence à être catégorisée. On peut d’ailleurs dire qu’elle n’y a pas encore été institutionnalisée. Cependant, si on jette un rapide coup d’œil dans la production de la plupart des historiens africains, on se rend compte que, vue la trajectoire suivie par le continent, c’est souvent dans une perspective d’histoire globale que les thèmes étudiés sont abordés: histoire des échanges (aussi bien économiques que culturels), histoires des différentes connexions du continent, bref, toutes les méthodes d’approches historiques qui permettent d’intégrer le continent au cœur du temps du monde et non à ses marges.


La plupart des autres publications sont depuis allées dans cette perspective montrant que, malgré où plutôt du fait de l’esclavage et de la colonisation, on ne peut pas revisiter de manière correcte l’histoire des sociétés africaines sans cette nécessaire ouverture vers les espaces auxquels elles ont été liées du fait de la connexion de multiples dynamiques en cours au sein de chacun d’eux.

Quelques ouvrages publiés dans une perspective qui rejoint les préoccupations de l’Histoire Globale depuis 2010 :


L’auteur tente de suivre à la trace, la présence de communautés juives ou des commerçants juifs au niveau du Sahara mauretanien, la boucle du Niger et dans presque tout le Sahel ouest africain. Ce cheminement lui permet de mieux cerner les échanges et les emprunts transculturels dont ces régions furent le cadre approprié à travers lequel le judaïsme grava certaines de ses valeurs matérielles et mentales dans les cultures sahariennes et soudanaises.

Avec l’expansion européenne, des contacts se font par le biais du commerce entre juifs et Soudanais sur la côte atlantique et de petites communautés se créent çà et là dans des estuaires portuaires comme Rufisque et Sao Tomé et Principe favorisant tout autant des échanges d’idées et de techniques.


L’ouvrage tente de montrer comment dans la construction du monde atlantique à partir du XVe siècle, les anciens mondes africain et européen en s’engageant dans un système d’échanges singuliers, ont enclenché chacun une transformation interne, mais dont
les conséquences ne seront clairement lisibles qu’à la fin du XIXe siècle, au moment de la colonisation effective du continent africain.

Le livre de CISSE Chikouna, publié en 2013 est une esquisse d’histoire globale. Cet auteur a en effet choisi de fonder son cheminement réflexif, sur une inscription territoriale transnationale du phénomène migratoire au temps des colonies, faisant ainsi éclater les cadres classiques des productions historiques qui font la part belle aux monographies nationales.


C’est un ouvrage collectif regroupant des historiens, mais aussi des spécialistes de disciplines autres que l’histoire. Ces regards croisés sur le travail a, selon les éditeurs scientifiques du livre, stimulé la collaboration entre spécialistes des études culturelles, littéraires et historiques pour mieux éclairer les enjeux suscités par une tendance avantage marquée par la mondialisation.

L’article tente d’appréhender et de comprendre sur le champ et dans la longue durée, les images et les perceptions que les lettres maures se firent de ces navigateurs portugais et espagnols qui, du jour au lendemain, débarquèrent dans leur pays.

L’ouvrage relate la saga des Signares, cette catégorie de personnes apparues dans le contexte des rapports d’échanges entre l’Afrique et le monde occidental. Selon l’auteur, son étude centre autour des Signares a permis de mesurer l’ingéniosité de plusieurs générations de femmes qui réussirent à bâtir de respectables fortunes par le biais d’unions matrimoniales savamment négociées et qu’elle qualifie de véritable stratégies d’accumulation. La conscience collective des Sénégalais d’aujourd’hui garde d’intenses souvenirs de ces périodes fastes.
Europe ranks among the smaller continents of the world and for more than a few centuries has been historically characterized by high mobility rates. Compared to its size, it consists of many nation states using different languages. These characteristics play out in our bibliographical overview as well.

The example of the British historian David Armitage, now teaching at Harvard University, demonstrates some variants (among many others) of linkages between Europe and non-European realms through family experiences with a maritime past in the Pacific, through educational and professional careers across the Atlantic, as well as through scholarly interest in international intellectual history along the lines of former imperial configurations.¹ This example alone exhibits the difficulties in building a clear-cut European historiography of the global since many of the scholars to be mentioned have criss-crossed often more than one ocean during their careers. A bibliography of those who have been born on European soil but teach now somewhere else would look quite different from one that emphasizes on those who are currently working at European research institutions but may originally come from other continents. A third variant would be a bibliography of those who have spent their formative years at European institutions and completed a PhD for example. But this would mean incorporating many scholars who became important voices of their historiographies outside Europe after academic training at places that often are as international as European.

When confronted with this dilemma, we decided to give preference to those who are now speaking from Europe independently from their place of birth.

To what extent the European scholarly community of world historians is interconnected with communities elsewhere can be easily seen from projects such as the six volumes of a world history published starting in 2012 in English and German under the general editorship of Akira Iriye and Jürgen Osterhammel.² One gets a similar impression of entanglement when reading the nine volumes of the brand-new Cambridge World History edited by Merry E. Wiesner-Hanks.³ Very close to this type of global analysis based upon transnational and transregional scholarly cooperation are the many volumes of the Oxford Handbook series, which provide a superb overview on scholarship in a specialized but large field of historiography and can be read both as fine examples of European world history writing and as proof of its transcontinental cooperation culture.⁴ The fact that there is a special subchapter on Russian historiography written by Mikhail Lipkin is not related to any argument that excludes Russia from Europe, being the largest state on earth and stretching over parts of the Asian continent. Russia, which is well represented on the board as well as at the congresses of the European Network in Universal and Global History (ENIUGH), is dealt with separately for the practical considerations

owing to the fact that access to information on Russian achievements in the field of world history is easier to understand in Moscow than in Leipzig.

It can be argued that world and global history approaches were particularly strong in the 1990s, and even in the early 2000s in the USA, while the echo in different world regions was more ambivalent. The beginnings of this strong interest in world and global history are related to the strength of area studies (at the same time looking for new orientation after the end of the Cold War) and the specific role of Western civilization courses in the curriculum of US colleges. Against this background, the development in North America, East Asia, and Europe has been compared by Dominic Sachsenmaier in a detailed book that appeared right at the beginning of the five-year cycle we are looking at in our bibliographical sketch.\(^5\)

The situation, however, has changed since the period under investigation again and Europe follows now much more the old slogan of the thousand flowers blooming. Many local centres of research, all with their specific agendas, emerged out of an increasing interest of public and private funding agencies supporting transnational and global perspectives. PhD programmes include more and more of these perspectives to remain (or become for the first time) attractive to international candidates and as a consequence the number of dissertations and related publications grows as well. Summer schools, workshops, and larger conferences are the necessarily accompanying events. E-journals, newsletters, and blogs report on their programmes or outcomes.

See for example:
- geschichte.transnational (http://geschichte-transnational.clio-online.net)
- Trafo. Beiträge zur transregionalen Forschung (http://trafo.hypotheses.org)
- Imperial & Global Forum (http://imperialglobalexeter.com)

A whole spectrum of academic journals has turned towards a more transnational profile. The journals very clearly devoting their space to questions of global history are:
- *Comparativ. Zeitschrift für Globalgeschichte und vergleichende Gesellschaftsforschung*, founded in 1991; publishing six thematic issues a year in English or German, for topics and articles see: http://research.uni-leipzig.de/comparativ/
- *Journal of Global History*, founded in 2005, publishing 3 issues a year in English, for topics and articles see: http://journals.cambridge.org/action/displayJournal?jid=JGH
- *Monde(s). Histoire, espaces, relations*, founded in 2012, 3 issues a year in English, connecting French scholarship with foreign contributions, for topics and articles see: http://www.monde-s.com

Among the many more journals that had emerged long before the current interest in global history and have given systematically space to articles in the field of world history, we would like to mention as a prominent example: *Itinerario. International Journal on the History of European Expansion and Global Interaction*, founded in 1977, 3 issues a year, see: http://journals.cambridge.org/action/displayJournal?jid=ITI

But the number of journals having a focus on European history (economic, political, cultural, etc.) and on its connectedness via colonial history, the history of knowledge production, international relations, markets, commodity chains, or labour relations is much high-

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er, most of them have been founded in the 1990s, such as, for example, Traverse. Zeitschrift für Geschichte or Ab Imperio.

And then we have the journals, some of them founded in the 19th or 20th century as flagships of national history writing, that have published at last one or more special issues on global affairs to contribute to the growing interest in such topics. This is not to speak of a journal like the French Annales, now coming back to an interest in global comparisons they were famous for under the leadership of Fernand Braudel. 6

Since the early 1990s, world and global history has been integrated into academic institutions across the continent in different ways but such that a discernible institutional landscape has formed into a pluralistic field. The institutionalization proceeded along two main paths. Firstly, the somewhat unhurried expansion of area studies within existing history departments initially opened the field to a younger generation of historians who introduced world-historical questions to the history classroom. Despite the fact that the traditional focus on national history has been called into question, and scholars now increasingly explore transnational connections to extra-European world regions, the overall transformation of institutionalized history departments proceeds sluggishly. The replacement of existing professorships with world historians or an extra-European expertise is not widespread at this level. More room for manoeuvre exists in mid-level academic positions, but since tenure-track positions remain the exception in continental Europe (they play a significant role only in Great Britain and Scandinavia), mid- and entry-level jobs present younger historians with only limited, and at times fragile, opportunities. Thus, and secondly, it is rather the establishment of new research centres and university institutes that give world history an institutional home. The newly founded institutions distinguish themselves through their interdisciplinary character. To mention only a few of the most striking examples, there are the Global History and Culture Centre at the University of Warwick; the Centre for Transnational History at the University of St Andrews; the Cluster of Excellence on Asia and Europe in a Global Context: Shifting Asymmetries in Cultural Flows at Heidelberg University; the Laboratoires d ’Excellence: Transferts Matériels et Culturels, Traduction, Interfaces at the École Normale Supérieure, Paris; as well as the research group around Martti Koskenniemi at the Erik Castrén Institute of International Law and Human Rights at the University of Helsinki. Institutional change was often a first response to the growing number of scholars working on non-European topics and collaborating with colleagues in area studies. The School of Oriental and African Studies at the University of London, the more recently established Department of History and Area Studies at Aarhus University, the Research Center Re:Work in Berlin and the Centre for Area Studies at the University of Leipzig have also played a prominent role in shaping world-historical questions and research agendas. Much less common are initiatives that originate in the social sciences and explore global phenomena in historical detail; however, Roskilde University is a noteworthy exception here.

