



A BRIEF HISTORY OF THE WESTERN WORLD
VOLUME I

FROM THE BEGINNING TO THE ENLIGHTENMENT
SEVENTH EDITION



THOMAS H. GREER GAVIN LEWIS

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THOMAS H. GREER
MICHIGAN STATE UNIVERSITY

GAVIN LEWIS
JOHN JAY COLLEGE
CITY UNIVERSITY OF NEW YORK

HARCOURT BRACE COLLEGE PUBLISHERS

FORT WORTH PHILADELPHIA SAN DIEGO NEW YORK ORLANDO AUSTIN SAN ANTONIO
TORONTO MONTREAL LONDON SYDNEY TOKYO

Publisher	Christopher P. Klein
Senior Acquisitions Editor	David C. Tatom
Project Editor	Betsy Cummings
Senior Production Manager	Kathleen Ferguson
Art Director	Vicki Whistler
Developmental Editor	Susan Petty
Photo Researcher	Shirley Webster
Digital Composition	Paul G. Zinn

Cover: *The Boy of Marathon*, bronze. National Archaeological Museum, Athens, Greece.
Photo: Nimatallah/Art Resource, NY.

ISBN: 0-15-505159-8

Library of Congress Catalog Card Number: 96-77422

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Address for Editorial Correspondence:
Harcourt Brace College Publishers, 301 Commerce Street, Suite 3700, Fort Worth, Texas 76102.

Address for Orders:
Harcourt Brace & Company, 6277 Sea Harbor Drive, Orlando, Florida 32887-6777.
1-800-782-4479, or 1-800-433-0001 (in Florida).

Printed in the United States of America

6 7 8 9 0 1 2 3 4 5 066 0 9 8 7 6 5 4 3 2 1

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*For Carl and Corey
For Michael, Anna, Alexander, and Dorothea
and for their generation everywhere*

A NOTE ON THE TWO-PART EDITION

This book is part of a variant printing, not a new or revised edition, of *A Brief History of the Western World*, Seventh Edition. Many instructors have requested a two-part version that would enable them to fit the text into the particular patterns of their teaching and scheduling. To meet that request, the publishers have prepared this printing, consisting of two separate parts that exactly reproduce the text of the one-volume version of *A Brief History of the Western World*. The first of these parts continues through Chapter 10, "Science and a New Cosmology." The second part begins with Chapter 7, "The Transformation and Expansion of Europe" and carries the account forward to the present day. The variant printing, then, is intended as a convenience to those instructors and students who have occasion to use either one part or the other of *A Brief History of the Western World*. Consequently, the pagination and index of each volume as well as its illustrations, maps, and other related materials, are retained in the new printing. The difference between the one-volume and the two-volume versions of the work is a difference only in form.

PREFACE

Those who cannot remember the past are condemned to repeat it.

George Santayana
1863-1952

What is the nature of the Western world? How has it shaped the men and women who are its heirs? Many of today's young people, in search of their own identity, are asking such questions. The search is not new; it traces back to the ancient Greeks. Inscribed on the temple of Apollo at Delphi were the words of the god: *Know yourself*. And one way to self-knowledge is to learn of the past experiences of humans like ourselves. As William Shakespeare observed, *What's past is prologue*.

Our aim in this book is to present a clear, concise account of truly meaningful human experiences relevant to the society in which we live. Following this aim, we have focused on the outstanding institutions, ideas, and creative works that have formed (and expressed) Western civilization. Our book is designed also as a guide and companion for further and deeper explorations of the human past. These can best be accomplished, we believe, by reading original sources and worthy interpretative works. To this end, we have prepared a selection of books for "Recommended Further Reading" that can be found at the back of this book (pp. A-1 through A-12). It is followed by a new feature, a list of "Recommended Videocassettes" (p. A-12).

Throughout the book we have sought to illuminate the narrative by means of various visual features. These include completely revised and updated *maps* of the places and areas under discussion in the text; *time charts* (also geared to the text) showing the chronological relationships of notable individuals, events, and works of architecture, art, and music; and *time lines* (at the top of certain pages) showing the sequence and duration of particular historical periods. The duration of these periods is indicated by the length of the respective line segments; the darkest segment normally corresponds to the period discussed on the same or nearby pages. In addition, we have provided an *illustration* of each work of art described in our narrative.

Other special aids for the student include the identification of *important historical terms*. These are marked by an asterisk (*) placed before selected entries in the *Index*; the *meaning* of each term is explained on the pages shown for that entry. Also shown in the *Index* are the years of birth and death, or years of reign, for each person named in the text. And throughout the book we have provided numerous *cross-references* to help point out the *interconnections* of ideas and events that occur in the various times and places.

In this Seventh Edition of the *Brief History*, as in previous editions, we have revised and expanded our treatment of various topics in response to recent scholarly findings and developing interests of teachers and students.

The section on ancient Egypt incorporates the results of scholarly work on the factors of change and conflict in that country's history, on religion and the cult of the

pharaoh, on writing, and on the continued vigor of the civilization of the Nile down to Roman times. The treatment of medieval feudalism has been extended to outline the history of the major feudal states of Western Europe, including England. In general, in dealing with ancient and medieval times, we have also laid greater stress on non-Western influences on the evolution of civilization within Europe including the intercontinental developments that formed the background to European overseas exploration.

In the early modern and recent periods, we have made a number of additions. Treatment of the impact of European exploration and colonization on the rest of the world has been enlarged, with more information on Africa and the African slave trade. The discussion of the Enlightenment now includes the thought of Montesquieu and the theory and practice of "Enlightened Despotism."

