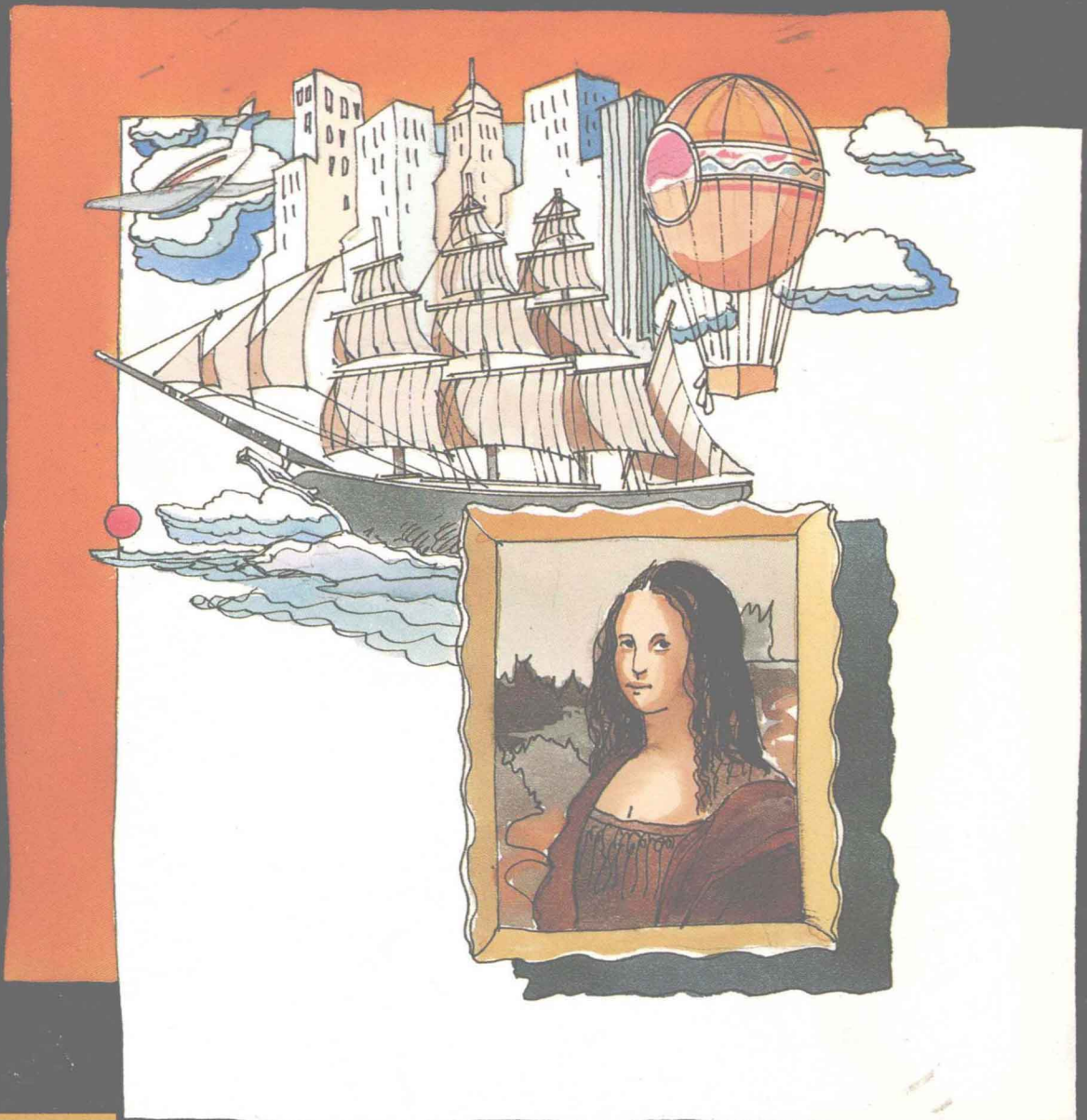


Annual Editions

WESTERN CIVILIZATION VOLUME II

Early Modern Through the 20th Century



Seventh Edition

WESTERN CIVILIZATION VOLUME II

Early Modern Through the 20th Century

Editor

William Hughes
Essex Community College

William Hughes is a professor of history at Essex Community College in Baltimore County, Maryland. He received his A.B. from Franklin and Marshall College and his M.A. from the Pennsylvania State University. He continued graduate studies at the American University and the Pennsylvania State University. Professor Hughes is interested in cultural history, particularly the role of film and television in shaping and recording history. He researched this subject as a Younger Humanist Fellow of the National Endowment for the Humanities, and he was a participant in the Image as Artifact project of the American Historical Association. He is author of the chapter on film as evidence in *The Historian and Film* (Cambridge University Press) and has written articles, essays, and reviews for *The Journal of American History*, *The New Republic*, *The Nation*, *Film and History*, *American Film*, and *The Dictionary of American Biography*. Professor Hughes also serves as an associate editor for *American National Biography*, a twenty-volume reference work to be issued by Oxford University Press.

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Members of the Advisory Board are instrumental in the final selection of articles for each edition of Annual Editions. Their review of articles for content, level, currentness, and appropriateness provides critical direction to the editor and staff. We think you'll find their careful consideration well reflected in this volume.

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To the Reader

In publishing ANNUAL EDITIONS we recognize the enormous role played by the magazines, newspapers, and journals of the *public press* in providing current, first-rate educational information in a broad spectrum of interest areas. Within the articles, the best scientists, practitioners, researchers, and commentators draw issues into new perspective as accepted theories and viewpoints are called into account by new events, recent discoveries change old facts, and fresh debate breaks out over important controversies.

Many of the articles resulting from this enormous editorial effort are appropriate for students, researchers, and professionals seeking accurate, current material to help bridge the gap between principles and theories and the real world. These articles, however, become more useful for study when those of lasting value are carefully collected, organized, indexed, and reproduced in a low-cost format, which provides easy and permanent access when the material is needed. That is the role played by *Annual Editions*. Under the direction of each volume's Editor, who is an expert in the subject area, and with the guidance of an Advisory Board, we seek each year to provide in each ANNUAL EDITION a current, well-balanced, carefully selected collection of the best of the public press for your study and enjoyment. We think you'll find this volume useful, and we hope you'll take a moment to let us know what you think.