Since 2006 the European Social Science History Conference provides every other year a forum for more general exchanges and regular contact between the practitioners of world history: part of its program is organized by the European Network in Universal and Global History, established in 2002, orchestrates a European Congress on World and Global History. With more than 800 participants in the last ENIUGH congress in September

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2014 in Paris, there is proof that the interest is even on the rise and the fast-growing number of countries and themes represented demonstrates an increasing diversity concerning periods, areas, and topics under investigation. It is therefore impossible to squeeze this diversity into a list of few dozen items, even if it is limited to publications from the last five years. Thus we have selected approximately 60 titles to give an impression of directions and authors that are considered to be as representative as possible of the many historiographical sub-trends that are following the trend towards a more global and transregional history writing all over Europe.


Jeronimo, Miguel Bandeira / Monteiro, José Pedro (eds.): Os passados do presente. Internacionalismo, imperialismo e a construção do mundo contemporâneo [Internationalism, Imperialism and the Construction of the Contemporary World], Lisboa: Almedina, 2015.


Bracke, Maud Anne / James, Mark (eds.): Between Decolonisation and the Cold War. Transnational Activism and its Limits in Europe, 1950s-90s (= Special Issue, Journal of Contemporary History 50: 3) 2015.


Dejung, Christof: Die Fäden des globalen Marktes. Eine Sozial- und Kulturgeschichte des Welthandels am Beispiel der Handelsfirma Gebrüder Volkart 1851–1999 [Threads of the


Duedahl, Poul/Gram-Skjoldager, Karen/Kjærsgaard, Kristine (eds.): De internationale organisationer danmarkshistorie [International Organization in Danish History] (= Special Issue, Tidsskrift for Historie 10), 2015.


Verbruggen, Christophe / Laqua, Daniel / Deneckere, Gita (eds.): Beyond Belgium. Encounters, Exchanges and Entanglements, c. 1900–1925 (= Special Issue, Revue belge de philologie et d'histoire / Belgisch tijdschrift voor filologie en geschiedenis 90: 4) 2012.


prepared by Mikhail Lipkin, Institute of World History, Deputy Director, Head of World History Editing Centre

Introduction note: The list includes publication of the Institute of World History of the Russian Academy of Sciences – the leading academic research institute in Russia conducting a research and publishing both series of books and annual collective volumes on various aspects of World and Global History. The institute is well known as the all-Russian meeting place for theoretical and empirical conferences as well as huge research projects on the key issues of world history with participation of the leading researchers from all over the Russian Federation and abroad. The list of publications excludes a heap of journal articles and includes only complex individual monographs and collective volumes on various issues of world, global and transnational history (thus excluding research which focuses primarily on national history of one or two countries). The selected titles represent works which either are based on comparative analysis of regional and transnational history of more than 2 countries (horizontal slice in history) or global issues studied across various chronological borders – analyzed from the point of a “long dureé” (vertical slice in history).

2010


This yearbook of the Institute of World History of RAS unites articles on the issue of “Transcontinental and local paths as a socio-cultural phenomenon”. The theme of paths is very important in context of East European history and especially for the history of Ancient Russia, its ancient state’s formation. The authors study paths of Eastern Europe as transport communication and trade roots and in a more global context – as the key ways of non-commercial exchange between peoples that facilitated a transfer of knowledge and experience in various spheres of life. As a parallel to the East European material one can find a comparative analysis of West- and North-European experience as well as material about the ways of paths’ functioning in the Middle East and Transcaucasus.


The book is published in a series “Images of History”. Based on research of various cultural areals (Western Europe, Rus/Russia, civilizations of the East) and various epochs (Antiquity, Middle Ages, Modern Ages) its articles explore images of time, collective perceptions about link of times, about past and future which shape a matrix of one’s vision of contemporaneity and serve a means of orientation for individual and collective behavior.
In this volume theoretical articles such as “Linear/non-linear temporality in history”, “Strategies of de-historization” are supplied with empiric studies like “Images and structures of time in archaic cultures or “The images of the “bright future” in the USSR in late 1950-s – early 1960s”, “Super-fast time – new times?”, etc. The chapters help to understand a mechanism of historical consciousness in various periods, ways of information transfer, origins of historical myths and paradigm shifts in historical consciousness.


The volume of articles represents materials of a roundtable in the Institute of World History of the Russian Academy of Sciences in April 2008 with the same title. Research articles and transcript of discussion contain attempts to define the phenomenon of traveling as well as more wide reflection about the theme of journey in world history and historical research and available strategies of its further study.

2011


The book is dedicated to a unique period in the World history – the Great Migration Period when under conditions of a sun-down of the Antique civilization and the formation of the Middle Age civilization the interaction between the barbarian world and the Roman Empire reached the pike phase. The increased focus is on the three key actors of the Great Migration Age – the German, Hun and Slav peoples, their role in European civilizational processes of the II-VII cc., their transformation during migrations from the tribal units to the first state formations, evolution of the military, trade, diplomatic and cultural contacts which formed the essence of interaction and mutual influence of the two polar worlds – Barbaricum and Empire.


The first volume of the series is characteristic of a reluctance of a usual dogmatic contraposition of the history of Ancient East and Ancient West. It pays a special attention to the almost simultaneous formation (VIII century B.C. - I century A.D.) on a wide space from the Mediterranean to the Pacific ocean of religious and philosophical schools of thought that changed the face of the Ancient World and left deep impact on the following historical periods.
The volume offers a new periodization of the Antique history without a traditional separation into the history of Ancient Greece and history of Ancient Rome. The Ancient times are separated into Early Ancientness (IV-II CC. B.C.) and Late Ancientness (I C. B.C. - I C. A.D.). A threshold and advent of the second period the authors considers to be the appearance of “world empires” in the East and formation of the basis of Antique civilization in the West.


The monograph is devoted to the beginnings of relations between the United States and the Latin American nations. It discusses the first formal and informal contacts, the diplomatic recognition of the Latin American independence by the United States, and political, military and merchant networks in the New World at the time of the independence movement. Based upon a wide range of published and archival sources, the research is important for understanding the formation of US foreign policy principles, including the famous Monroe Doctrine, and the socio-cultural background of conflicts between two Americas.


The author considers conditions and effects of the methodological turns in historiography of the later XX c. and the beginning of the XXI c. The newest approaches which aim to overcome the contraposition of the individual and the social, micro-history and macro-history were analyzed. Formation and development of various newest versions of macro-history, current conceptions of universal, world and global history, multidisciplinary technologies and models of regional and local history has been completed. Being based on the study of the changes and paradigms in historical biography, social, gender, cultural and intellectual history the research has shown heuristic potential of the new models of interdisciplinary synthesis in historical research


The book is dedicated to the history of European Integration and transnational relations in the post-war Europe in a period from the end of the World War II to the end of Nikita Khrustchev’s rule in the USSR. It is used on new declassified archival sources from 8 archives (4 Russian and 4 West-European). It shows the logic and evolution of Soviet approach to integration processes in Western Europe from the point of global and regional interests of the USSR. The analysis synchronizes attempts to reform CMEA as an
eastern model of “socialist integration” with major trends in development of West-European models. It emphasizes the influence of objective and subjective factors on successes and failures of Soviet regional and global economic initiatives in 1950-s – early 1960-s. Its expanded version with new archival evidences stretching research to the end of 1960-s is expected to be published in the end of 2015 in the Cold War series of the Dmitriy Pozharskiy University Publishing House.


The volume studies social and cultural aspects of “immigration challenge” (changes in the “image de l’autre”, individuality of a “marginal man” and inter-ethnic relations, transformation of a “civilizational code” and civilizational identity of the West) are combined with a detailed study of various models of integration of alien cultural communities in Western Europe, the USA, Russia and the countries of post-Soviet Central Asia.

2012


[World History / Ed. in Chief Alexander Chubaryan. Vol. 2. The Medieval Civilizations of the West and the East / Volume’s editor in Chief: Pavel Yu. Uvarov. Moscow. Nauka. 2012. 894 P. Label of Institute of World History] The second volume of the series embraces the period till the middle of the XV C. Its contents is build around global notions of the “world-system” and “belt of civilizations”. The volume is divided into 4 big chapters: “Barbarians and Empire”, “New world powers: empires, khaganates, caliphates”, “The world around the year 1000: the bloom of Middle Age civilizations”, “Paxmongolica and the height of the Middle Age West”. At the down of the New Ages: the world by the year 1453”. Beside the new authors approach and the way of material's representation, the book for the first time stresses the importance for Middle Ages of the nomadic cultures, the influence of the steppe (prairie) world on formation of the world civilizations. It give an objective look at both negative and positive influence of the nomads which in a rather unexpected way served as some sort of “postmen” in exchange of ideas and technologies between the fragmented civilizations of the East and West. The authors also demolish the wide spread myth about negative connotation of the term “Middle Ages” as some sort of “Dark Ages” in the history of a human-kind and, unlike their soviet predecessors, in a polemic way distinguish the notions “medieval” and “feudal”.


The book published originally in English is a result of fruitful cooperation between the famous yearbook of the Institute of World History “Odysseum. A Man in History” and the
Austrian scientific journal “Medium Aevum Quotidianum”. It contains the articles by the leading Russian specialists in the field of medieval studies dedicated to the discussed in the “Odyssey” theme “Travelling as a historical and cultural phenomenon”. The articles represent fresh results of research in the field of a history of daily life.


