Volume 1 of *The Cambridge World History* is an introduction to both the discipline of world history and the earliest phases of world history up to 10,000 BCE. In Part I leading scholars outline the approaches, methods, and themes that have shaped and defined world history scholarship across the world and right up to the present day. Chapters examine the historiographical development of the field globally, periodization, divergence and convergence, belief and knowledge, technology and innovation, family, gender, anthropology, migration, and fire. Part II surveys the vast Paleolithic era, which laid the foundations for human history, and concentrates on the most recent phases of hominin evolution, the rise of *Homo sapiens* and the very earliest human societies through to the end of the last ice age. Anthropologists, archaeologists, historical linguists, and historians examine climate and tools, language, and culture, as well as offering regional perspectives from across the world.

**David Christian** is Professor of History at Macquarie University in Sydney. He is the author of *Maps of Time: An Introduction to Big History*, and co-founder with Bill Gates of the Big History Project.
The Cambridge World History is an authoritative new overview of the dynamic field of world history. It covers the whole of human history, not simply history since the development of written records, in an expanded time frame that represents the latest thinking in world and global history. With over two hundred essays, it is the most comprehensive account yet of the human past, and it draws on a broad international pool of leading academics from a wide range of scholarly disciplines. Reflecting the increasing awareness that world history can be examined through many different approaches and at varying geographic and chronological scales, each volume offers regional, topical, and comparative essays alongside case studies that provide depth of coverage to go with the breadth of vision that is the distinguishing characteristic of world history.

Editor-in-chief

Merry E. Wiesner-Hanks, Department of History,
University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee

Editorial Board

Graeme Barker, Department of Archaeology,
Cambridge University
Craig Benjamin, Department of History,
Grand Valley State University
Jerry Bentley, Department of History, University of Hawaii
David Christian, Department of Modern History,
Macquarie University
Ross Dunn, Department of History,
San Diego State University
Candice Goucher, Department of History,
Washington State University
Marnie Hughes-Warrington, Department of Modern History,
Monash University
Alan Karras, International and Area Studies Program,
University of California, Berkeley
Benjamin Z. Kedar, Department of History, Hebrew University
JOHN R. McNEILL, School of Foreign Service and Department of History, Georgetown University

KENNETH POMERANZ, Department of History, University of Chicago

VERENE SHEPHERD, Department of History, University of the West Indies

SANJAY SUBRAHMANYAM, Department of History, UCLA and Collège de France

KAORU SUGIHARA, Department of Economics, Kyoto University

MARCEL VAN DER LINDEN, International Institute of Social History, Amsterdam

Q. EDWARD WANG, Department of History, Rowan University

NORMAN YOFFEE, Departments of Near Eastern Studies and Anthropology, University of Michigan; Institute for the Study of the Ancient World, New York University
THE CAMBRIDGE WORLD HISTORY

* VOLUME I

Introducing World History,
to 10,000 BCE

* 

Edited by
DAVID CHRISTIAN
Macquarie University
Contents

List of figures x
List of maps xii
List of table xiii
List of contributors xiv
Preface xv
Acknowledgments xxi

1 · Introduction and overview 1
DAVID CHRISTIAN

PART I: HISTORIOGRAPHY, METHOD, AND THEMES

2 · Writing world history 41
MARNIE HUGHES-WARRINGTON

3 · The evolution of world histories 56
DOMINIC SACHSENMAIER

4 · Evolution, rupture, and periodization 84
MICHAEL LANG

5 · From divergence to convergence: centrifugal and centripetal forces in history 110
DAVID R. NORTHROP

6 · Belief, knowledge, and language 132
LUKE CLOSSEY
CONTENTS

7 · Historiography of technology and innovation 165
   Daniel R. Headrick

8 · Fire and fuel in human history 185
   Johan Goudsblom

9 · Family history and world history: from domestication to Biopolitics 208
   Mary Jo Maynes and Ann Waltner

10 · Gendered world history 234
    Merry E. Wiesner-Hanks

11 · What does anthropology contribute to world history? 261
    Jack Goody

12 · Migration in human history 277
    Patrick Manning

PART II: THE PALEOLITHIC AND THE BEGINNINGS OF HUMAN HISTORY

13 · Before the farmers: culture and climate from the emergence of Homo sapiens to about ten thousand years Ago 313
    Felipe Fernández-Armesto

14 · Early humans: tools, language, and culture 339
    Christopher Ehret

15 · Africa from 48,000 to 9500 BCE 362
    Christopher Ehret

16 · Migration and innovation in palaeolithic europe 394
    John F. Hoffercker

17 · Asian Palaeolithic dispersals 414
    Robin Dennell

viii
Contents

18 · The Pleistocene colonization and occupation of Australasia 433  
Peter Hiscock