What exactly are we attempting to do when we set out to study Western civilization? The traditional course in Western civilization is a chronological survey of sequential stages in the development of European institutions and ideas, with a cursory look at Near Eastern antecedents and a side glance at the Americas and other places where westernization has occurred. So we move from the Greeks to the Romans to the medieval period and on to the modern era, itemizing the distinctive characteristics of each stage, as well as each period's relation to preceding and succeeding developments. Of course, in a survey so broad (usually advancing from Adam to the atom in two brief semesters) a certain superficiality seems inevitable. Key events whiz by as if viewed in a cyclorama; often there is little opportunity to absorb and digest the complex ideas that have shaped our culture. It is tempting to excuse these shortcomings as unavoidable. But to present a course on Western civilization that leaves students with only a jumble of events, names, dates, and places is to miss a marvelous opportunity. For the great promise of such a broad course of study is that it enables students to explore great turning points or shifts in the development of Western culture. Close analysis of these moments enable students to understand the dynamics of continuity and change over time. At best, the course can provide a coherent view of the Western tradition and offer opportunities for reflection about everything from forms of authority and religion to patterns of human behavior or the price of progress.

Of course, to focus exclusively on Western civilization is to ignore non-Western peoples and cultures. It hardly needs saying that Western history is not the only history that contemporary students should know. Yet it should be an essential part of what they learn, for it impossible to understand the modern world without some grounding in the basic patterns of the Western tradition.

As students become attuned to the distinctive traits of the West, they develop a sense of the dynamism of history. They begin to understand how ideas relate to social structures and social forces. They come to appreciate the nature and significance of conceptual innovation and recognize how values can infuse inquiry. More specifically, they can trace the evolution of Western ideas about nature, humankind, authority, and the gods, i.e., they learn *how* the West developed its distinctive character. And, as Reed Dasenbrock has observed, in an age that seeks greater multicultural understanding, there is much to be learned from "the fundamental multiculturalism of Western culture, the fact that it has been constructed out of a fusion of disparate and often conflicting cultural traditions."