This volume is the last in publication of materials of the international conference “Transitional Periods in World History: Dynamics in Definition of the Past” organized by the Centre for history of historical sciences of the Institute of World History of RAS in September 2011. It includes research articles by scientists from Moscow, Saint-Petersburg, Briansk, Orel, Samara, Irkutsk, Tver and other cities of Russia. On the basis of concrete historical material they analyse the state of historical knowledge from the Middle Ages till the nowadays in the context of a broadening of cognitive practices.


The book is a result of the collective research grant "International relations and multilateral diplomacy" obtained by the Institute of World History from the Russian State Humanitarian Fund (RGNF). It unites specialists from various institutions and universities. In a set of articles they analyze various aspects of multilateral diplomacy during the Cold War: functioning of the UN system (especially during international crisis and conflicts) states’ interaction within the military and political blocs (SEATO, SENTO, Warsaw Pact), international economic and political multilateral organizations, public and political international organizations and movements in their struggle for disarmament and abolition of nuclear weapons. The book is based on new archival evidences and interpretations and represents a transnational approach in study of history of international relations.


Studying a material from the history of various countries, epochs, estates and systems of value, the authors of this volume think about the shaping, evolution and functioning of perceptions about the treachery and treason, how they were connected with religious, juridical and other systems of evaluation. The represented by the authors wide picture of various social situations shows that at different times the very notion of “treachery” was not a universal one and its semantic field varied greatly and was quite different from its contemporary meaning.
The book of one of the leading Russian historians of Northern Europe Professor V. Roginskij is a new complex research of the critical period in the life of this region – the Napoleonic era. As a result of the eight years (1807-1815) instead of two large states, which we traditionally call the Denmark and Sweden appeared two more state formations – the Kingdom of Norway and the Great Duchy of Finland. The union of Denmark and Norway collapsed. In Norway and Sweden revolutionary changes occurred and as a result each of these countries obtained its basic law – Sweden in 1809 and Norway in 1814. The end of this period put an end to timeless wards between the Scandinavians, Russians and the Swedes. The author shows that key changes in the North of Europe were to a major extent prepared by the logic of a long-term development of the whole region: in economic, in state and political, in national and ethnic, in cultural and religious aspects and even in mentality of the Scandinavians and the Finns.
brought to contemporaries a lot to think about whether the values of European XVIIIth century – freedom, law, human rights, belief in a progress – absolute and universal character? Whether one shall fight for their distribution in the whole world? Or a coexistence of various value systems and practices is normal not only for the world in whole but even within one and the same countries? How to integrate into the global trends in this way? The issue posed by the era of enlightenment are of current interest today.


[City Transfer: A Historical Experience of Geopolitical Construction. Materials of the conference of October 28-29 2013 / Editor in Chief Irina G. Konovalova. Moscow. Institute of World History of the Russian Academy of Sciences, Aquilon. 2013. 164 P. Label of the Institute of World History of the Russian Academy of Sciences.] The volume on the basis of a wide historical data from the Middle Ages till the present considers the issues connected with a phenomena of the capital of a state as it is, cases of coexistence of several capitals (national, sub-national, global, temporary, non-formal, symbolic, etc.), images of city-capitals and the world experience of moving the capitals.


[Civilization and Barbarism: the Paradox of Civilizations' Victory over Barbarity / Editors in Chief: Vera P. Budanova, Olga V. Vorobieva. - Moscow. Institute of World History of the Russian Academy of Sciences. 2013. Issue 2. 424 P.] The volume of articles is dedicated to the paradoxes and contradictions of interactions between a civilization and a barbarism. The authors study the processes of making civilized barbarians in the ancient world, preconditions and consequences of barbarism's representation in the early Middle Ages, shaping of the image of a “barbar” in European “barbarology”. A certain set of issues is connected with a contrary process of barbarisation of civilizations. Why starting a dialogue with the barbar a civilization can risk to loose? How the paradoxes of interaction lead civilization and barbarity to the new stages of communication? The answers to these and other questions one can find in this book.


[Arutiuin Ulunian. The Balkan “shield” of socialism. The Defence Politics of Albania, Bulgaria, Romania and Yugoslavia (mid 50s – 1980). Moscow. The Russian Fund of Assistance to Education and Science. 2013. 912 P.] The monograph studies various aspects of defence politics of the four communist Balkan states from the beginning of two blocs confrontation (NATO and Warsaw Pact) until these countries entered the waves of system crisis. A major thrust is put on formation of doctrines of national sovereignty in defence field, working out of concrete defence plans, strategic and technical aspects of inner- and extra-bloc politics. The study inevitably touches the strategic military policymaking in the USSR and USA. The work is based on a study of a wide range of new declassified evidences of military and political character.
from the four countries of the Balkan Peninsula as well as the USA and the USSR and key countries of Western and Central Europe. A special attention is paid to national historiography of defence history of the four Balkan countries from 1950s till the 1980s.

2014


The 5th volume of the series is dedicated to the period of the “long XIXth century” - from the Great French Revolution till the break of the First World War. It covers a whole range of key issues such as industrial revolution, urbanization, science and development progress, economic growth, shaping of modern political institutes of citizenship, constitutionalism and parliamentarism, liberal, conservative, social and national ideologies, colonial reshaping of the world and the unbelievable dominance of Europe in world affairs. Of special interest are chapters about empires and nations, the global system of states (from the UK to the global South) and the “Russian XIXth century”.

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What meaning can we derive from the vast panorama of the universe, life on Earth, human progress, and our current global challenges?

Humans have asked such questions whenever they have tried to understand existence. This happened when family bands used their deep territorial knowledge to craft worldviews reflecting their keen observations, when Palaeolithic artists painted images on rock walls, as agriculturists developed landscape calendars, and as Pre-Socratic philosophers in Greece, Mauryan sages in India and Zhou scholars in China advanced holistic cosmologies. Rational answers gradually replaced myth in a fact-based understanding of the world. This led to refinement of the scientific method, scholarly research and a unity of knowledge transcending national, religious and ethnic boundaries.

As trade and contact made people aware of each other’s ideas during the process of globalization, scholars began to knit together a universal knowledge about all of humanity and nature. It was in this milieu that the German naturalist, Alexander von Humboldt, developed his five-volume work, Kosmos, between 1845 and 1862, which is regarded as a founding event in big history. Ironically, just as this synthesis came together, its diffusion was interrupted by the advent of the modern university system with its programme of specialization and departmental studies. This partitioning of knowledge led not only to new silos that divided all walks of life but also led to a pervasive distrust of attempts to synthesize concepts into large narratives.

From Departmentalism to Cross-Disciplinary Studies

Despite institutional resistance, the need for holistic frameworks never died away. Society saw the rise of astro/physics, bio/chemistry and electrical/engineering as new interconnections were needed. Nor were such macro-studies confined to higher education. Hindu scholar, artist and 1913 Nobel Prize winner, Rabindranath Tagore, encouraged global networking of science and philosophy, while Christian scholars, like palaeontologist Pierre Teilhard de Chardin, not only advanced science but sought to incorporate it into new thinking about the human condition. Expansive worldviews also persisted in popular culture, as with H.G. Wells’s Outline of History (1920). By the 1930s and 1940s, universal history had even entered primary education, as in the Montessori system, where it was called cosmic education.

Soviet scholars began to develop an integrated pedagogy that spanned the natural and social sciences. One of the first books to describe this new view of existence was by astrophysicist Iosif Shklovsky in Вселенная. Жизнь. Разум (Universe, Life, Intelligence) in 1962. Four years later, an expanded English-language adaptation of this work was produced with American astrophysicist Carl Sagan, Intelligent Life in the Universe. This international co-operation was not accidental, as a similar form of macro-study had also developed in the United States. From the 1920s through the 1950s, Harlow Shapley promoted cosmography at the Harvard College Observatory, a study that examined the interlinked nature of stars, Earth, life and humanity. In the 1960s, Carl Sagan offered his rendition of it. And, in 1974, astrophysicists George Field and Eric Chaisson gave a course and produced materials on what they termed cosmic evolution. Chaisson continues to champion this field of study with a rich array of work. Other scientists had also independently moved in this direction, as with G. Siegfried Kutter at Evergreen State College, Tom Bania at Boston University, and Michael Rampino at New York University. This progress towards assembling a big picture of our place in the scheme of things separately emerged in other parts of the world too. In the 1980s, Chinese scholars, including the celebrated rocket scientist, Qian Xuesen, began to research complexity. They published a paper on what they called 开放的复杂巨系统 (Open Complex Giant System), which had parallels with cosmic evolution, in that it was a meta-synthesis of scientific knowledge. Scholars produced a wealth of books that were formulations of this expanded worldview, such as biogeologist Preston Cloud’s Cosmos, Earth and Man (1978) and astrophysicist Erich Jantsch’s The Self-Organizing Universe (1980). Mathematician Antonio Vélez in Colombia began a trilogy on universal history with Del Big Bang al Homo sapiens (1984). Some of these works became very popular. The television series, Cosmos, with Carl Sagan (1980) was viewed by over 500 million people in 60 countries, while the book, A Brief History of Time (1988), by English astrophysicist Stephen Hawking, sold over 9 million copies. Parallel to this activity in the natural sciences, social and economic studies had coalesced with international relations in an effort to comprehend the many faces of global development. Economic historian Andre Gunder Frank attempted to move global studies outside of Cold War frameworks and described what he saw as a one-world system, while historical social scientist Immanuel Wallerstein envisioned it as being composed of interlocking subsystems. This socio-historical work expanded further and began to merge with larger paradigms, as when economist Graeme Snooks moved his Theory of Global Dynamic Systems beyond the modern era to encompass all of Earth’s history, including its physical interactions.

