

A H I S T O R Y O F
WORLD SOCIETIES
Second Edition



Volume A:

*From
Antiquity
Through the
Middle Ages*

McKAY HILL BUCKLER



A HISTORY OF WORLD SOCIETIES

SECOND EDITION

**VOLUME A:
FROM ANTIQUITY THROUGH
THE MIDDLE AGES**

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Cover: Lady-in-Waiting. Wall-painting from a private tomb at Thebes, Dynasty XVIII, ca 1370 B.C. Kestner Museum, Hanover.

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PREFACE

A HISTORY OF WORLD SOCIETIES grew out of the authors' desire to infuse new life into the study of world civilizations. We knew full well that historians were using imaginative questions and innovative research to open up vast new areas of historical interest and knowledge. We also recognized that these advances had dramatically affected the subject of economic, intellectual, and, especially, social history, while new research and fresh interpretations were also revitalizing the study of the traditional mainstream of political, diplomatic, and religious development. Despite history's vitality as a discipline, however, it seemed to us that both the broad public and the intelligentsia were generally losing interest in the past. The mathematical economist of our acquaintance who smugly quipped "What's new in history?"—confident that the answer was nothing and that historians were as dead as the events they examine—was not alone.

It was our conviction, based on considerable experience introducing large numbers of students to the broad sweep of civilization, that a book reflecting current trends could excite readers and inspire a renewed interest in history and the human experience. Our strategy was twofold. First, we made social history the core element of our work. Not only did we incorporate recent research by social historians, but also we sought to re-create the life of ordinary people in appealing human terms. A strong social element seemed to us especially appropriate in a world history, for identification with ordinary people of the past allows today's reader to reach an empathetic understanding of different cultures and civilizations. At the same time we were determined to give great economic, political, intellectual, and cultural developments the attention they unquestionably deserve. We wanted to give individual readers and instructors a balanced, integrated perspective, so that they could pursue on their own or in the classroom those themes and questions that they found particularly exciting and significant.

Second, we made a determined effort to strike an effective global balance. We were acutely aware of the great drama of our times — the passing of the European era and the simultaneous rise of Asian and Afri-

can peoples in world affairs. Increasingly, the whole world interacts, and to understand that interaction and what it means for today's citizens we must study the whole world's history. Thus we adopted a comprehensive yet realistic global perspective. We studied all geographical areas and the world's main civilizations, conscious of their separate identities and unique contributions. Yet we also stressed the links between civilizations, for these links eventually transformed multicentered world history into a complex interactive process of different continents, peoples, and civilizations in recent times. Finally, it was our place neither to praise nor to vilify our own civilization's major role in the growth of global integration, accepting it rather as part of our world heritage and seeking to understand it and the consequences for all concerned.

CHANGES IN THE SECOND EDITION

In an effort to realize fully the potential of our fresh approach and balanced perspective, we have made many changes, large and small, in the second edition. First, we have worked hard to keep our book up-to-date, and every chapter has been carefully revised to incorporate recent scholarship. Many of our revisions relate to the ongoing explosion in social history, and once again important findings on such subjects as class relations, population, women, and the family have been integrated into the text. New scholarship also led to substantial revisions on many other questions, such as the Neolithic agricultural revolution and the first river civilizations, the Aryans in India, political and economic growth in ancient Greece, the rise and spread of Christianity, the dynastic cycle in China, the Germanic nobility, medieval feudalism, Muslim attitudes toward medieval Europe, the origins of the Renaissance, colonial administration in Latin America, Louis XIV and the French nobility, eighteenth-century absolutism, the French Revolution and Napoleon, nationalism in Asia, global inequality in the nineteenth century, and agricultural development in contemporary China. We believe that the incorporation of newer interpretations of the main European political developments in the medieval, early modern, and French revolutionary periods is a particularly noteworthy improvement in this edition. Recent developments around the world have also been systematically updated in Chapters 37–40 on the basis of considerable research.

Second, we have examined the entire book and each section in it for organization, clarity, and balance. Several medieval and early modern chapters, in particular, have been reorganized substantially to achieve a more logical presentation of material and a clearer chronological sequence. We have also taken special care to explain terms and concepts as soon as they are introduced. Above all, the treatment of non-European societies has been expanded and enriched, while the discussion of European developments has been reorganized and condensed. The most important changes in this regard may be noted.

The early development of Islam now receives a full chapter, based carefully on recent scholarship. More extensive discussion of Islamic areas continues throughout the book, most obviously in Chapter 23, where early modern Africa, the Ottoman Empire, and India are all treated in greater depth and with greater thematic unity. Similar treatment is accorded China and Japan in a separate and considerably revised Chapter 24. Other major non-European additions include new sections on early river civilizations in Chapter 1; early African societies, southern Africa, and Ethiopia in Chapter 16; the global consequences of industrialization in Chapter 30; and the development of Canada in Chapter 31. Our tightening up of European material has been painstaking and judicious. It includes a combination of two previous chapters into a single new one on three occasions: separate chapters on early and high medieval Europe have been restructured as Chapter 12, while the Renaissance and Reformation have been treated together in Chapter 17. Eighteenth-century European social and economic developments have been effectively integrated in Chapter 22. With these changes and other less noticeable modifications in the rest of the text, we feel we have succeeded in improving the geographical and cultural balance that we achieved in our first effort at world history.