Of course, the articles collected in this volume cannot deal with all of these matters, but by providing an alternative to the synthetic summaries of most textbooks, they can help students better understand the diverse traditions and processes that we label Western civilization. This book is like our history—unfinished, always in process. It will be revised biennially. Comments and criticism are welcome from all who use this book. To that end a postpaid article rating form is included at the back of the book. Please feel free to recommend articles that might improve the next edition. With your assistance, this anthology will continue to improve.



William Hughes
Editor



Unit 1

The Age of Power

Seven selections trace the evolution of political power in early modern times. Topics include the European state system, the emergence of British power, how the image makers cast the personage of Louis XIV, and the influence of John Locke on liberty.

To the Reader Topic Guide Overview

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1. **The Emergence of the Great Powers**, Gordon A. Craig and Alexander L. George, from *Force and Statecraft: Diplomatic Problems of Our Times*, Oxford University Press, 1983. 6
In 1600 Europe's greatest power complex was the old Holy Roman Empire, in league with Spain. By the eighteenth century, however, the **European system** was transformed so drastically that the **great powers** were Great Britain, France, Austria, Prussia, and Russia. How did such a shift occur? This essay traces the **evolution of the European state system** in early modern times.
2. **War, Money, and the English State**, John Brewer, from *The Sinews of Power*, Alfred A. Knopf, 1989. 12
England was a minor power in the great **Wars** that ravaged Europe in the sixteenth and early-seventeenth centuries. But **European powers** soon came to fear and envy **Britain's military machine**, particularly its navy. John Brewer's introduction to his book on the topic explains the **institutional arrangements** and **economic strategies** that made England a major power.
3. **Competing Cousins: Anglo-Dutch Trade Rivalry**, Jonathan Israel, *History Today*, July 1988. 17
This article explores the rivalry between two great **naval powers**. It traces **Anglo-Dutch relations** "from commercial competition to open war and finally 'snarling alliance.' "
4. **The High Price of Sugar**, Susan Miller, *Newsweek*, Fall/Winter 1991. 22
In the **early-modern period**, the Atlantic formed the matrix for a new phase of Western civilization, one that combined European, American, and African elements. Central to this new system was the **triangular trade**, driven by Europe's demand for sugar and the sugar growers' reliance on **slave labor**. This article shows how the drive for profits transformed the Western world.
5. **The Fabrication of Louis XIV**, Peter Burke, *History Today*, February 1992. 25
Peter Burke explains how Louis XIV and his **image makers** exploited literature and the visual arts to enhance his power in France and his reputation in Europe.
6. **The 17th-Century 'Renaissance' in Russia**, Lindsey A. J. Hughes, *History Today*, February 1980. 29
This article, a survey of **western influences on Russian art and architecture**, demonstrates that **Peter the Great's** program of westernization was not such a break from the past as has commonly been supposed.
7. **Locke and Liberty**, Maurice Cranston, *The Wilson Quarterly*, Winter 1986. 33
Unlike Thomas Hobbes, who built his political philosophy around the principles of order and authority, **John Locke** erected a system of political thought around liberty and private ownership of property. Reviewing Locke's life and thought, Maurice Cranston places the English philosopher's work in its political and intellectual context.

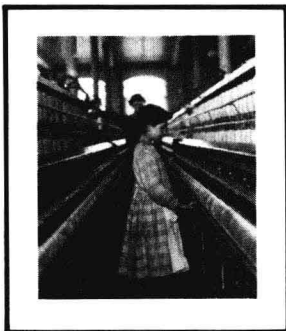


Unit 2

Rationalism, Enlightenment, and Revolution

Eleven articles discuss the impact of science, politics, music, economic thought, changing social attitudes, and the rights of women on the Age of Enlightenment.