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4 Akop Nazaretyan, Western and Russian Traditions of Big History: A Philosophical Insight*. Journal for General Philosophy of Science 36, 2005: 63-80.
10 Institute of Global Dynamic Systems.
**The Merging of Cross-Disciplinary Studies**

Another manifestation of these cross-disciplinary connections appeared in calls for reform of the university system. In 1985, historian John Mears advocated for an integrated curriculum of general education organized around a theme of universal history. Four years later, he began a course that spanned all existence, in the context of history, at Southern Methodist University in Dallas, Texas (USA), as did David Christian at Macquarie University in Sydney (Australia). As Christian explains, he began asking scholars the question: "When does history begin?" Receiving different answers, he realized that students were getting confused fragments about our origins: The astronomer talking of ‘galaxy and star formation’, the geologist discussing ‘plate tectonics and erosion’, and the biologist describing ‘life and evolution’ were all referring in different ways to what historians might describe simply as historical change or change through time. So Christian sought to “erase” the “jagged edges” between these studies and design a course that was more unified. In 1991, he coined the term, “big history” in a moment of whimsy, when asked what such a perspective was called, and the name stuck, at least for many social scientists. Physical scientists tend to retain the cognomen, “cosmic evolution.” While this trajectory developed in American and Australian classrooms, it continued to spread in Russia and China, and sprang up elsewhere.

Historical psychologist Akop Nazaretyan codified his research in the Russian Academy of Sciences to develop an integrated pedagogy under the Education Ministry’s category of “conceptions of modern sciences,” which he called Универсальная история (universal history). In 1991, he produced *Intelligence in the Universe: Sources, Evolution, Prospects*, which served as a bridge between Shklovsky’s work and his own work in social psychology and conflict resolution. He joined with global historians and scientists in this effort, such as biologist Alexander Markov, anthropologist Andrey Korotayev, and astrophysicist Alexander Panov.

In China, historians continued the synthesis begun by colleagues in the physical sciences. Historians Qi Tao (1991) and Cheng Ming (1994) argued for interdisciplinary, holistic and materialist interpretations of ancient history, which led to dramatic insights. In 1996, science historians Dong Guangzi and Tian Kunyu published their synthesis, *The Origin of Heaven and Earth – Natural Evolution and the Birth of Life*. Three years later, historian Ma Shili, at Nankai University, extended his text on world history to include cosmic origins and the evolution of life. And, in 2000, historian Huang Liuzhu called for uniting natural and human histories in China, urging his colleagues at Northwest University (Xi’an in Shaanxi) to initiate such a program.

After sociologist Johan Goudsblom encountered big history on a visit to Australia in 1992, he began a similar course with anthropologist Fred Spier in the Netherlands two years later. Spier then produced, *The Structure of Big History: From the Big Bang until Today* (1996), in which he outlined some of the parameters of the new field.

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Huang Liuzhu’s proposal for uniting natural and human history at Northwest University not adopted. Sun Yue, personal communication, to Barry Rodrigue, 2013–2014. Sun Yue at Capital Normal University in Beijing is the leading big historian in China and has been engaged in a study of Chinese traditions of macrohistory. Sun Chao at Shandong Normal University in Jinan was a student of Ma Shili. We appreciate their insights into the development of Big History in East Asia. Ph.D. students Li Qingcheng at Sun Yat-sen University in Guangzhou and Zhao Beiping at Beijing Normal University also assisted with translation.

15 Fred Spier, “The Small History of the Big History Course at the University of Amsterdam,” in *World History Connected* 2 (2), 2005: 1, URL: (worldhistoryconnected.press.illinois.edu/2.2/spier.html).
Eric Chaisson’s works serve as standard texts for physical scientists, as with *Cosmic Evolution: The Rise of Complexity in Nature* (2001) and *Epic of Evolution: Seven Ages of the Cosmos* (2005). Akop Nazaretyan synthesized the principles of universal history in *Civilization Crises within the Context of Big (Universal) History: Self-Organization, Psychology and Forecasts* (2001). David Christian developed his *Maps of Time: An Introduction to Big History* (2004), while Cynthia Stokes Brown produced *Big History: From the Big Bang to the Present* (2007), which she honed into a continuum of world history. These and other volumes have been translated into world languages and are regularly produced in new editions. Thus, a solid core of literature came into service of the field.

The first world conference on big history took place at the International University of Nature, Society and Humanity in Dubna, Russia in November 2005 on the topic of *Big History and Synergetics*. As a result of this gathering, an edition of the journal, *Social Evolution and History*, was devoted to big history in 2005, edited by Graeme Snooks and including many of the field’s innovators.

Several historical associations encouraged the development of big history, including the World History Association and The Historical Society, while big historians helped form the Network of Global and World History Organizations. Senior historians like William McNeill provided advice and support, as did publishers like global historian Leonid Grinin at Uchitel Publishing in Russia and the Berkshire Publishing Group in the United States. As information technology and computer networks expanded, websites articulating a big history approach also developed. Eric Chaisson and his colleagues brought online, *The Arrow of Time* (2007) and *Cosmic Evolution: From Big Bang to Humankind* (2008), while Walter Alvarez and Roland Saekow developed Chronozoom (2010).

As it stands today, big history is an integrated study that seeks to comprehend existence. To do this, it engages a variety of disciplines and multiple forms of creative expression. Although a review of the literature might give the impression that it is “science focused” or only concerns itself with the big picture, that impression would be inaccurate. The interdisciplinary combination of ideas, tools and technologies also informs traditional and more focused studies. As a result, we have seen rich analysis and newly informed research about the development and persistence of Jericho in Palestine as the oldest city in the world, on the building of Tiananmen in Beijing as an expression of natural behaviour, as well as new assessment of the decline of the Western Roman Empire.

Scholars identify the processes that come together in big history in various ways. Biologist E.O. Wilson refers to the cross-disciplinary unification of knowledge as *consilience*, Fred Spier breaks it down into a series of nested *regimes*, while David Christian and others focus on *thresholds*. The field employs concepts like collective learning, energy rate density, and a concern for the present Anthropocene epoch. Being a young nexus of people and information, other new conceptions will certainly appear.

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The Consolidation of a Movement

It is easy to look backwards now and see this trend, but, as recently as 2009, the leading advocates for the field were unsure about how widespread this movement was or would become. So, Barry Rodrigue began assembling a global directory and a bibliography, and expanded his correspondence network, in an attempt to determine who was doing this kind of work. The shared belief was that there were only perhaps a handful of active scholars. To everyone’s surprise, they found dozens of people teaching and researching different forms of big history around the world. Most had independently developed their own perspective because “it just made sense” – in other words, a global conjuncture had taken place over the previous fifty years.

As a result of discovering this global ferment, Rodrigue proposed the formation of a global association of big history in August 2010, during a workshop at the Coldigioco Geological Observatory in the Apennine Mountains of Italy. Discussion of forming such a professional society had gone on for years, but the documentation of big history practitioners made it apparent that there was indeed a critical mass sufficient to make such an association viable. Thus, the International Big History Association (IBHA) was launched. The working definition that they adopted is: Big history seeks to understand the integrated history of the cosmos, Earth, life and humanity, using the best available empirical evidence and scholarly methods.

Besides the IBHA headquarters at Grand Valley State University in Grand Rapids, Michigan (USA), a number of independent regional centres have formed. The Eurasian Centre for Megahistory and System Forecasting is part of the Russian Academy of Sciences. Big history is being established at all levels of education in South Korea as part of their national program of convergence education. In Japan, it has become integrated with a program of world peace. Macquarie University in Sydney, Australia has established a Big History Institute, an institute at the University of Amsterdam is forming, as is the Asian Big History Association. A variety of initiatives are underway in China and India.

Big history also has received endorsements from public figures like Microsoft founder Bill Gates, Nixon White House counsel John Dean, and American vice-president Al Gore. This led to some positive productions, as when Bill Gates engaged with David Christian to develop a free, online secondary and continuing education curriculum, which began as the “Big History Project” in 2011. Two years later, Sun Yue, editor of the Global History Review, produced, with his colleagues ...

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21 The Big Historians who met at Coldigioco and founded the International Big History Association on 20 August 2010 were David Christian of Macquarie University in Sydney (Australia), Walter Alvarez of the University of California at Berkeley (USA), Craig Benjamin of Grand Valley State University in Michigan (USA), Cynthia Brown of Dominican University in California (USA), Fred Spier of the University of Amsterdam (Netherlands), Lowell Gustafson of Villanova University in Pennsylvania (USA), and Barry Rodrigue of the University of Southern Maine (USA). Other participants who were instrumental at this session were Alessandro Montanari and Paula Metallo (directors of the Coldigioco Geological Observatory), Milly Alvarez, Pamela Benjamin, Gina Giandomenico, Penelope Markle, Daron Green and Michael Dix. Barry Rodrigue chaired this first meeting.
22 The various centres that have sprung up often develop secondary focus that reflect regional scholarly work. Thus, the Eurasian Centre in Moscow has a focus on system forecasting, which reflects their interests in cliodynamics and the predictive potential of historical and social research.

So the question arises, what does this all portend? If this were just an obscure micro-discipline that a handful of specialists were advocating, then it would not necessarily be of significance. But, since the movement, as well as its area of scholarship, reflects a human trend of wider, more inclusive awareness of natural phenomena, we see big history as a field of cooperative, scientific and scholarly endeavour that will continue to expand with exciting possibilities and will lead to a deeper understanding of our existence.

Acknowledgments: The author would like to thank the following people for reading this article and offering thoughtful and constructive comments: G. Siegfried Kutter, John Mears, Eric Chaisson, Sun Yue, David Christian, Fred Spier, and Penelope Markle.