19 · The Pleistocene colonization and occupation of the Americas 461  
Nicole M. Waguespack

Index 478
Figures

6.1 Tesla coil XKCD cartoon (www.xkcd.com).
6.4 1890 map of areas with history and those without (from Synchronological Chart of Universal History, Edward Hull, 1890).
6.5 Percentage of world history textbook content about science or religion, by era.
6.6 Percentage of world history textbook content centred on “the West” for science and religion.
7.1 “The Opening of the Great Exhibition by Queen Victoria on 1 May 1851” by Henry Courtney Selous, 1851–2 (oil on canvas) (reproduced by kind permission of the Trustees of the Victoria & Albert Museum).
7.2 The Enola Gay, the Boeing B-29 Super Fortress bomber, which dropped the first atomic bomb over Japan in the Second World War (© Richard T. Nowitz/Corbis).
7.3 James Watt’s (1736–1819) prototype steam engine ‘Old Bess’ c. 1778 (World History Archive/Alamy).
9.1 Reconstruction of a house at Çatalhöyük (© Mauricio Abreu/JAI/Corbis).
9.2 Coffins of children unearthed at a Yangshao burial site at Luoyang, in China’s central Henan province (© Imaginechina/Corbis).
9.3 Stela depicting a woman presenting a jaguar mask to a priest, from Yaxchilan (stone), Maya (Museo Nacional de Antropologia, Mexico City, Mexico/Bridgeman Images).
9.4 “Black and Indian Produce a Wolf,” c. 1715 (oil on canvas), Juarez, Juan Rodriguez (1675–1728). In the title of this casta painting, the term “wolf” refers to one of the fanciful names for a racial category (Breamore House, Hampshire, UK/Bridgeman Images).
9.5 Advertisement for a German public information brochure titled “Healthy Parents – Healthy Children!”, 1934 (colour litho) (Deutsches Historisches Museum, Berlin, Germany/ DHM/Bridgeman Images).
List of figures

9.6 US advertisement showing a man returning from work to a suburban home, greeted by his family in the front yard, 1956 (© GraphicaArtis/Corbis).

10.1 Elderly women in Moscow wait in front of a counter on a food line to buy blocks of butter (© Shepard Sherbell/CORBIS SABA).

10.2 Hijras at a Pride March organized by the LGBT community in Mumbai, February 2014, to protest Indian laws that criminalize sexual acts between consenting adults of the same sex (© Subhash Sharma/ZUMA Press/Corbis).


10.4 British Second World War poster recruiting female factory workers (© Heritage Images/Corbis).

10.5 British First World War recruiting poster (© Corbis).

10.6 Indian nationalist BJP party officials, including Narendra Modi, who became Prime Minister in 2014, light a candle in front of an image of Mother India (© AMIT DAVE/Reuters/Corbis).

15.1 Elands, hunters, and spirit beings: Khoesan Rock art at Game Pass, South Africa (photograph by Christopher Ehret).

15.2 Batwa Rock Art (photograph by Benjamin Smith).

16.1 Jaw and teeth dated from 1.2 to 1.1 million years ago, found at Atapuerca in northern Spain (© Sani Otero/epa/Corbis).

16.2 Neanderthal man skull (Homo sapiens neanderthalensis) (De Agostini Picture Library/A. Dagli Orti/Bridgeman Images).

16.3 Head and shoulders of a sculpted model of a female Neanderthal, National Geographic Society, Washington, D.C. (© Mark Thiessen/National Geographic Society/Corbis).

16.4 Venus of Dolni Vestonice, a small ceramic statue dating from 30,000 to 25,000 BCE, from a Gravettian era settlement in Moravia (© Walter Geiersperger/Corbis).

17.1 The climatic pulse of the Pleistocene.

17.2 Summary model of population dynamics under the climatic shifts of the Pleistocene in continental Asia.

17.3 The Tajik loess and palaeosol record (reprinted from Quaternary Science Reviews, 18 (10–11), Tungseng Liu, Zhongli Ding, and Rutter, N., “Comparison of Milankovitch periods between continental loess and deep sea records over the last 2.5 Ma.,” pp. 1205–12, copyright 1999, with permission from Elsevier).

19.1 A sample of Early Paleoindian projectile point types: (a) Clovis, (b) Folsom, (c) tapered-base point from South America, (d) Chindadn.
Maps

5.1 DNA evidence of global human migration since about 170,000 years ago. Source: Wikipedia Commons, licensed under the Creative Commons Attribution-Share Alike 3.0 Unported license.