Overview	38
8. From Astronomy to Astrophysics, James Trefil, <i>The Wilson Quarterly</i> , Summer 1987.	40
The Copernican theory invigorated the science of astronomy , setting in motion a chain reaction of discoveries by Tycho Brahe , Johannes Kepler , and Isaac Newton that transformed humanity's perception of the heavens—and ourselves. Today's astrophysicists use new technologies to further revise and enhance our cosmic vision.	
9. Newton's Madness, Harold L. Klawans, from <i>Newton's Madness: Further Tales of Clinical Neurology</i> , Harper & Row, 1990.	47
Sir Isaac Newton was a universal genius who coined calculus , formulated three major laws of mechanics , articulated theories of gravity and planetary motion , and discovered the composition of white light. Twice during his life he suffered periods of prolonged psychotic behavior. Harold Klawans explores Newton's genius and his bouts with madness.	
10. Origins of Western Environmentalism, Richard H. Grove, <i>Scientific American</i> , July 1992.	51
"The roots of Western conservatism ," says the author, "are at least 200 years old and grew in the tropics." This article traces the role of scientists in protecting the flora and fauna of Europe's new colonies in the tropics.	
11. The Birth of Public Opinion, Anthony J. La Vopa, <i>The Wilson Quarterly</i> , Winter 1991.	56
The notion of " public opinion " was born during the eighteenth century. This article shows the connection between the Age of Enlightenment and the expression of a public with a defined will.	
12. The Commercialization of Childhood, J. H. Plumb, <i>Horizon</i> , Autumn 1976.	62
A new attitude toward children emerged in England during the eighteenth century. It was a gentler and more sensitive approach, one that reflected a change in social (and economic) attitudes . Entrepreneurs soon developed imaginative products to exploit the emerging belief that children were shaped by their early environment.	
13. A Whole Subcontinent Was Picked Up Without Half Trying, Pico Iyer, <i>Smithsonian</i> , January 1988.	67
India was the jewel of the British Empire . The ironic story of how the East India Company secured India for England is told here.	
14. The Godfather of the American Constitution, Robert Wernick, <i>Smithsonian</i> , September 1989.	75
When James Madison and Alexander Hamilton advanced a new American instrument of government based on checks and balances , deliberation and choice, separation of powers , and wariness of human nature, they were following the lead of a French nobleman and man of letters. Robert Wernick traces Baron de Montesquieu's life and his influence on the Enlightenment and the American Constitution .	



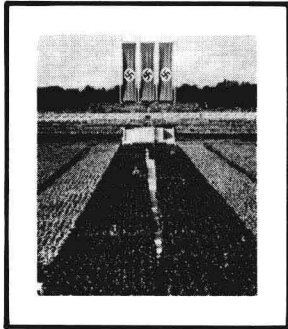
Unit 3

Industry, Ideology, Nation-building, and Imperialism: The Nineteenth Century

Nine articles focus on the nineteenth century in the Western world. Topics include the working class, the Industrial Revolution, John Stuart Mill, and the expansion of Europe.

15. **The French Revolution in the Minds of Men**, Maurice Cranston, *The Wilson Quarterly*, Summer 1989. 79
The French Revolution has had a dual existence. First there was the revolution of actual deeds and words. Then, says the author, there was the revolution as it "became inflated or distorted in the minds of later partisans." He describes the *myths of the French Revolution* and how such fabrications influenced later generations of revolutionaries.
16. **The Passion of Antoine Lavoisier**, Stephen Jay Gould, *Natural History*, June 1989. 83
Many people paid the price for the *French Revolution*. One of them was France's greatest scientist, Antoine Lavoisier. A child of the *Enlightenment* who favored some of the Revolution's early accomplishments, the famous chemist ran afoul of the *Committee of Public Safety* and its revolutionary tribunals. Stephen Jay Gould cites Lavoisier's accomplishments and ponders why in revolutionary times even a brilliant scientist is not immune from the political extremists.
17. **The First Feminist**, Shirley Tomkiewicz, *Horizon*, Spring 1972. 88
Mary Wollstonecraft, author of *Vindication of the Rights of Women* (1792), cogently argued the case that the *ideals of the Enlightenment* and the *French Revolution* should be extended to *women*. This is her story.
18. **Gin and Georgian London**, Thomas Maples, *History Today*, March 1991. 93
After *Parliament* passed the *Gin Act of 1736*, riots broke out among the drinking poor of London. This article explains why the poor considered gin to be a precious friend and why the government felt obliged to control its use.
- Overview 98
19. **Cottage Industry and the Factory System**, Duncan Bythell, *History Today*, April 1983. 100
The *Industrial Revolution* was one of the greatest discontinuities in history, or so it is widely believed. The popular notion of the origins of the *factory system* is that it cruelly uprooted the more humane system known as *cottage industry*. Duncan Bythell questions the conventional view in his assessment of the two *modes of production* and their impact on *social and economic conditions in England*.
20. **Sophie Germain**, Amy Dahan Dalmédico, *Scientific American*, December 1991. 107
Famous female mathematicians are a rarity. Sophie Germain's story shows us why. A talented and ambitious scientist and mathematician, Germain did highly original work in number theory and the theory of elasticity. But first she had to overcome the prejudices of family and colleagues.

