

**THE  
WORLD  
TO  
1500  
A Global History**

**全球通史** 上

——1500年从前的世界

L. S. STAVRIANOS

The World to 1500  
A GLOBAL HISTORY

*Prentice-Hall, Inc.*

*Englewood Cliffs, N.J.*

THE WORLD TO 1500:  
*A Global History*

BY L. S. STAVRIANOS

© Copyright 1970  
by Prentice-Hall, Inc., Englewood Cliffs, N.J.

All rights reserved. No part  
of this book may be reproduced  
in any form or by any means  
without permission in writing  
from the publishers.

13-968123-X

Library of Congress Catalog Card Number: 72-102096

Printed in the United States of America

Current printing (last digit):

10 9 8 7 6 5 4 3 2

PRENTICE-HALL INTERNATIONAL, INC., *London*  
PRENTICE-HALL OF AUSTRALIA, PTY., LTD., *Sydney*  
PRENTICE-HALL OF CANADA, LTD., *Toronto*  
PRENTICE-HALL OF INDIA PRIVATE LTD., *New Delhi*  
PRENTICE-HALL OF JAPAN, INC., *Tokyo*

## Acknowledgments

While assuming full responsibility for all facts and interpretations in this book, I take pleasure in acknowledging the generous help of Speros Vryonis, Jr., of the University of California, Los Angeles, and of the following colleagues at Northwestern University who read and criticized individual chapters: Robert E. Lerner, John R. McLane, James E. Sheridan, and Stuart Struever.

I am also deeply appreciative of the patience and warm interest in the venture shown by Mr. Robert P. Fenyó, history editor of Prentice-Hall, Inc.

My son, Peter, has rendered invaluable research assistance to the point of virtual joint authorship of this volume, and I gratefully acknowledge his essential contribution.

Finally I should like to extend my thanks to the Carnegie Corporation of New York, which has contributed generously to the World History Project at Northwestern University, of which this study is a product. Another product is *A Global History of Man* (1962) in which I presented an abbreviated and simplified version of the approach to world history followed in this volume.

Grateful acknowledgment is made to the following authors and publishers for permission for quotation of the epigraphs:

On the page following the Contents—Étienne Gilson, *Les Métamorphoses de la Cité de Dieu* (Paris: Publications Universitaires de

Louvain, 1942); Chapter 1—Geoffrey Barraclough, *History in a Changing World* (Oxford: Basil Blackwell & Mott, Ltd., 1955), p. 18; Chapter 2—Clyde Kluckhohn, *Mirror for Man* (New York: McGraw-Hill Book Company, 1949), p. 11; Chapter 3—R. J. Braidwood, "Near Eastern Prehistory," *Science*, Vol. 127 (June 20, 1958), 1419–30; Chapter 11—Robert Lopez, *The Birth of Europe*, © 1962 by Max Leclerc et Cie., Proprietors of Librairie Armand Colin and © 1966 translation by J. M. Dent & Sons, Ltd., and published in 1967 by M. Evans and Company Inc., New York, by arrangement with J. M. Dent & Sons, Ltd.; Chapter 12—Lynn White, Jr., "Tibet, India, and Malaya as Sources of Western Medieval Technology," *American Historical Review*, XLV (April, 1960), 515, 526; Chapter 15—William Carroll Bark, *Origins of the Medieval World* (Stanford: Stanford University Press, 1958), p. 66; Chapter 17—Lynn White, Jr., "Technology and Invention in the Middle Ages," *Speculum*, XV (1940), 155; Chapter 20—Arnold J. Toynbee, *Civilization on Trial*, © 1948 by Oxford University Press, Inc.

The paragraphs from *The New York Times* quoted on pages 69–70 of the text are cited with permission (© 1957 by *The New York Times Company*). The quotation on page 209 of the text from *Everyday Life in Early Imperial China*, by Michael Loewe, is reprinted by permission of G. P. Putnam's Sons. Text © 1968 by Michael Loewe.

Illustrations appearing on the cover and on page ii are (clockwise from top): Shiva Nataraja (The Metropolitan Museum of Art, Purchase 1964—Harris Brisbane Dick Fund); ivory pendant mask, 16th century, Southern Nigeria (The Bettmann Archive); drawing of a seal of one of the early Caliphs; Aztec stone mask representing the god Xipe Totec (The Granger Collection); terracotta mounted figure from Central Asia, Hunnic period (Arborio Mella); detail from an ancestral tablet, from Elema, Papuan Gulf; Mycenaean gold mask of Agamemnon (Gabriele Wunderlich); (center) Chinese mirror back showing Taoist deities (Museum of Fine Arts, Boston).

