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A CONCISE HISTORY OF THE WORLD

This book tells the story of humankind as producers and reproducers from the Paleolithic to the present. Renowned social and cultural historian Merry E. Wiesner-Hanks brings a new perspective to world history by examining social and cultural developments across the globe, including families and kin groups, social and gender hierarchies, sexuality, race and ethnicity, labor, religion, consumption, and material culture. She examines how these structures and activities changed over time through local processes and interactions with other cultures, highlighting key developments that defined particular eras, such as the growth of cities or the creation of a global trading network. Incorporating foragers, farmers, and factory workers along with shamans, scribes, and secretaries, the book widens and lengthens human history. It makes comparisons and generalizations, but also notes diversities and particularities, as it examines the social and cultural matters that are at the heart of big questions in world history today.

MERRY E. WIESNER-HANKS is Distinguished Professor and Chair of the History Department at the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee. She is the author or editor of twenty books, including editor-in-chief of the multi-volume *Cambridge World History* (2015), *Early Modern Europe 1450–1789* (Cambridge, 2nd edn. 2013), *Women and Gender in Early Modern Europe* (Cambridge, 3rd edn. 2008), *Christianity and Sexuality in the Early Modern World: Regulating Desire, Reforming Practice* and *Gender in History: Global Perspectives*. She has also written a number of innovative source books for use in the college classroom, including *Discovering the Global Past: A Look at the Evidence*, a book for young adults, *An Age of Voyages, 1350–1600*, and a book for general readers, *The Marvelous Hairy Girls: The Gonzales Sisters and their Worlds*.

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