21. **Engels in Manchester: Inventing the Proletariat**, Gertrude Himmelfarb, *The American Scholar*, Autumn 1983. 111
Friedrich Engels, coauthor of the **Communist Manifesto** and patron of Karl Marx, wrote an influential study of **working-class life in England**. But was it an accurate description of the **factory system**, or was it colored by the author's **communism**?
22. **Samuel Smiles: The Gospel of Self-Help**, Asa Briggs, *History Today*, May 1987. 119
In eighteenth-century America **Benjamin Franklin** was the prophet of **self-help**; in nineteenth-century England it was Samuel Smiles. The latter's formula for **success** stressed the importance of role models, perseverance, and strenuous effort.
23. **John Stuart Mill and Liberty**, Maurice Cranston, *The Wilson Quarterly*, Winter 1987. 125
John Stuart Mill, the leading philosopher of Victorian England, reshaped the ideas of John Locke, David Hume, and others into classical **liberalism**. Still influential, Mill is read today for his defense of liberty. His ideas, says Maurice Cranston, "have contributed much to the debates of our own time about **the freedom of dissenters, minorities, and women**."
24. **Giuseppe Garibaldi**, Denis Mack Smith, *History Today*, August 1991. 129
Giuseppe Garibaldi was the hero of Italy's nineteenth-century quest for unification. Many tendencies of **modern Italian politics** have their origins in Garibaldi and his **Red-Shirt movement**.
25. **Sarah Bernhardt's Paris**, Christopher Hibbert, *Mankind*, October 1982. 134
Through carefree times and through war and famine, for over half a century actress **Sarah Bernhardt** was at the center of the **artistic and social life of Paris**. The author's review of her colorful career provides a panorama of **social and political change**.
26. **'The White Man's Burden'?: Imperial Wars in the 1890s**, Lawrence James, *History Today*, August 1992. 143
Lawrence James surveys the racial theories, economic interests, and national rivalries that constituted nineteenth-century **imperialism**.
27. **Ecological Imperialism: The Biological Expansion of Europe, 900–1900**, Alfred W. Crosby, *The Key Reporter*, Winter 1987–1988. 149
European emigrants and their descendants are scattered over many parts of the globe. By the end of the nineteenth century, they had established many neo-Europes that profoundly altered the world. But conventional accounts of European expansion have missed an important component—the **ecological implications of imperialism**. This essay highlights a few of the changes wrought by the neo-Europeans.



Unit 4

Modernism and Total War: The Twentieth Century

Eleven selections discuss the evolution of the modern Western world, the Russian Revolution, the world wars, the Nazi state, the effects of Europe's loss of economic and political dominance in world affairs, and the 1991 revolution in Russia.