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Bibliography of Recent Materials about Big History, Cosmic Evolution, Mega-History, and Universal History

by Barry H. Rodrigue, with Sun Yue

This is a compilation of some of the 21st century materials relating to the field of big history, cosmic evolution, mega-history and universal history. While many entries imply a general overview, they also include case studies that illustrate the utility of big history techniques in more traditional studies. A number of these entries illustrate how what is now called ‘big history’ by some scholars in the West was actually a global conjuncture, independently developed at almost the same time in different societies around the world.

Walter Alvarez, The Mountains of Saint Francis, W.W. Norton, 2009, ISBN 978-0393061857. The author is a geologist and big historian who describes his lifetime of research in Italy. His narrative also provides the background of his research about the asteroid impact that ended the dinosaurs’ sovereignty of Earth 65 million years ago.

Walter Alvarez / Roland Saekow, ChronoZoom, University of California, Berkeley, in association with Microsoft Research, 2014, URL: (chronozoom.com). This is a free, online tool for creating interactive timelines and illustrating historical events, from the big bang to the present day. ChronoZoom was conceived and pioneered by a geologist and by a designer seeking to improve big history education. Featuring a zoom factor of five trillion, it helps students and instructors better understand the vast timescales of the cosmos, Earth, prehistory and humanity. It also works to represent traditional timescales.

David Baker, The Roman Dominate from the Perspective of Demographic-Structural Theory, in: Cliodynamics 2, 2012, pp. 217–251. This work examines the ‘fall’ of the Roman Empire, from the perspective of cliodynamics, with a focus on population cycles and elite dynamics in the final phase of the Roman polity. A big history perspective was used to revisit long-standing questions of what caused the decline of Rome.

—, Crashcourse, Big History, at: YouTube, 2015, URL: (youtube.com/playlist?list=PL8dPuuaLjXtMczaXZUmb3mZSU1Roxnrey). This is a series of ten online episodes that provides an overview of the main phases and core concepts of big history. Originated and written by big historian David Baker, it is presented by John and Hank Green, and funded by Bill Gates Catalyst 3. It is one of the core materials of the Big History Project.

—, Collective Learning: A Potential Unifying Theme of Human History, in: Journal of World History, 26 [Forthcoming 2015]. This paper looks at collective learning as a concept, its evolution within hominine species, and its role in human history. The author explains the connection of collective learning to Jared Diamond’s ‘Tasmanian Effect.’ Collective learning also played a key role in the two ‘great divergences’ of the past two millennia – the agricultural and industrial revolutions. The paper discusses how collective learning forges connections between history, cosmolgy, geology and biology, through a unifying theme of big history – the rise of complexity.

Craig Benjamin, Introduction to the World History Connected Forum on Big History, in: World History Connected, 6, 3 (2009). This essay is an introduction to a collection of articles by leading practitioners of big history. It introduces the genre of big history by locating it within the broader
historiographical tradition of universal history; outlines some of the new perspectives or insights big history brings to world history; and introduces to readers the collection of big history articles assembled for this forum.

—, The Convergence of Logic, Faith and Values in the Modern Creation Myth, in: Cheryl Genet / Brian Swimme / Russell Genet / Louise Palmer, eds., Evolutionary Epic: Science’s Story and Humanity’s Response, Collins Foundation, 2009, 147–153. This essay argues that big history is a powerful tool to engage and challenge students at the highest level of their consciousness, because, at every level, it raises profound questions about origins, what it means to be human, and the reason and purpose for existence.

—, Big History, Collective Learning, and the Silk Roads, in: Leonid Grinin / David Baker / Esther Quaedackers / Andrey Korotayev, eds., Teaching and Researching Big History: Exploring a New Scholarly Field, Uchitel, 2014, 265–276. The silk roads are a quintessential example of the interconnectedness of societies during the era of agrarian civilization. This essay argues that the comingling of goods, ideas and diseases around a geographical hub deep in Eurasia was the catalyst for an extraordinary increase in the complexity of human relationships and collective learning, a complexity that helped drive our species towards the revolution of modernity.

—, The Little Big History of Jericho, in: Barry Rodrigue / Leonid Grinin / Andrey Korotayev, eds, From Big Bang to Galactic Civilizations: A Big History Anthology, Volume 1, Our Place in the Universe: An Introduction to Big History, Primus Books, 2015, 247–262. This essay uses Jericho as a case study to explore the critical relationship between history and its environmental context. Jericho is the oldest known city on the planet; its location and 14,000-year survival provide an excellent example of how big history can offer new perspectives on human history.

Craig Benjamin / Esther Quaedackers / David Baker, eds., The Routledge Handbook of Big History, Routledge [Forthcoming 2018]. This volume features essays from 25 of the world’s leading big historians. The essays are organized into five thematic sections, each composed of five chapters. The sections are on the topics of big history and science; big history, social science and the humanities; little big histories; teaching big history; and big history and the future.

Big History Project (bighistoryproject.com). The Big History Project is a free and comprehensive curriculum for secondary level students around the globe. The website is home to a number of big history resources, including a self-guided, six-hour version of the course for life-long learners. This mini-course for adults is presented in five chapters: (1) The Universe, (2) Our Solar System and the Earth, (3) Life, (4) Humans, and (5) Today and Beyond. There is a sign-up page for educators who would like access to the comprehensive course for secondary students. It provides instructors with all they need to teach big history, including 10 units with over 150 hours of resources, videos and primary sources for students, lesson plans, and connection to the BHP’s large network of teachers.

Rich Blundell, Making it Real: Developing Cosmosis1, the Cosmic Background Radiation Explorer App, in: International Journal of Immersive Education, July 2013. The Cosmic Background Explorer App is available on iTunes at (itunes.apple.com/us/app/cosmosis1-cosmic-microwave/id896359769?ls=1&mt=8). This is the first in a series of the developer’s smartphone apps that enhance education in and communication of big history ideas. This app teaches users
what the cosmic background radiation is, how we know what it is, and where it is. It provides a real-time, geospatial, and phenomenological experience.

—, Shakespeare in the Cave: A Big History of Art is the first in a series of the author’s public lectures. It was initially presented at the second conference of the International Big History Association, in August 2014, in San Rafael, California, and is available for viewing on YouTube at (www.youtube.com/watch?v=VoisuLgCDr0). It is a creative-practice project, emanating out of the author’s Ph.D. dissertation, and concerns the transformative learning that can happen through engaging with the big history narrative.

Cynthia Stokes Brown, Big History: From the Big Bang to the Present, New Press, 2012, ISBN 9781595588487. This book contextualizes human history within the scope of universe history. Because the science is explained simply, this volume is accessible for undergraduates without strong science backgrounds. Two of the thirteen chapters pertain to science; they can easily be added to a global/world history course to provide the whole framework. Using the whole book enables students to understand the current challenges of limited resources and climate change.

—, Constructing a Survey Big History Course, in: Leonid Grinin / David Baker / Esther Quaedackers / Andrey Korotayev, eds., Teaching and Researching Big History: Exploring a New Scholarly Field, Uchitel, 2014, 328–335. This article explores decisions facing an instructor who wants to begin teaching big history. It suggests multiple possible solutions about how to proceed, either as an individual instructor or as a team of instructors.

Canadian National Film Board, Hubert Reeves, Star Teller, Iolande Cadrin-Rossignol (director), 2002. Hubert Reeves is an astrophysicist whose honours from the scientific community include the Albert Einstein award. He is also known for his exceptional talent to integrate science and humanism. He studied with some of the great scientific minds of the 20th century, such as Hans Bethe, Philip Morrison and Bob Wilson. Professor Reeves explains history and theory in a highly accessible way. A committed ecologist, he warns about the deterioration of our planet. In the face of explosive economic globalization, he believes that globalization of ecological movements offers hope.

Eric Chaisson, Epic of Evolution: Seven Ages of the Cosmos, Columbia University, 2006, ISBN 978-0231135603. Researchers around the globe have acquired vast amounts of observational data and gained much theoretical insight into many aspects of cosmic evolution. The story of cosmic evolution has been strengthened by advances in non-equilibrium thermodynamics, a frontier subject that models the flow of energy through open, complex structures – whether those structures are galaxies, stars, planets, or life.

—, Practical Applications of Cosmology to Human Society, in: Natural Science, 6, 10 (2014), pp. 767–796. Complex systems display structures and functions built and maintained by optimal energies flowing through them. Cosmic evolution is rich in empirical findings about systems that can help assess global problems. Despite its grand and ambitious objective to unify theoretical understanding of all known complex systems, cosmic evolution’s emphasis on quantitative data analyses informs us about the serious issues challenging 21st-century society, including global warming, world economics, and cancer. This paper suggests how energy-flow modelling can guide our search for viable solutions to real-world predicaments.
This multi-media website derives from Professor Chaisson’s *Universe: An Evolutionary Approach to Astronomy* (1988), *Cosmic Evolution: The Rise of Complexity in Nature* (2001), and *Epic of Evolution: Seven Ages of the Cosmos* (2006). It comprises the essence of his undergraduate course on cosmic evolution, taught for the past 35 years, mostly at Harvard University. The introductory track is for non-scientists who may select any epoch along the arrow of time, as well as figures, tables and key terms for expanded viewing. The advanced track is for specialists, including PDF files for each epoch, which are updated every few months.

Ji-Hyung Cho [조지형] / Seohyung Kim [김서형] / Myunghyun Lee [이명현] / Daeik Jang [장대익 감수], *Big History Series*, Seoul: Y-School, Big History Series, 2012 (Korean publication). This is a twenty-volume series of school books on the subject of big history that were written for Korean teenagers. It was part of the Korean National Research Foundation program for the World Class University, a national effort to invigorate education and stimulate new directions for research and pedagogy. Among its projects, it launched efforts to establish big history in Korea, at all levels of education. This series was one of the products of this work. It is intended to serve as a series of readers in big history, so as to educate students about the field of study and to change their attitudes about our global society.