Cover design by Margaret Tsao.

*This book is for*  
RAY ALLEN BILLINGTON  
*esteemed teacher and cherished friend*

OTHER BOOKS BY L. S. STAVRIANOS:

*The Balkans, 1815–1914*

*Balkan Federation: A History of the Movement Toward  
Balkan Unity in Modern Times*

*The Balkans Since 1453*

*The Epic of Modern Man: A Collection of Readings*, editor

*A Global History of Man* (with others)

*Greece: American Dilemma and Opportunity*

*The Ottoman Empire: Was It the Sick Man of Europe?*

*Readings in World History*, editor (with others)

*The World Since 1500: A Global History*

*Past events make us pay particular attention to the future, if we really make thorough enquiry in each case into the past.*

POLYBIUS

*. . . during this period history becomes, so to speak, an organic whole. What happens in Italy and in Libya is bound up with what happened in Asia and in Greece, all events culminating in a single result. . . . Consequently separate histories must be regarded as of very little use in arriving at a realistic conception of the total picture. For it is only by exposing side by side the threads that connect each event with the whole complex, and also by pointing out resemblances and differences, that it becomes possible to achieve this, and to be able to derive profit as well as enjoyment . . . from the study of history.*

POLYBIUS

*The throes of the contemporary world are those of a birth. And what is being born with such great pain is a universal human society. . . . What characterizes the events we witness, what distinguishes them from all preceding events back to the origins of history is . . . their global character.*

ETIENNE GILSON



# Contents

## *Part*

### **I**

#### MAN BEFORE CIVILIZATION 1

##### *Chapter 1*

#### INTRODUCTION: NATURE OF WORLD HISTORY 3

- I. Why World History?, 3 · II. Structure of World History, 4  
III. Geography of World History, 5

##### *Chapter 2*

#### MAN THE FOOD GATHERER 9

- I. Origins of Man, 10 · II. Meaning of Man, 12 · III. Culture of  
the Food Gatherers, 12 · IV. Dispersal and Race Differentiation, 19

##### *Chapter 3*

#### MAN THE FOOD PRODUCER 23

- I. Origins of Agriculture, 24 · II. Diffusion of Agriculture, 25  
III. Varieties of Agriculture, 29 · IV. Culture of the Food  
Producers, 31 · V. Demographic and Racial Repercussions, 35

*Part*

**II**

ANCIENT CIVILIZATIONS OF EURASIA, 3500-1000 B.C.	39
---	----

*Chapter 4*

ORIGINS OF ANCIENT CIVILIZATIONS	41
----------------------------------	----

- I. Nature of Civilization, 42 · II. Mesopotamian Origins, 43 ·  
III. Diffusion of Civilization, 48

*Chapter 5*

STYLES OF ANCIENT CIVILIZATIONS	50
---------------------------------	----

- I. Mesopotamia, 51 · II. Egypt, 55 · III. Crete, 58 · IV. Indus,  
61 · V. Shang, 63

*Chapter 6*

END OF ANCIENT CIVILIZATIONS	66
------------------------------	----

- I. Historical Significance of Ancient Civilizations, 67 · II. Nomads  
Enter History, 71 · III. Nomadic Invasions in the Middle East, 75 ·  
IV. Nomadic Invasions of the Peripheral Civilizations, 78

*Part*

**III**

CLASSICAL CIVILIZATIONS OF EURASIA, 1000 B.C.-A.D. 500	85
---	----

*Chapter 7*

INCIPIENT EURASIAN ECUMENE	87
----------------------------	----

- I. Roots of Ecumenism, 88 · II. Commercial Bonds, 92 ·  
III. Cultural Bonds, 101