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|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----|
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| 28. Sarajevo: The End of Innocence , Edmund Stillman, <i>Horizon</i> , Summer 1964. | 154 |
| Even after 50 years of explanations, it is difficult to understand why a political murder in a remote corner of the Balkans should have set off a war that changed Europe forever. This article provides another perspective on <i>the origins of the Great War</i> . | |
| 29. When the Red Storm Broke , William Harlan Hale, <i>American Heritage</i> , February 1961. | 158 |
| In 1917 the Allies hoped to keep Russia in the war against Germany, despite the collapse of the Romanov dynasty. This is the odd tale of America's futile and amateurish efforts to influence the <i>Russian Revolution</i> . | |
| 30. How the Modern Middle East Map Came to Be Drawn , David Fromkin, <i>Smithsonian</i> , May 1991. | 164 |
| The long-awaited collapse of the <i>Ottoman Empire</i> finally occurred in 1918. <i>World War I</i> and the <i>Arab uprising</i> paved the way for a new era in the Middle East. But it was the British, not the Arabs, who played the central role in reshaping the <i>geopolitics</i> of the region. | |
| 31. Remembering Mussolini , Charles F. Delzell, <i>The Wilson Quarterly</i> , Spring 1988. | 171 |
| <i>Benito Mussolini</i> won the praise of intellectuals, journalists, and statesmen for bringing order and unity to Italy during the early years of his <i>fascist regime</i> . In 1945, however, he and his mistress were executed; later, a mob in Milan mutilated the corpses. Here Charles Delzell chronicles the dictator's rise and fall. | |
| 32. Resistance of the Heart in Nazi Germany , Nathan Stoltzfus, <i>The Atlantic</i> , September 1992. | 178 |
| It is widely believed that it would have been useless and probably suicidal for Germans to have protested against the policies of <i>Hitler</i> . But Nathan Stoltzfus documents three instances of successful <i>opposition to Nazi programs</i> . He concludes that people must take responsibility for the conduct of their governments—even in brutal <i>totalitarian regimes</i> . | |
| 33. A People Under Terror: Italian Jews During World War II , Alexander Stille, <i>Dissent</i> , Fall 1991. | 183 |
| <i>Italian fascism</i> , unlike Hitler's fascist movement, did not rise to power on a program of <i>anti-Semitism</i> . In 1938, however, at the urging of his ally Hitler, Mussolini promulgated new " <i>racial laws</i> " directed against the Jews of Italy. This article shows what those decrees meant to the family of Enrico Di Veroli. | |
| 34. Night Witches, Snipers, and Laundresses , John Erickson, <i>History Today</i> , July 1990. | 187 |
| During World War II <i>women of the Soviet Union</i> were called upon to play many roles in the fight for survival against the German invaders. Their experiences are surveyed in this article. | |



Unit 5

Conclusion: The Human Prospect

Seven articles examine how politics, war, economics, and culture affect the prospects of humankind.

35. 1945, Ryszard Kapuściński, *The New Republic*, January 27, 1986. 191

"Those who live through a war never free themselves from it." A Polish writer's memories of war are a reminder that **wartime heroism** is not confined to the battlefield. The civilian experience of **military conflict** is indelibly imprinted upon his memory. In this essay he recreates a wartime world of extreme tension and dread.

36. The War Europe Lost, Ronald Steel, *The New Republic*, October 6, 1979. 195

Unlike World War I, which was fought almost entirely in Europe, **the second war** was truly a world war, one that undermined the authority of the European states and broke their hold on the colonial world. Ronald Steel explains how and why the war reduced Europe's mastery over the world.

37. The August Revolution, Martin Malia, *The New York Review of Books*, September 26, 1991. 197

The Russian Revolution of August 1991 appears to have negated **the Russian Revolution of October 1917**. Thus, says the author (paraphrasing Marx), the Soviet experiment began in tragedy and ended in the hard-line communists' farcical attempts to hold on to power. This article by Martin Malia, an authority on the Soviet system, assesses the prospects of Boris Yeltsin's regime.

38. Facts on File, Paul Quinn-Judge, *The New Republic*, June 29, 1992. 204

In an attempt to discredit nearly 75 years of Communist Party dictatorship in **the Soviet Union**, Boris Yeltsin's new Russian regime released a series of important documents taken from the secret personal archives of party leaders. Among other things, they connect recent Soviet regimes with **international terrorism**, and they reveal a less flattering picture of **Mikhail Gorbachev** than the one typically promoted by Western journalists.

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39. Jihad vs. McWorld, Benjamin R. Barber, *The Atlantic*, March 1992. 208

This article explores two possible political futures, "both bleak, neither democratic." The first is a return to **tribalization**, an endless array of conflicts pitting culture against culture, ethnic group against ethnic group, religion against religion. The second is a single homogeneous **global network** "tied together by **technology, ecology, communications, and commerce.**"

40. Europe's Muslims, Anthony Hartley, *The National Interest*, Winter 1990/91. 213

The controversy over Salman Rushdie's novel, *The Satanic Verses*, awakened the world to some of the **conflicts between Muslim and European values**—conflicts that may be intensified as the Muslim population of Europe grows. Anthony Hartley explores the status of Muslims in England, France, and Germany.