5.2 African language map, showing Bantu language area (Niger-Congo B). Source: Wikipedia Commons, licensed under the Creative Commons Attribution-Share Alike 3.0 Unported license; created by Mark Dingemanse.

6.1 “Knowledge makers” in courses taught at the University of Cambridge.

12.1 Shifting climate and migration in Africa, 200,000 to 100,000 years ago.

12.2 Occupying the planet, 70,000 to 25,000 years ago.

12.3 Glacial Maximum and Holocene eras, 25,000 to 5,000 years ago.

12.4 Language migration and expansion, 10,000 to 5,000 years ago.

12.5 Eurasian developments, 3000 BCE to 800 CE.

12.6 Agricultural expansion, 3000 BCE to 800 CE.

12.7 Maritime and pastoral migration, 800–1500 CE.

12.8 Forced migration, 800–1900 CE.

12.9 Global migration after 1850.

12.10 Twentieth-century urbanization.

14.1 The earliest Later Stone Age: the cultural world of the common ancestors of all modern humans, c. 68,000–61,000 BCE.

14.2 At the threshold of human dispersal out of Africa: our common human ancestors of the Later Stone Age, c. 50,000–48,000 BCE.

15.1 Dispersals of fully modern humans with Later Stone Age technology across Africa, 48,000–30,000 BCE.

15.2 Major cultural traditions of Africa, 16,000–15,000 BCE.

17.1 Primary evidence for early Homo erectus in Asia.

17.2 Sites with the earliest skeletal evidence for Homo sapiens in Asia and northeast Africa.

18.1 Pleistocene continent of Australia.

19.1 Location of Late Pleistocene sites mentioned in text from the Americas.
Table

8.1 Global estimates of population (in millions) and energy use (GJ/capita). 203
Contributors

David Christian, Macquarie University
Luke Clossey, Simon Fraser University
Robin Dennell, University of Exeter
Christopher Ehret, University of California, Los Angeles
Felipe Fernández-Armesto, University of Notre Dame
Jack Goody, University of Cambridge
Johan Goudsblom, University of Amsterdam
Daniel R. Headrick, Roosevelt University
Peter Hiscock, University of Sydney
John F. Hoffecker, University of Colorado
Marnie Hughes-Warrington, Australian National University, Canberra
Michael Lang, University of Maine
Patrick Manning, Pittsburgh University
Mary Jo Maynes, University of Minnesota
David R. Northrup, Boston College
Dominic Sachsenmaier, Jacobs University Bremen
Nicole M. Waguespack, University of Wyoming
Ann Waltner, University of Minnesota
Merry E. Wiesner-Hanks, University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee
Preface

The Cambridge Histories have long presented authoritative multi-volume overviews of historical topics, with chapters written by specialists. The first of these, the Cambridge Modern History, planned by Lord Acton, and appearing after his death, from 1902 to 1912, had fourteen volumes and served as the model for those that followed, which included the seven-volume Cambridge Medieval History (1911–1936), the twelve-volume Cambridge Ancient History (1924–1939), the thirteen-volume Cambridge History of China (1978–2009), and more specialized multi-volume works on countries, religions, regions, events, themes, and genres. These works are designed, as the Cambridge History of China puts it, to be the “largest and most comprehensive” history in the English language of their topic, and, as the Cambridge History of Political Thought asserts, to cover “every major theme.”

The Cambridge World History both follows and breaks with the model set by its august predecessors. Presenting the “largest and most comprehensive” history of the world would take at least three hundred volumes – and a hundred years – as would covering “every major theme.” Instead the series provides an overview of the dynamic field of world history in seven volumes over nine books. It covers all of human history, not simply that since the development of written records, in an expanded time frame that represents the newest thinking in world history. This broad time frame blurs the line between archaeology and history, and presents both as complementary approaches to the human past. The volume editors include archaeologists as well as historians, and have positions at universities in the United States, Britain, France, Australia, and Israel. The essays similarly draw on a broad author pool of historians, art historians, anthropologists, classicists, archaeologists, economists, linguists, sociologists, biologists, geographers, and area studies specialists, who come from universities in Australia, Britain, Canada, China, Estonia, France, Germany, India, Israel, Italy, Japan, the Netherlands, New Zealand, Poland, Portugal, Sweden, Switzerland,
Singapore, and the United States. They include very senior scholars whose works have helped to form the field, and also mid-career and younger scholars whose research will continue to shape it in the future. Some of the authors are closely associated with the rise of world history as a distinct research and teaching field, while others describe what they do primarily as global history, transnational history, international history, or comparative history. (Several of the essays in Volume 1 trace the development of these overlapping, entangled, and at times competing fields.) Many authors are simply specialists on their topic who the editors thought could best explain this to a broader audience or reach beyond their comfort zones into territory that was new.