<i>Chapter 8</i>	
GRECO-ROMAN CIVILIZATION	109
I. Formative Age, 800–500 B.C., 110 · II. Classical Age, 500–336 B.C., 113 · III. Civilization of the Classical Age, 116 · IV. Hellenistic Age, 336–31 B.C., 123 · V. Early Republic, to 264 B.C., 127 · VI. Late Republic, 265–27 B.C., 131 · VII. Early Empire, 27 B.C.–A.D. 284, 134 · VIII. Late Empire, A.D. 284–467, 139	
<i>Chapter 9</i>	
INDIAN CIVILIZATION	147
I. Aryan Impact, 148 · II. Reformation and Counter-Reformation, 150 · III. Maurya Empire, 155 · IV. Invaders, Traders, and Missionaries, 158 · V. Gupta Classical Age, 161	
<i>Chapter 10</i>	
CHINESE CIVILIZATION	164
I. Age of Transition, 165 · II. Philosophers and Classics, 166 · III. Ch'in Empire, 170 · IV. Han Empire, 172 · V. Imperial Decline, 176	
MAPS	179
<i>Chapter 11</i>	
END OF CLASSICAL CIVILIZATIONS	207
I. Historical Significance of Classical Civilizations, 208 · II. Roots of Decline, 213 · III. Barbarian Invasions, 216 · IV. Germans and Huns in the West, 219 · V. Continued Invasions in the West, 223 · VI. Historic Uniqueness of the West, 226	
<i>Part</i>	
IV	
MEDIEVAL CIVILIZATIONS OF EURASIA, 500-1500	231
<i>Chapter 12</i>	
EURASIAN ECUMENE	233
I. Eurasian Sea Trade, 234 · II. Eurasian Land Trade, 236 · III. Technological Diffusion, 237 · IV. Eurasian Religions, 240 · V. Expanding Horizons, 244	

### *Chapter 13*

#### RISE OF ISLAM 248

- I. Arabia Before Islam, 249 · II. Mohammed, 249 · III. Age of Conquests, 252 · IV. Arab Kingdom to Islamic Empire, 254 · V. Islamic Civilization, 255 · VI. Decline of the Caliphate, 261

### *Chapter 14*

#### TURCO-MONGOL INVASIONS 265

- I. Turkish Predominance in the Islamic World, 266 · II. Genghis Khan, 268 · III. Early Conquests, 270 · IV. Mongol Empire, 271 · V. Mongol Decline, 275 · VI. Moslem Turkish Resurgence, 276 · VII. Significance of Turco-Mongol Invasions, 277

### *Chapter 15*

#### TRADITIONAL BYZANTINE CIVILIZATION 283

- I. Emergence of Byzantium, 284 · II. Byzantium's Golden Age, 288 · III. Byzantium's Decline, 291 · IV. End of Byzantium, 294 · V. Byzantium's Legacy, 297 · VI. Byzantium and the Slavs, 298 · VII. Third Rome, 301

### *Chapter 16*

#### TRADITIONAL CONFUCIAN CIVILIZATION 305

- I. Sui Restores Unity, 306 · II. T'ang Empire, 306 · III. Sung Golden Age, 312 · IV. Yüan Mongol Rule, 314 · V. Ming Ethnocentrism and Withdrawal, 316 · VI. Chinese Civilization in Japan, 319 · VII. Japanese Feudalism, 320 · VIII. Japan's Withdrawal and Isolation, 322

### *Chapter 17*

#### REVOLUTIONARY WESTERN CIVILIZATION 324

- I. Pluralism in the West, 325 · II. Geographic Background, 327 · III. Technological Precocity, 328 · IV. Developing Economy, 331 · V. Rise of National Monarchies, 333 · VI. Age of Faith, 335 · VII. Western Europe's Expansionism, 336

*Part*

**V**

NON-EURASIAN WORLD TO 1500	343
<i>Chapter 18</i>	
AFRICA	345
I. Geography, 346 · II. Peoples, 347 · III. Agriculture and Iron, 348 · IV. Islam, 351 · V. Sudan Empires, 352 · VI. Kingdoms and Tribes, 354 · VII. Conclusion, 357	
<i>Chapter 19</i>	
AMERICAS AND AUSTRALIA	361
I. Land and People, 362 · II. Cultures, 363 · III. Civilizations, 365 · IV. Conclusion, 370 · V. Australia, 373	
<i>Chapter 20</i>	
EPILOGUE: THE WORLD ON THE EVE OF EUROPE'S EXPANSION	377
NOTES	383
INDEX	389