Ji-Hyung Cho [조지형] / David Christian / Bob Bain, *Big History*, Haenamu, 2013, ISBN 978-8956056937 (Korean publication). This collection on big history includes Professor Cho’s overview, along with translation of materials from the Big History Project, as well as Korean and other examples. It is used in high school and university education.

David Christian, *Maps of Time: An Introduction to “Big History,”* University of California, 2004, ISBN 0-520-23500-2. This book demonstrates that big history can be told with rigour and precision. It provides valuable insights derived from synergies between many different disciplines. It argues that the broad context of big history offers new ways of approaching many of the core questions of world history, including the question of when human history itself really started and when social complexity arose.

—, *Christian, David, William McNeill. An Introduction to ‘Big History’,* 2008. URL: (http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IBCvIK7g8U. This was a dialogue between historian emeritus William McNeill and big historian David Christian about how their views of global and world history converge.

—, The Return of Universal History, in: History and Theory, 49, 4 (2010), pp. 5–26. This article placed big history within the framework of historical scholarship. It argues that something analogous to big history has been present in most human communities, wherever people constructed and passed on ‘origin stories.’ In some form, ‘universal histories’ have also been common within written historiographical traditions in many parts of the world. These traditions vanished in the
late 19th century, as modern scholarship, in field after field, committed to specialization. The appearance of big history in the late twentieth century counts therefore as a revival, on the basis of modern scientific scholarship in many different fields, of an ancient approach to understanding the past.

—, World Environmental History, in: Jerry Bentley, ed., The Oxford Handbook of World History, Oxford University, 2011, 125–142. Big history raises many questions about the human relationship to the biosphere and environment. Indeed, there is a natural affinity between big history and environmental history. Because big history explores the past at such large scales, it makes us peculiarly aware of the vast increase in the scale of human interactions with the biosphere in recent centuries, in the epoch known as the ‘Anthropocene.’ This article focuses on environmental history at global scales, and on the relationship between environmental history, world history and big history.

—, The History of our World in 18 Minutes, presentation for the TED (Technology, Education, Design) conference series, 2 March 2011, URL: (youtube.com/watch?v=yqc9zX04DXs). This was a landmark presentation by David Christian on big history. It served as a launching event for the Big History Project (see above), which Christian developed with Bill Gates.

David Christian / Cynthia Brown / Craig Benjamin, Big History: Between Nothing and Everything, McGraw-Hill, 2013, ISBN 978-0-07-338561-7. This is the first college-level text on big history, written by three big historians with long experience in teaching the subject. It updates the big history narrative, incorporates the core idea of thresholds of increasing complexity, and provides further readings and resources, along with chapter questions and many illustrations, maps and diagrams. Nine of the thirteen chapters concern global human history, which help it dovetail into existing narratives of world history.

Dwight Collins / Russell Genet / David Christian, Crafting a New Narrative to Support Sustainability, in: State of the World, 2013: Is Sustainability Still Possible? 2013, 218–224, ISBN 978-1-61091-449-9. State of the World has published updates on human relationships to the biosphere since the 1990s. This article proposes that re-thinking our relationship to the global environment in order to build sustainable societies will require, among other things, re-thinking our understanding of human history and the relationship of humans to the planet. That new chronicle already exists within big history, so the article proposes that big history provides the narrative that will be needed if we are to build a more sustainable world.

Deep Time Journey Network (www.deeptimejourney.org). This is an online, global community of educators, scientists, clergy, artists and others exploring an evolving universe in a foundational context. Begun by Jennifer Morgan, its members represent different “lineages”: Montessori cosmic education, big history, new cosmology, and others. Participants add profiles, resources and events, and participate in forum discussions and groups. Philosophical overlap and differences between lineages are explored on the forum. Online professional development programs for teachers of children (ages 0 to 18) begin in autumn 2015.

Huichuan Duan [段会川], ChronoZoom: New Thinking in Time-Lined Knowledge for History and Historical Sciences, Origins, International Big History Association, 3, 11 (2013), pp. 14–18. This paper describes the work by a computer scientist to adapt the online, big history platform, ChronoZoom, for use in China (see Alvarez/Saekow, above).
Evolution is an English-language, Russian-based almanac produced by Uchitel Publishing House in Volgograd. It has a focus on big history and global history. Three of their almanacs have been published so far – Evolution: Cosmic, Biological, Social (2011); Evolution: A Big History Perspective (2011); Evolution: Development within Big History, Evolutionary and World-System Paradigms (2013). The series is managed by the macro-historians Leonid Grinin and Andrey Korotayev, who also work with the Eurasian Center for Megahistory and System Forecasting (Moscow).

Tom Gehrels, Survival through Evolution, from Multiverse to Modern Society, BookSurge, 2007, ISBN 978-1419670558. Astronomer Tom Gehrels merges a lifetime of scientific research with a lifetime of social experience to produce this very readable synthesis of existence. His narrative spans his days as a resistance fighter against the Nazis through those as a graduate student of astrophysics in Chicago. Professor Gehrels participated in the discovery of over 4000 asteroids, as well as a number of comets. In 1980, he founded the Spacewatch Project, which uses telescopes on Kitt Peak (Arizona) to survey the sky for threats to Earth.

—, The Chandra Multiverse, in: Barry Rodrigue / Leonid Grinin / Andrey Korotayev, eds, From Big Bang to Galactic Civilizations: A Big History Anthology, Volume III, The Ways that Big History Works: Cosmos, Life, Society, and our Future, Primus Books [Forthcoming 2016]. This paper focuses on the redeployment of an equation developed by astrophysicist Subrahmanyan Chandrasekhar – the cosmic-mass equation. As a result of this work, Professor Gehrels deduces the existence of our universe within a larger multiverse, which he names the “Chandra Multiverse.”


Leonid Grinin / Andrey Korotayev / Robert Carneiro / Fred Spier, Evolutionary Megaparadigm: Potential, Problems, Perspectives, in: Barry Rodrigue / Leonid Grinin / Andrey Korotayev, eds, From Big Bang to Galactic Civilizations: A Big History Anthology, Volume 1, Our Place in the Universe: An Introduction to Big History, Primus Books, 2015, 83–97. Evolutionary studies are an area in which natural and social sciences and the humanities find common ground. However, a higher level of co-operation so as to better achieve such integration is needed, which implies the need for a common field within which we can clarify evolutionary approaches, terminology and principles. The authors propose that this new interdisciplinary field already exists; it is big history.

Lowell Gustafson, Big History, Part I, in: International Schools Journal, 33, 2 (2014), pp. 35–46; Big History, Part II, International Schools Journal, 34, 1 (2014), pp. 50–60. With advances in the natural sciences, analysis of physical evidence has transformed previous understandings of the past. History can no longer be restricted to the written record. Historical periods can no longer be organized just by political, economic, social or cultural criteria or over the past few centuries and millennia. These two articles present the field of big history in the context of traditional history.

—, Big Politics, in: Barry Rodrigue / Leonid Grinin / Andrey Korotayev, eds, From Big Bang to Galactic Civilizations: A Big History Anthology, Volume 1, Our Place in the Universe: An Introduction to Big History, Primus Books, 2015, 275–267. This essay extends the origins and develop-
ment of politics to before traditional starting points (in the ancient period, 2500 years ago). This re-evaluation permits us to reframe a variety of pressing current political issues, such as globalization, race relations, and gender politics.

David Hookes, The Evolution of Information Systems: From the Big Bang to the Era of Globalization, in: Barry Rodrigue / Leonid Grinin / Andrey Korotayev, eds, From Big Bang to Galactic Civilizations: A Big History Anthology, Volume 1, Our Place in the Universe: An Introduction to Big History, Primus Books, 2015, 288–304. The development of the universe can be seen as a series of stages, with each stage associated with a new information system. The present form of globalization is made possible, in part, by the development of modern information and communications technology. Information workers are the dominant profession in advanced economies, and one of their sub-groups, knowledge workers, can play an especially important role in resolving the crises of the socio-economic and physical environment.

Nigel Hughes, Monisha and the Stone Forest, [Monishar Pathorer Bon], Geological Society of India, 2012, ISBN 978-81-9076367-7. This book was written by a palaeobiologist and big historian who works in the Himalayas. Professor Hughes introduces basic principles of historical geology as revealed to a bright and curious village girl in her quest to find a natural explanation for “gatchpathor” (petrified wood) that is common throughout much of Bengal. This effort in science education introduces scientific thinking about earth history to children. It was part of the Geological Society of India’s outreach program to children in regional languages, being published in Bengali and English.

International Big History Association (http://www.ibhanet.org/). The IBHA was founded in 2010 at a meeting of big historians in the Apennine Mountains of Italy, at the Coldigioco Geological Observatory. Its website hosts references and information pertaining to big history around the world. Its newsletter, Origins, provides news of developments in the field, as do the IBHA’s biennial conferences. This website provides contacts for the association’s officers and others, for anyone interested in further information about big history.

Seohyung Kim, Big History Education and the Convergence Education Program for Talented Students [거대사교육과융합영재교육프로그램], 이화사학연구 [Ewha History Bulletin], 44, 1 (June 2012), pp. 257–281 (Korean publication). This article describes the development of convergence education and big history in Korea, and why they are important in today’s world. Adopted by Korean educators, convergence education connects the natural and social sciences and the humanities, in order to develop new kinds of insights and creativity. This integration expands traditional frames of historical analysis to larger contexts, uses story-telling and narrative as one of its styles, and suggests that big history can be a powerful tool.

—, 韩国的大历史教育 [Big History Education in Korea], in: 全球史评论 [Global History Review], 6 (December 2013), pp. 274–289 (Chinese publication). This article was written in order to assist the expansion big history education in China by providing information about how the field developed in Korea.

Seohyung Kim / Yong Woo Kim, 거대사: 세계사의 새로운 대안 [Big History: New Alternative to World History], Seohaemunjip, 2009 (Korean publication). This was the first big history book in Korea. It provides a guideline of how to understand human historical relation-
ships with their surroundings, as well as providing an understanding of the natural world before human development.