Reflecting the increasing awareness that world history can be examined through many different approaches and at varying geographic and chronological scales, each volume offers several types of essays, including regional, topical, and comparative ones, along with case studies that provide depth to go with the breadth of vision that is the distinguishing characteristic of world history. Volume 1 introduces key frames of analysis that shape the making of world history across time periods, with essays on overarching approaches, methods, and themes. It then includes a group of essays on the Paleolithic, covering the 95 percent of human history up to 10,000 BCE. From that point on, each volume covers a shorter time period than its predecessor, with slightly overlapping chronologies volume to volume to reflect the complex periodization of a truly global history. The editors chose the overlapping chronologies, and stayed away from traditional period titles (for example, “classical” or “early modern”) intentionally to challenge standard periodization to some degree. The overlapping chronologies also allow each volume to highlight geographic disjunctures and imbalances, and the ways in which various areas influenced one another. Each of the volumes centers on a key theme or cluster of themes that the editors view as central to the period covered in the volume and also as essential to an understanding of world history as a whole.

Volume II (A World with Agriculture, 12,000 BCE–500 CE) begins with the Neolithic, but continues into later periods to explore the origins of agriculture and agricultural communities in various regions of the world, as well as to discuss issues associated with pastoralism and hunter-fisher-gatherer economies. It traces common developments in the more complex social structures and cultural forms that agriculture enabled, and then presents a series of regional overviews accompanied by detailed case studies from many different parts of the world.
Preface

Volume III (Early Cities and Comparative History, 4000 BCE–1200 CE) focuses on early cities as motors of change in human society. Through case studies of cities and comparative chapters that address common issues, it traces the creation and transmission of administrative and information technologies, the performance of rituals, the distribution of power, and the relationship of cities with their hinterlands. It has a broad and flexible chronology to capture the development of cities in various regions of the world and the transformation of some cities into imperial capitals.

Volume IV (A World with States, Empires and Networks, 1200 BCE–900 CE) continues the analysis of processes associated with the creation of larger-scale political entities and networks of exchange, including those generally featured in accounts of the rise of “classical civilizations,” but with an expanded time frame that allows the inclusion of more areas of the world. It analyzes common social, economic, cultural, political, and technological developments, and includes chapters on slavery, religion, science, art, and gender. It then presents a series of regional overviews, each accompanied by a case study or two examining one smaller geographic area or topic within that region in greater depth.

Volume V (Expanding Webs of Exchange and Conquest, 500 CE–1500 CE) highlights the growing networks of trade and cross-cultural interaction that were a hallmark of the millennium covered in the volume, including the expansion of text-based religions and the transmission of science, philosophy, and technology. It explores social structures, cultural institutions, and significant themes such as the environment, warfare, education, the family, and courtly cultures on both a global and Eurasian scale, and continues the examination of state formation begun in Volume IV with chapters on polities and empires in Asia, Africa, Europe, and the Americas.

The first five volumes each appear in a single book, but the last two are double volumes covering the periods conventionally known as the early modern and modern, an organization signaling the increasing complexity of an ever more globalized world in the last half millennium, as well as the expanding base of source materials and existing historical analyses for these more recent eras. Volume VI (The Construction of a Global World, 1400–1800 CE) traces the increasing biological, commercial, and cultural exchanges of the period, and explores regional and transregional political, cultural, and intellectual developments. The first book within this volume, “Foundations,” focuses on global matrices that allowed this increasingly interdependent world to be created, including the environment, technology, and disease; crossroads and macro-regions such as the Caribbean, the Indian Ocean, and
Southeast Asia in which connections were especially intense; and large-scale political formations, particularly maritime and land-based empires such as Russia, the Islamic Empires, and the Iberian Empires that stretched across continents and seas. The second book within this volume, "Patterns of Change," examines global and regional migrations and encounters, and the economic, social, cultural, and institutional structures that both shaped and were shaped by these, including trade networks, law, commodity flows, production processes, and religious systems.