41. World City-States of the Future , Riccardo Petrella, <i>New Perspectives Quarterly</i> , Fall 1991.	219
The author, a futurist, anticipates that we are entering a postnational era that will be a high-tech version of prenational times. The new age will be dominated by "technologically highly developed city regions" linked by " transnational business firms that bypass the traditional nation-state framework."	
42. Global Boat People , Andries Van Agt, <i>New Perspectives Quarterly</i> , Fall 1991.	223
Much of history has been the story of migrations. In our time, economic and political disturbances have combined with mass communications and the transportation revolution to create unprecedented mass migrations from the poorer to the richer parts of the world. Andries Van Agt analyzes the potential impact of this development.	
43. Return of the Volksgeist , Isaiah Berlin, <i>New Perspectives Quarterly</i> , Fall 1991.	226
The Enlightenment advanced the principle of cosmopolitanism , the hope for a universalist culture based on widely accepted rational percepts. But eighteenth-century German poet and philosopher Johann Gottfried Herder promoted a counterideal: nationalism . It was Herder who argued that everyone needs to belong to a group, and every group needs a culture that is exclusively its own. Here Isaiah Berlin explores the relevance of Herder for our time.	
44. The Fall and Rise of French , George Tombs and Angéline Fournier, <i>World Monitor</i> , May 1992.	230
Although European nations have lost nearly all their colonies since World War II, their languages remain entrenched in portions of the Third World. For instance, there are five times more French speakers in the world than 100 years ago. In the twenty-first century more than half of these will be in Africa. What does this say about the possibilities for a global culture ?	
45. Whither Western Civilization? Thomas Sowell, <i>Current</i> , September 1991.	234
The fate of Western civilization, says the author, "is intertwined with the fate of human beings around the world, whether they live in Western or non-Western societies." Thus, to understand the modern world it is essential to be aware of the West's achievements and shortcomings . But, says Thomas Sowell, the West should be judged by comparison to the achievements and shortcomings of other cultures and traditions, not by abstract standards of perfection.	
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Editor

William Hughes
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Topic Guide

This topic guide suggests how the selections in this book relate to topics of traditional concern to students and professionals involved with the study of Western civilization. It can be very useful in locating articles that relate to each other for reading and research. The guide is arranged alphabetically according to topic. Articles may, of course, treat topics that do not appear in the topic guide. In turn, entries in the topic guide do not necessarily constitute a comprehensive listing of all the contents of each selection.

TOPIC AREA	TREATED AS AN ISSUE IN:	TOPIC AREA	TREATED AS AN ISSUE IN:
Art/Architecture	6. 17th-Century 'Renaissance' in Russia	Labor	19. Cottage Industry and the Factory System 21. Engels in Manchester
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Democracy	11. Birth of Public Opinion	Nationalism	24. Giuseppe Garibaldi 43. Return of the <i>Volksgeist</i>
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Enlightenment	11. Birth of Public Opinion 12. Commercialization of Childhood 14. Godfather of the American Constitution 16. Passion of Antoine Lavoisier 17. First Feminist 43. Return of the <i>Volksgeist</i>	Philosophy	7. Locke and Liberty 14. Godfather of the American Constitution 23. John Stuart Mill and Liberty 43. Return of the <i>Volksgeist</i>
Fascism	31. Remembering Mussolini 32. Resistance of the Heart in Nazi Germany 33. People Under Terror	Politics/Authority	1. Emergence of the Great Powers 5. Fabrication of Louis XIV 31. Remembering Mussolini 32. Resistance of the Heart in Nazi Germany
Ideology	7. Locke and Liberty 21. Engels in Manchester 22. Samuel Smiles 23. John Stuart Mill and Liberty	Religion	6. 17th-Century 'Renaissance' in Russia 40. Europe's Muslims
Industrial Revolution	19. Cottage Industry and the Factory System 21. Engels in Manchester	Revolution	15. French Revolution in the Minds of Men 16. Passion of Antoine Lavoisier 29. When the Red Storm Broke 37. August Revolution
		Science	8. From Astronomy to Astrophysics 9. Newton's Madness 20. Sophie Germain