G. Siegfried Kutter, Big History: A Personal Perspective, in: Barry Rodrigue / Leonid Grinin / Andrey Korotayev, eds., From Big Bang to Galactic Civilizations: A Big History Anthology, Volume 1, Our Place in the Universe: An Introduction to Big History, Primus Books, 2015, 24–41. Astrophysicist G. Siegfried Kutter summarizes our scientific understanding of the history of the universe, starting with its beginning in the big bang to the formation of the Sun and its planets, the origin of life on Earth, and life’s evolution towards the enormous diversity that we witness today. He concludes with the global challenges that we face and gives a brief answer to the question: “Where do we go from here?” This includes a discussion of his ground-breaking book of big history, The Universe and Life: Origins and Evolution (1987).

Xincheng Liu / Sun Yue, eds., [Global History Review], 6, 《全球史评论》 [Theme Issue: Big History and Global History], China Social Sciences Press, 2013 (Chinese publication). This is the first comprehensive journal publication devoted to global and big history in China; comprehensive, in that it encompasses three important sections of big history – theory, teaching, and “little big history.” It includes both international and Chinese scholars’ reflections on some of the key issues of big history.

Yaohui Liu, 大历史与历史研究 [Big History and Historical Research], in: 史学理论研究 [Historiographical Quarterly], 4 (2011), pp. 38–50 (Chinese publication). This provides an introduction to big history, relating the field to historical research in China. It affirms the value of big history by pointing out its interdisciplinary nature, which serves as a useful complement to traditional world history curricula.

Xin Ma / Tao Qi, 中国远古社会史论 [A Treatise on Far Ancient Chinese Social History], Science Press, 2003 (Chinese publication). This book employs cross-disciplinary research to address themes from ancient Chinese history, such as floods and other natural events. Many of these accounts have been presented as myths by traditional historians. The authors use archaeological and other scientific approaches and techniques to assess the facts of these ancient traditions. It employs novel interdisciplinary techniques, parallel to big history.

Alexander Markov / Andrey Korotayev, Phanerozoic Marine Biodiversity Follows a Hyperbolic Trend, in: Palaeoworld 16, 4 (2007), pp. 311–318. Changes in biodiversity during the present Phanerozoic eon correlate better to hyperbolic models (used in demography and macrosociology) than to logistical models (used in population biology and applied to fossil biodiversity). The authors’ findings suggest that similar macro-patterns exist within biological and social phases of big history and that these can be described with mathematical models.


John Mears, Implications of the Evolutionary Epic for the Study of Human History, in: Cheryl Genet / Brian Swimme / Russell Genet / Louise Palmer, eds., The Evolutionary Epic: Sciences Story and Humanity’s Response, Collins Foundation, 2009, 135–144. Historian John Mears describes how he found himself, as a young professor, reacting against academia’s increasing
fragmentation. He expressed his frustration with a defence of general education, resulting in a 1985 article entitled “Evolutionary Process: An Organizing Principle for General Education,” in which he stressed the need to establish connections between disciplines. It amounted to a call to establish a new core curriculum based on big history. His paper describes this process.

Metanexus Institute (www.metanexus.ent). Founded in 1998, Metanexus promotes scientifically rigorous and philosophically open-ended explorations of foundational questions. Its website features over 10,000 essays under the rubric “Big History, Big Questions, Big Problems.” Metanexus has hosted a dozen international conferences and worked with over 400 universities in 45 countries.

Alexander Mirkovic, The Real End of History, in: Barry Rodrigue / Leonid Grinin / Andrey Korotayev, eds., From Big Bang to Galactic Civilizations: A Big History Anthology, Volume 1, Our Place in the Universe: An Introduction to Big History, Primus Books, 2015, 188–208. At the end of the Cold War, political scientist Francis Fukuyama declared an end to grand narratives, as well as the triumph of democracy and liberal capitalism. However, historian Alexander Mirkovic argues that the world saw, instead, a resurgence of religious fundamentalism, along with an attack on science and opposition to paradigms like big history. Professor Mirkovic argues for big history as a branch of the history of science, and proposes that big historians should seriously analyse possible futures, as the future is also a major part of the “map of time.”


Jennifer Morgan (writer) / Dana Lynn Andersen (illustrator), Born with a Bang, The Universe Tells our Cosmic Story, Dawn Publications, 2002, ISBN 1-58469-033-X. The first volume in a children’s trilogy, this illustrated story provides an illustrated history of the universe, covering the big bang through the formation of our solar system. The second volume, From Lava to Life (2003), recounts the emergence of life to the extinction of dinosaurs, while the third volume, Mammals Who Morph (2006), covers mammal and human evolution. It includes science concepts along with a glossary and references. These books were developed in collaboration with scientists and scholars.

Osamu Nakanishi [中西治] / Kaoru Sakurai [桜井薰] / Nobuo Tsujimura [辻村伸雄] / Hirofumi Katayama [片山博文], ビッグ・ヒストリーと21世紀の国際秩序 [Big History and the 21st Century’s International Order], Institute for Global and Cosmic Peace, 2014, ISBN 978-4907614010 (Japanese publication). This is a four-part collection of integrated essays relating to big history. Osamu Nakanishi defines big history as a scientific version of universal history, outlines its 13.8 billion year history, and draws lessons for peace from it. Kaoru Sakurai describes a visit to Moscow, in 2013, by members of the Institute for Global and Cosmic Peace, where they met with Akop Nazaretyan, director of the Eurasian Center for Big History and Systems Forecasting. Nobuo Tsujimura argues that mind is part of nature and cautions about the hubris of human belief in their dominance. He also considers mega-history by reviewing Professor Nazaretyan’s work. Hirofumi Katayama seeks another cosmological perspective on humanity, one with which to overcome the modern risks threatening global peace, by comparing two risk theories.

—, Mega-evolution and Big History, in: Barry Rodrigue / Leonid Grinin / Andrey Korotayev, eds, From Big Bang to Galactic Civilizations: A Big History Anthology, Volume 1, Our Place in the Universe: An Introduction to Big History, Primus Books, 2015, 125–143. Big history was construed in the 1980s and 1990s, simultaneously, in different countries, after relevant premises had matured in the sciences and humanities. Various versions and traditions of big history are considered in this article. Most Western authors emphasize the idea of equilibrium and thus reduce cosmic, biological and social evolution to mass-energy processes. In the Russian tradition, sustainable non-equilibrium patterns are preferred. This non-equilibrium approach, in the context of modern control and self-organization theories, alters the portrayal of the past and the estimation of civilization’s potentials.

Frank Niele, Energy: Engine of Evolution, Elsevier, 2005, ISBN 978-0444518866. This book describes how energy has been an integral driver of evolution. Dr. Niele, an exploratory scientist at Shell Laboratories in Amsterdam, has developed an innovative energy timescale that parallels the more familiar geological timescale. He discusses the effects this information might have on human society and how we should begin organization for this future, from an energy standpoint.

Alexander Panov, Сингулярная точка истории [The Singular Point of History], in: Общественные науки и современность [Social Sciences Today] 1 (2005), pp. 122–137 (Russian publication). A leading Russian astronomer considers the implications of his scaling law of evolution, which analyses major evolutionary thresholds. (The Snooks-Panov Vertical is so named, because a version of this law was independently discovered by Graeme Snooks, a systems theorist in Australia). The decrease in time between thresholds leads to the postulation of a singularity point in the mid-21st century. Professor Panov considers its significance.

Tao Qi [齐涛], ed., 世界史纲 [An Outline of World History], Taishan Press, 2012 (Chinese publication). This collection represents the apex of Professor Qi’s cross-disciplinary historical research. It takes the world as its province and extends back in time to its start. This book was reviewed by Professor Sun Yue in the Guangming Daily (29 July 2012) as a form of big history.

Esther Quaedackers, A Little Big History of Tiananmen, in: Barry Rodrigue / Leonid Grinin / Andrey Korotayev, eds., From Big Bang to Galactic Civilizations: A Big History Anthology, Volume 1, Our Place in the Universe: An Introduction to Big History, Primus Books, 2015, 263–274. This article explores human building and animal building. Special attention is paid to the circumstances that encourage building in the animal world as well as among human builders. This paper uses Tiananmen in Beijing as a case study.

Hubert Reeves, L’avenir de la vie sur Terre [Hope for Life on Earth], Bayard, 2012, ISBN 978-2-2274-8525-9 (French publication). The ecological perils on Earth are real, from global warming to
the loss of biodiversity. Scientist Hubert Reeves evaluates the situation and proposes actions based on our cosmic origins, developments on Earth, and recent scientific discoveries.

—, The Universe Explained to my Grandchildren, Salammbo, 2012, ISBN 978-0956808226. When astrophysicist Hubert Reeves goes for walks with his granddaughter, he is assaulted by her questions: ‘How big is the universe? How far are the stars? Are there other universes like ours?’ This book is a clear and fulfilling explanation of our place in the universe.

Barry Rodrigue [罗柏安], Big History, Civilization and Human Survival, in: Thought and Action 26 (Fall 2010), pp. 139–146. This is a report of Professor Rodrigue’s experiences in establishing a big history course at the University of Southern Maine (USA). This was the first big history course included in a general education curriculum anywhere in the world. It then was developed into an online course and attracted students from as far away as Europe and Asia. Students reported it as having a profound effect on their lives and their careers. This paper is an abridged version of one in the Journal of Globalization Studies (November 2010), having been adapted as a study of pedagogy and big history for the National Education Association.

—, Manifesto for a New Millennium, at: Global Future 2045 International Congress, 17–20 February 2012, Moscow, Russia, online at the congress website, (http://gf2045.com/video/). This is a presentation about some outcomes that might result from applying a big history paradigm towards the formulation an agenda for global renewal. A typescript version of this presentation also appears on the Global Future 2045 website.