MAPS BY THEODORE R. MILLER

I	<i>Global Distribution of Hominids and Homo Sapiens</i>	182
II	<i>World Population Growth</i>	183
III	<i>Global Race Distribution</i>	184
IV	<i>Recession of Hunters</i>	185
V	<i>Expansion of Agriculturists</i>	186
V-a	<i>Dispersal of Agriculture</i>	187
VI	<i>Ancient Civilizations of Eurasia, 3500-1500 B.C.</i>	188
VII	<i>Classical Age Empires in the Middle East and Europe</i>	189
VIII	<i>Classical Age Empires in India</i>	190
IX	<i>Classical Age Empires in China</i>	191
X	<i>Incipient Eurasian Ecumene about A.D. 200</i>	192
XI	<i>Barbarian Invasions in Eurasia, 4th and 5th Centuries A.D.</i>	194
XII	<i>Continued Barbarian Invasions in the West, 9th and 10th Centuries</i>	195
XIII	<i>Expansion of Islam to 1500</i>	196
XIV	<i>Mongol Empire at the Death of Kublai Khan, 1294</i>	197
XV	<i>Eurasian Ecumene about 1300</i>	198
XVI	<i>Expansionism of the Medieval West, 11th to 15th Century</i>	200
XVII	<i>Early 15th-Century Chinese and Portuguese Voyages</i>	201
XVIII	<i>Decline of the Byzantine Empire.</i>	202
XIX	<i>The Growth of Muscovy</i>	203
XX	<i>African Empires and Trade Routes</i>	204
XXI	<i>Amerindian Empires</i>	205
XXII	<i>Culture Areas of the World about 1500</i>	206

# MAN BEFORE CIVILIZATION

*Part I is concerned with man's two million years before civilization. The other parts of the book are devoted to man's history since he became civilized, less than six thousand years ago. Thus, by far the longest phase of man's evolution will receive by far the briefest consideration. The reason for the disproportionate emphasis on the story of civilized man is the constantly accelerating tempo of human history. Geologic time is measured in billions of years, and man's prehistory in millennia; but since the advent of civilization, the chronological unit has shrunk progressively to centuries and to decades, until fateful events now daily crowd us, unceasingly and inexorably. Indeed the pace of change has reached such proportions that it is a very real question whether the human species is capable of adjusting with sufficient dispatch to avoid obsolescence, or even extinction.*

*The disparity in the pace of events, and the corresponding disparity in emphasis in this study, should not lead us, however, to minimize the significance of what happened during prehistory. During those millennia, two developments provided the bedrock foundation for all later history. One was the gradual transition from primate to man—from hominid to *Homo sapiens*. The other was the transformation of the human newcomer from a food gatherer who was dependent on the bounty of nature to a food producer who became increasingly independent of nature—the master of his destiny. These two epochal*

events—the making of man and the advent of agriculture—are the subjects of the two chapters of Part I.

2     Although early man took those fateful first steps that were prerequisites for the future of his species, the fact remains that they were only first steps. In the process of becoming a thinking animal, man learned to use words and tools and fire; and in becoming a food producer, he learned to plant and to use the hoe and scythe. This technology placed him in an entirely different category from that of the animals about him, and yet it was a primitive technology compared to that which was to follow. The contrast is apparent if a stone hatchet or a flint-tipped scythe is placed beside a modern computer or space ship. Though the difference is self-evident, it needs to be underscored here because it explains the steady extension of the range of human activity, to be noted in the introduction to each part of this book.

The more primitive the technology, the more constricted its range of operation; conversely, the more advanced the technology, the more extensive its range. In prehistoric times, the food gatherer perforce was restricted to the few square miles of his hunting grounds; the early cultivator, to his village and the surrounding fields and pastures. Thus the range of prehistoric human communities may be defined as being "local." The later history of man, depicted in the following pages and in *The World Since 1500*, was in large part the history of the extension of that range from local dimensions to regional, inter-regional, global, and planetary.



*... universal history is more than  
the sum of its parts; it cannot be divided  
and subdivided without being denaturalized,  
much as water, separated into its chemical  
components, ceases to be water and  
becomes hydrogen and oxygen.*

Chapter

1

GEOFFREY BARRACLOUGH

## Introduction:

### Nature of World History

**T**he distinctive feature of this book is that it is a *world* history. It deals with the entire globe rather than with some one country or region. It is concerned not with Western man or non-Western man, but with all mankind. The viewpoint is that of an observer perched on the moon, surveying our planet as a whole, rather than that of one who is ensconced in London or Paris, or for that matter, in Peking or Delhi.

#### I. WHY WORLD HISTORY?

This global approach to history represents a new departure in modern historiography. Since the days of the Enlightenment in the eighteenth century the emphasis has been on the nation rather than on mankind. But in recent years, interest in world history has been growing largely as a reaction to the manifestly global sweep of contemporary events. With astronauts and cosmonauts encircling the entire planet in a few hours and even reaching the moon, and with newspaper headlines concerned fully as much with Asia and Africa as with Europe and the Americas, it is increasingly recognized that a wider angle of