TOPIC AREA	TREATED AS AN ISSUE IN:	TOPIC AREA	TREATED AS AN ISSUE IN:
Society	12. Commercialization of Childhood 18. Gin and Georgian London 19. Cottage Industry and the Factory System 35. 1945 40. Europe's Muslims 42. Global Boat People	War (cont'd)	34. Night Witches, Snipers, and Laundresses 35. 1945 36. War Europe Lost
Technology	39. Jihad vs. McWorld	Westernization	6. 17th-Century 'Renaissance' in Russia 39. Jihad vs. McWorld 45. Whither Western Civilization?
Totalitarianism	32. Resistance of the Heart in Nazi Germany 38. Facts on File	Women	17. First Feminist 20. Sophie Germain 34. Night Witches, Snipers, and Laundresses
War	1. Emergence of the Great Powers 2. War, Money, and the English State 3. Competing Cousins 28. Sarajevo: The End of Innocence 31. Remembering Mussolini	Working Class	18. Gin and Georgian London 19. Cottage Industry and the Factory System 21. Engels in Manchester

The Age of Power

The early modern period (c.1450-c.1700) was a time of profound change for Western civilization. During this epoch the medieval frame of reference gave way to a recognizably modern orientation. The old order had been simply, but rigidly, structured. There was little social or

geographical mobility. Europe was relatively backward and isolated from much of the world. The economy was dominated by self-sufficient agriculture. Trade and cities did not flourish. There were few rewards for technological innovation. A person's life seemed more attuned to revela-



tion than to reason and science. The Church both inspired and delimited intellectual and artistic expression. Most people were prepared to subordinate their concerns to those of a higher order—whether religious or social. Carlo Cipolla, a distinguished European historian, has given us an interesting capsulization of the waning order: “People were few in number, small in stature, and lived short lives. Socially they were divided among those who fought and hunted, those who prayed and learned, and those who worked. Those who fought did it often in order to rob. Those who prayed and learned, learned little and prayed much and superstitiously. Those who worked were the greatest majority and were considered the lowest group of all.”

That constricted world gradually gave way to the modern world. There is no absolute date that marks the separation, but elements of modernity were evident throughout Western civilization by the eighteenth century. In this context the late medieval, Renaissance, and Reformation periods were transitional. They linked the medieval to the modern. But what were the elements of this emergent modernity? Beginning with the economic foundation, an economy based on money and commerce overlaid the traditional agrarian system, thus creating a more fluid society. Urban life became increasingly important, allowing greater scope for personal expression. Modernity involved a state of mind, as well. Europeans of the early modern period were conscious that their way of life was different from that of their forebears. In addition, these moderns developed a different sense of time—for urban people, clock time superseded the natural rhythms of the changing seasons and the familiar cycle of planting and harvesting. As for the life of the mind, humanism, rationalism, and science began to take precedence over tradition—though not without a struggle. Protestantism presented yet another challenge to orthodoxy. And, as economic and political institutions evolved, new attitudes about power and authority emerged.

The early modern period is often called an Age of Power, primarily because the modern state, with its power

to tax, conscript, subsidize, and coerce, was taking shape. Its growth was facilitated by the changing economic order, which made it possible for governments to acquire money in unprecedented amounts—to hire civil servants, raise armies, protect and encourage national enterprise, and expand their power to the national boundaries and beyond.

Power, in various early modern manifestations, is the subject of the articles assembled in this unit. “The Emergence of the Great Powers” surveys the shifting international balance of power during the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries. “War, Money, and the English State” explores relations among economy, society, and state in one country. “Competing Cousins” explores the Anglo-Dutch trade rivalry, and shows how natural political allies could be driven to war over economic conflicts. “The High Price of Sugar” describes the triangular trade and how the drive for profits and economic power transformed Western civilization into an Atlantic culture that combined European, American, and African elements. “The Fabrication of Louis XIV” explains how writers and painters were enlisted in the drive to enhance the reputation (and influence) of the “Sun King.” “Locke and Liberty” covers the philosopher’s attempts to formulate a “modern” philosophy of politics, one resting on liberty and property.

Looking Ahead: Challenge Questions

How did the modern international order evolve?

How could modern states, such as England, afford such heavy investments in their military establishments?

What accounts for the many shifts in Anglo-Dutch relations?

How extensive were the modernizing tendencies of the era? What, if any, impact did they have upon the remote sections of Europe, such as Russia?

What were the long-term consequences of the triangular trade?

What is it about John Locke’s ideas that make them “modern”?