—, Retrofitting the Future, in: Leonid Grinin / David Baker / Esther Quaedackers / Andrey Korotayev, eds., Teaching and Researching Big History: Exploring a New Scholarly Field, Uchitel, 2014, 276–282. The author reminds readers that the development that resulted in microscopes and central heating came from human efforts that span tens of thousands of years. We should not dismiss past efforts as mere antique curiosities. Many old techniques are useful as new conundrums arise. The author provides examples of traditional environmental knowledge, industrial applications and materials science for how past experience can be adapted to help humanity adjust to a changing world. This paper is an example of “applied big history.”

—, A New Design for Living, in: Barry Rodrigue / Leonid Grinin / Andrey Korotayev, eds., From Big Bang to Galactic Civilizations: A Big History Anthology, Volume 1, Our Place in the Universe: An Introduction to Big History, Primus Books, 2015, 183–187. This paper proposes that collaborative human effort is as important as technological design. Professor Rodrigue proposes that, while we seek faster supercomputers and better global communications, we need to also better care for, educate and engage humans around our planet. By comparing human and IT potential, he proposes that this could well be a way of rescuing humanity in the face of major global problems.

Barry Rodrigue / G. Siegfried Kutter, Big History: The Study of All Existence, at: Big History Center, 2015, URL: (www.bighistorycenter.org). The authors provide an overview of the history of big history. They trace its rudiments in ancient society through the scientific revolution to today. The field has been variously called cosmic evolution, universal history, mega-history, and big history. This on-going essay is presented as new data is assembled from around the world.

Barry Rodrigue / Leonid Grinin / Andrey Korotayev, eds., From Big Bang to Galactic Civilizations: A Big History Anthology, Primus Books, 2015, ISBN 978-93-84082-76-5. This is the first compre-
hensive international anthology of big history. It contains ideas from a hundred contemporary thinkers from around the world. The collection is divided into three volumes: Volume I, Our Place in the Universe: An Introduction to Big History; Volume II, Education and Understanding: Big History around the World; Volume III, The Ways that Big History Works: Cosmos, Life, Society, and our Future. Each volume is self-contained and independent.

Richard Simon / Mojgan Behmand / Thomas Burke, eds., Teaching Big History, University of California, 2014, ISBN 9780520283558. This is a pedagogical collection that serves as a guide for teaching big history. It shares ideas about the subject and how to plan a curriculum around it, as well as advice on administrative and organizational challenges to generating a core curriculum around big history. The book also includes a variety of teaching materials, examples, and sample exercises.

Graeme Snooks, The Cosmos and the Logos, in: Barry Rodrigue / Leonid Grinin / Andrey Korotayev, eds., From Big Bang to Galactic Civilizations: A Big History Anthology, Volume 1, Our Place in the Universe: An Introduction to Big History, Primus Books, 2015, pp. 98–124. Life has embarked on an improbable voyage through space and time, one that has an observable beginning and a predictable end. It is improbable because the universe through which we are travelling is hostile to complexity of any kind and because the window of opportunity for the emergence of complexity is of relatively short duration. Indeed, the opportunities for the emergence of intelligent life are the most improbable occurrence of all. Using his general dynamic theory, Professor Snooks explores how and why this voyage was embarked upon and the importance of its meaning.

—–, Ark of the Sun: The Improbable Voyage of Life, IGDS Books [Forthcoming 2015]. This book is an overview of system theorist Graeme Snooks’ work on the dynamics of living systems. Its focus is on how life on Earth is the outcome of the emergence of the “strategic logos” – or dynamic life-system – which is an entropy-defying, shock-deflecting system that has enabled both life and human society to prosper in a universe inhospitable to life. Life, god, science and civilisation are all carried through space and time on board the “ark of the Sun,” as they were similarly perceived to be in the solar barque of the ancient Egyptians.

Social Evolution and History 4, 1 (March 2005), Exploring the Horizons of Big History. This was a special, theme issue of the journal, Social Evolution and History, which led to the first international conference on big history, held at the International University of Nature, Society and Humanity, in Dubna, Russia, in the following November. Systems theorist Graeme Snooks served as the guest editor.

Andrew Sorkin, So Bill Gates has this Idea for a History Class …, New York Times Magazine, 5 September 2014, URL: (http://www.nytimes.com/2014/09/07/magazine/so-bill-gates-has-this-idea-for-a-history-class.html?_r=0). This is a high-profile report about big history and the Big History Project (see above) in a special edition of the New York Times Magazine devoted to education. It engages in a discussion of the big history work of Bill Gates, as well as historians David Christian and William McNeill.

Fred Spier, Wiley-Blackwell website for Big History and the Future of Humanity, 2015, URL: (bighistory.info). This website contains an overview of Spier’s works on the topic of big his-
tory. His efforts at refining and promoting big history are evidenced in his many articles, books and other forms of outreach.

Yue Sun,超越人类看人类？——大历史批判 [Transcending Humanity to Discover Humanity? A Critique of Big History], in: 史学理论研究 [Historiography Quarterly], 4 (2012), pp. 159–160 (Chinese publication). This essay was an introduction to big history for a Chinese academic audience and was presented as a critique. While acknowledging the validity of interdisciplinary effort and the larger visions of big history, the paper questions the field’s primary focus on energy flow, complexity, Goldilocks principles and other empirical concepts for defining humanity and human history – to the neglect of, say, human emotions and belief systems.

—, 从“大历史”到“中国梦”——全球思想史的遐思 [From “Big History” to “China Dream”: Visions of Global Intellectual History], in: 史学理论研究 [Historiography Quarterly], 2 (2015), pp. 18-21 (Chinese publication). This paper rethinks the nature of big history and other critical issues confronting China and the world, from the perspective of the budding movement of “global intellectual history.”

—, The Tao of Big History: The Chinese Traditions, in: Barry Rodrigue / Leonid Grinin / Andrey Korotayev, eds., From Big Bang to Galactic Civilizations: A Big History Anthology, Volume 1, Our Place in the Universe: An Introduction to Big History, Primus Books, 2015, 235–246. Big history locates humanity in a single evolutionary process. It is in this sense of uniting cosmic and human histories that the Chinese have a big history tradition of their own, as exemplified by the ancient historian Sima Qian. Over the past decades, Chinese historians have managed to pick up this ancient thread and merge it with Marxist concepts of historical science. Meanwhile, a number of other scholars have contributed to China’s big histories by pointing to human-nature relationship as a central theme. This paper illustrates one of the significant independent developments of big history thinking around the world, both in the ancient world and in the modern age.

Antonio Vélez, Del Big Bang al Homo sapiens [From Big Bang to Homo sapiens], Villegas editores, 2004, ISBN 978-9588160689 (Spanish publication). A mathematician and electrical engineer in Colombia, Professor Vélez independently conceived of a big history paradigm in the 1980s. This led him to begin a three-volume explanation of existence. This is an updated edition of his first volume, initially published in 1998. The second volume is Homo sapiens (2006). The third volume is in process. His work represents another example of how the modern form of big history developed independently around the world.

Joseph Voros, Macro-Prospeccion: Thinking about the Future Using Macrohistory and Big History, at: Global Future 2045 International Congress, 17–20 February 2012, Moscow, Russia, online at the congress website, (http://gf2045.com/video/). By the use of both historical and macrohistorical models, we may look for insights about potential futures at a very deep level. Perhaps the grandest model currently available for use in this way is cosmic evolution, which includes the specific question of how evolution has played out here on Earth, namely, what has come to be known as “big history.” This paper introduces the elements of the generic foresight process framework and a thumbnail sketch of some of the issues that we may need to confront at the civilizational, planetary and even species level as we navigate our way into the future.
Profiling “Threshold 9”: Using Big History as a Framework for Thinking about the Contours of the Coming Global Future, in: Leonid Grinin / Andrey Korotayev, eds., Evolution: Development within Big History, Evolutionary and World-System Paradigms, Uchitel, 2013, pp. 119–142. Big history provides a framework for understanding broad contours of the past, but to what degree can it be used for the future? This paper considers humanity’s next major threshold, following eight previous ones – a slowly unfolding collapse or ‘descent’ over decades or centuries towards a society characterized by ever-declining access to fossil-fuel-based energy. Such a trajectory clearly has implications for the level of human complexity. This suggests undertaking an anticipatory program of continuing research and exploration into both the underlying nature and the emergent characteristics of the coming transition to “Threshold 9.”

Big Futures: Macrohistorical Perspectives on the Future of Humankind, in: Barry Rodrigue / Leonid Grinin / Andrey Korotayev, eds., From Big Bang to Galactic Civilizations: A Big History Anthology, Volume 3, The Ways that Big History Works: Cosmos, Life, Society, and our Future, Primus Books [Forthcoming 2016]. Big history brings us from the big bang to the present day. But it is in our nature to not merely seek to understand our past but also to comprehend the future. This chapter examines macro-perspectives on the future and considers some potential outcomes, as well as our possible fate as a species.

Wenhu Ye [叶文虎], 论人类文明的演变与演替 [Evolvement and Substitution of Human Civilization], in: 中国人口·资源与环境 [China Population, Resources and Environment], 20, 4 (April 2010), pp. 106–109 (Chinese publication). This paper employs a holistic perspective and discusses a succession of four human eras – primitive, agricultural, industrial, and environmental. In the latter (present) era, which corresponds to the Anthropocene, humanity is compelled to transform, in order to sustain itself under rapidly changing conditions. The author has produced a number of related pieces on this theme in recent years, being an environmental scientist by profession.

Weibin Zhu [朱卫斌], “大历史”与中国高校世界史教学评论 [Big History and College-Level World History Teaching in China: A Comment], in: 历史教学 [History Teaching], 1 (2012), pp. 67–70 (Chinese publication). This is a thoughtful reflection by a Chinese world historian on big history. Professor Zhu argues for the need to rethink and reform the traditional world history courses, in order to confront new global challenges.