Third, we have added or expanded material on previously neglected topics to help keep our work fresh and appealing. Coverage of religious developments, with special emphasis on their popular and social aspects, now extends from ancient to modern times. New sections address Islam in sub-Saharan Africa, heresies in medieval Europe, and popular religion in eighteenth-century Europe. The reader will also find new or expanded material on many other topics, notably ancient Israel, Theravada and Mahayana Buddhism, the Minoans, Greek and Roman

wars, medieval Germany and the Hanseatic League, the Mongol conquest of China, the African slave trade, the Mayas, Hume and d'Holbach, the pre-revolutionary French elite, Mill, imperialism in Egypt, Palestine, neocolonialism, and Asian nationalism.

Finally, the illustrative component of our work has been completely revised. There are many new illustrations, including a tripling of the color plates that let both great art and earlier times come alive. Twenty-two new maps containing social as well as political material have also been added, while maps from the first edition have been re-edited and placed in a more effective format. As in the first edition, all illustrations have been carefully selected to complement the text, and all carry captions that enhance their value. Artwork remains an integral part of our book, for the past can speak in pictures as well as words.

DISTINCTIVE FEATURES

Distinctive features from the first edition remain in the second. To help guide the reader toward historical understanding we have posed specific historical questions at the beginning of each chapter. These questions are then answered in the course of the chapter, each of which concludes with a concise summary of the chapter's findings. The timelines of the first edition have proved useful, and still more are found in this edition, including six double-page timelines that allow students to compare simultaneous developments within different world areas.

We have also tried to suggest how historians actually work and think. We have quoted extensively from a wide variety of primary sources and have demonstrated in our use of these quotations how historians sift and weigh evidence. We want the reader to realize that history is neither a list of cut-and-dried facts nor a senseless jumble of conflicting opinions. It is our further hope that the primary quotations, so carefully fitted into their historical context, will give the reader a sense that even in the earliest and most remote periods of human experience history has been shaped by individual men and women, some of them great aristocrats, others ordinary folk.

Each chapter concludes with carefully selected suggestions for further reading. These suggestions are briefly described in order to help readers know where to turn to continue thinking and learning about world history. The chapter bibliographies have been

revised and expanded in order to keep them current with the vast and complex new work being done in many fields.

World civilization courses differ widely in chronological structure from one campus to another. To accommodate the various divisions of historical time into intervals that fit a two-quarter or two-semester period, *A History of World Societies* is being published in three versions, each set embracing the complete work:

One-volume hardcover edition, *A HISTORY OF WORLD SOCIETIES*; and a two-volume paperback, *A HISTORY OF WORLD SOCIETIES Volume I: To 1715* (Chapters 1–20), *Volume II: Since 1500* (Chapters 18–40); and a three-volume paperback, *A HISTORY OF WORLD SOCIETIES Volume A: From Antiquity Through the Middle Ages* (Chapters 1–16), *Volume B: From 1300 Through the French Revolution* (Chapters 15–25), *Volume C: From the French Revolution to the Present* (Chapters 25–40).

Note that overlapping chapters in the two- and three-volume sets permit still wider flexibility in matching the appropriate volume with the opening and closing dates of a course term.

ANCILLARIES

Learning and teaching ancillaries, including a *Study Guide*, *MicroStudy Plus*, *Instructor's Manual*, *Test Items*, *MicroTest*, and *Map Transparencies*, also contribute to the usefulness of the text. The excellent *Study Guide* has been revised by Professor James Schmiechen of Central Michigan University. Professor Schmiechen has continued to give us many valuable suggestions and his warmly appreciated support. His *Study Guide* contains chapter summaries, chapter outlines, review questions, extensive multiple-choice and geography exercises, self-check lists of important concepts and events, and a variety of study aids and suggestions. One innovation in the *Study Guide* that has proved useful to the student is the step-by-step Reading with Understanding exercises, which take the reader by ostensive example through reading and studying activities like underlining, summarizing, identifying main points, classifying information according to sequence, and making historical comparisons. To enable both students and instructors to use the *Study Guide* with the greatest possible flexibility, the guide is available in two volumes, with considerable overlapping of chapters. In-

structors and students who use only Volumes A and B of the text have all the pertinent study materials in a single volume, *Study Guide, Volume 1* (Chapters 1–25); likewise, those who use only Volumes B and C of the text also have all the necessary materials in one volume, *Study Guide, Volume 2* (Chapters 15–40). The multiple-choice sections of the *Study Guide* are also available in a computerized version, *MicroStudy Plus*, which provides the student with tutorial instruction.

The *Instructor's Manual*, prepared by Professor Philip Adler of East Carolina University, contains learning objectives, chapter synopses, suggestions for lectures and discussion, paper and class activity topics, and lists of audio-visual resources. Also provided for class exercises are outline maps of the major world areas. The accompanying *Test Items*, also by Professor Adler, offers more than 1400 multiple-choice and essay questions and approximately 600 identification terms. *MicroTest* offers the test items to adopters on computer tape and disk. In addition, a set of fifty color map transparencies is available on adoption.

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Each of us has benefited from the generous criticism of his co-authors, although each of us assumes responsibility for what he has written. John Buckler has written Chapters 1–8 and 11; Bennett Hill has continued the narrative in Chapters 9–10, 12–19, 23–24, and 31; and John McKay has written Chapters 20–22, 25–30, and 32–40. Finally, we continue to welcome from our readers comments and suggestions for improvements, for they have helped us greatly in this ongoing endeavor.

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BENNETT D. HILL
JOHN BUCKLER

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