The sections on nineteenth- and twentieth-century science have been revised, expanded, and updated to the present. And the influence of religion on politics, social life, and thought from the eighteenth through the twentieth centuries is more fully presented.

The concluding chapters have been brought forward to cover the worldwide aftermath of the collapse of communism and the breakup of the Soviet Union, the end of the Cold War, and the emergence of the struggling "successor states" in eastern Europe. The bitter conflicts of religious and ethnic groups in former Yugoslavia are described, as well as the promising signs of reconciliation and peace in the troubled Middle East. The overthrow of apartheid in South Africa is explained. Also included in these chapters is more information on the activities of women, and on moves toward greater concentration of economic power throughout the world—by means of corporate mergers and the widening of "free trade" areas. These developments have been accompanied by Europe's steps toward closer *political* unity, also described in our new edition.

Finally, the illustrations have been increased in number and improved, most notably by the addition of an eight-page *color insert*. The color plates are not intended simply as decoration. Because the artworks chosen and displayed are those (discussed in the text) whose value arises primarily from their *color*, they are best understood and appreciated as *color plates*.

The Seventh Edition of *A Brief History* is accompanied by a printed Instructor's Manual/Testbank, as well as computerized testbanks in DOS, Windows, and Macintosh formats, for 5 1/4" and 3 1/2" disks.

We hope that our readers will find a measure of excitement, challenge, and pleasure in this book!

Thomas H. Greer
Gavin Lewis

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1-1 Marcus Aurelius sacrificing, from the Arch of Marcus Aurelius, late second century A.D. Rome.

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PART ONE

THE ANCIENT WORLD

	POLITICAL, SOCIAL, AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENTS	RELIGION, SCIENCE, AND PHILOSOPHY	HISTORY AND LITERATURE	ARCHITECTURE, ART, AND MUSIC
B.C. 3000	<p>Earliest civilization in Mesopotamia and Egypt</p> <p>Beginning of spread of Indo-European peoples</p>	<p>Creation and Flood myths (Sumer)</p> <p>Belief in immortality (Egypt)</p>	<p>Invention of writing</p> <p>Gilgamesh epic poetry</p>	<p>First temples and palaces</p> <p>Early megalithic monuments (Europe)</p> <p>Pyramids of Giza (Egypt)</p>
2500	<p>Minoan (Cretan) civilization begins</p> <p>First appearance of Indo-European–influenced tribal groups in Europe</p>	<p>Beginning of mathematical sciences</p> <p>Foundations of medical science</p>		<p>Ziggurat of Ur (Sumer)</p>
2000	<p>Babylonian kingdom</p> <p>Law code of Hammurabi</p> <p>Achaean migrations into Greece</p>	<p>Abraham</p>	<p>Development of alphabet (Middle East)</p>	<p>Palace of Knossos (Crete)</p> <p>Stonehenge (England)</p>
1500	<p>Mycenaean civilization</p>	<p>Akhenaten</p> <p>Moses and the Hebrew Covenant</p>		<p>Temple of Karnak (Egypt)</p>
1200	<p>Dorian invasions of Greece</p> <p>Trojan War (legendary)</p> <p>"Dark Ages" of Greece (1200–800)</p>			

	POLITICAL, SOCIAL, AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENTS	RELIGION, SCIENCE, AND PHILOSOPHY	HISTORY AND LITERATURE	ARCHITECTURE, ART, AND MUSIC
1000	Hebrew kingdoms (1000–600)	David Solomon		
800	“Homeric Age” of Greece Greek city-states founded Greek colonization of the Mediterranean and Black seas Rome founded Assyrian empire	Amos First Olympic games honoring Zeus Zoroaster (Persia)	Homer and Greek epics Lyric poetry begins	
600	Solon of Athens “Babylonian Captivity” of the Jews Persian Empire	Thales of Miletus Growth of mystery cults (Greece)	Sappho of Lesbos Greek drama emerges	Early Greek style of sculpture Palace of Persepolis (Persia)
500	Roman Republic established Twelve Tablets of law (Rome) Persian Wars in Greece: Darius, Xerxes Athenian supremacy and empire Pericles Peloponnesian War Plague of Athens	Parmenides of Elea Heracitus of Ephesus Hippocrates of Cos Protagoras and Sophists Aristippus of Cyrene Socrates	Aeschylus Herodotus Sophocles Aristophanes Euripides Thucydides	Greek lyre and pipes Classical style: Phidias Parthenon Erechtheum (Porch of Maidens) Myron
400	Philip of Macedon Alexander the Great	Plato Aristotle		Praxiteles
300	Hellenistic kingdoms Urbanization	Epicurus, Zeno (Stoicism) Cyrenaic school (hedonists)		Hellenistic style

	POLITICAL, SOCIAL, AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENTS	RELIGION, SCIENCE, AND PHILOSOPHY	HISTORY AND LITERATURE	ARCHITECTURE, ART, AND MUSIC
250 B.C.	Punic Wars begin (Rome against Carthage)			
200	Punic Wars end		Plautus Terence Polybius	
100	Reforms of the Gracchi in Rome Civil wars in Italy Rome completes conquest of the Mediterranean world Julius Caesar's conquest of Gaul Overthrow of the Roman Republic Augustus and the foundations of the Roman Empire Pax Romana (27 B.C.-A.D. 180)	Cicero Lucretius	Vergil Horace Ovid Livy	
A.D.	Tiberius	Birth of Christ Peter and Paul	Plutarch, Suetonius Tacitus Juvenal Seneca	
100	Nero Trajan Hadrian Epidemics in Italy begin	Ptolemy Galen Marcus Aurelius		Colosseum Trajan's Forum Pantheon