Volume VII (Production, Destruction, and Connection, 1750–Present) examines the uneven transition to a world with fossil fuels and an exploding human population that has grown ever more interactive through processes of globalization. The first book within this double volume, "Structures, Spaces, and Boundary Making," discusses the material situations within which our crowded world has developed, including the environment, agriculture, technology, energy, and disease; the political movements that have shaped it, such as nationalism, imperialism, decolonization, and communism; and some of its key regions. The second book, "Shared Transformations?" explores topics that have been considered in earlier volumes, including the family, urbanization, migration, religion, and science, along with some that only emerge as global phenomena in this era, such as sports, music, and the automobile, as well as specific moments of transition, including the Cold War and 1989.

Taken together, the volumes contain about two hundred essays, which means The Cambridge World History is comprehensive, but certainly not exhaustive. Each volume editor has made difficult choices about what to include and what to leave out, a problem for all world histories since those of Herodotus and Sima Qian more than two millennia ago. Each volume is arranged in the way that the volume editor or editors decided is most appropriate for the period, so that organizational schema differ slightly from volume to volume. Given the overlapping chronologies, certain topics are covered in several different volumes because they are important for understanding the historical processes at the heart of each of these, and because we as editors decided that viewing key developments from multiple perspectives is particularly appropriate for world history. As with other Cambridge Histories, the essays are relatively lightly footnoted, and include a short list of further readings, the first step for readers who want to delve deeper into the field. In contrast to other Cambridge Histories, all volumes are being published at the same time, for the leisurely pace of the print world that allowed publication over several decades does not fit with twenty-first-century digital demands.
Preface

In other ways as well, The Cambridge World History reflects the time in which it has been conceptualized and produced, just as The Cambridge Modern History did. Lord Acton envisioned his work, and Cambridge University Press described it, as “a history of the world,” although in only a handful of chapters out of several hundred were the principal actors individuals, groups, or polities outside of Europe and North America. This is not surprising, although the identical self-description of the New Cambridge Modern History (1957–1979), with a similar balance of topics, might be a bit more so. The fact that in 1957 – and even in 1979, when the last volume of the series appeared – Europe would be understood as “the world” and as the source of all that was modern highlights the power and longevity of the perspective we have since come to call “Eurocentric.” (In other languages, there are perspectives on world history that are similarly centered on the regions in which they have been produced.) The continued focus on Europe in the mid-twentieth century also highlights the youth of the fields of world and global history, in which the conferences, professional societies, journals, and other markers of an up-and-coming field have primarily emerged since the 1980s, and some only within the last decade. The Journal of World History, for example, was first published in 1990, the Journal of Global History in 2005, and New Global Studies in 2007.

World and global history have developed in an era of intense self-reflection in all academic disciplines, when no term can be used unself-consciously and every category must be complicated. Worries about inclusion and exclusion, about diversity and multivocality are standard practice in subfields of history and related disciplines that have grown up in this atmosphere. Thus as we editors sought topics that would give us a balance between the traditional focus in world history on large-scale political and economic processes carried out by governments and commercial elites and newer concerns with cultural forms, representation, and meaning, we also sought to include topics that have been important in different national historiographies. We also attempted to find authors who would provide geographic balance along with a balance between older and younger voices. Although the author pool is decidedly broader geographically – and more balanced in terms of gender – than it was in either of the Cambridge Modern Histories, it is not as global as we had hoped. Contemporary world and global history is overwhelmingly Anglophone, and, given the scholarly diaspora, disproportionately institutionally situated in the United States and the United Kingdom. Along with other disparities in our contemporary world, this disproportion is, of course, the result of the developments traced
in this series, though the authors might disagree about which volume holds the key to its origins, or whether one should spend much time searching for origins at all.

My hopes for the series are not as sweeping as Lord Acton’s were for his, but fit with those of Tapan Raychaudhuri and Irfan Habib, the editors of the two-volume *Cambridge Economic History of India* (1982). In the preface to their work, they comment: "We only dare to hope that our collaborative effort will stimulate discussion and help create new knowledge which may replace before many years the information and analysis offered in this volume.” In a field as vibrant as world and global history, I have no doubts that such new transformative knowledge will emerge quickly, but hope this series will provide an entrée to the field, and a useful overview of its state in the early twenty-first century.

MERRY E. WIESNER-HANKS
Acknowledgments

I have received a lot of help in editing this volume. First, I would like to thank Merry Wiesner-Hanks, who played a huge role in putting this volume together, as she did with all the volumes in this series. Second, I would like to thank Marnie Hughes-Warrington, who worked with me as we planned the basic structure of this volume. I would like to thank all the authors for their efficiency in getting papers to me and handling queries, and for their patience as this volume came together over several years. Finally, I would like to thank the editorial staff at CUP, in particular Michael Watson and the Copy-editor Julene Knox.