

## THE CAMBRIDGE WORLD HISTORY

\*

## VOLUME IV

From 1200 BCE to 900 CE, the world witnessed the rise of powerful new states and empires, as well as networks of cross-cultural exchange and conquest. Considering the formation and expansion of these large-scale entities, this fourth volume of *The Cambridge World History* series outlines key economic, political, social, cultural, and intellectual developments that occurred across the globe in this period. Leading scholars examine critical transformations in science and technology, economic systems, attitudes toward gender and family, social hierarchies, education, art, and slavery. The second part of the volume focuses on broader processes of change within Western and Central Eurasia, the Mediterranean, South Asia, Africa, East Asia, Europe, the Americas, and Oceania, as well as offering regional studies highlighting specific topics, from trade along the Silk Roads and across the Sahara, to Chaco culture in the US Southwest, to Confucianism and the state in East Asia.

CRAIG BENJAMIN is Professor of History in the Frederik J. Meijer Honors College at Grand Valley State University. He is co-author of *Big History: Between Nothing and Everything*.

## THE CAMBRIDGE WORLD HISTORY

*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 200 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*

Cambridge University Press & Assessment  
978-1-107-01572-2 — The Cambridge World History  
Edited by Craig Benjamin  
Frontmatter  
[More Information](#)

---

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, *Department of Near Eastern Studies and  
Anthropology at the University of Michigan;  
Institute for the Study of the Ancient World, New York University*

THE CAMBRIDGE WORLD HISTORY

\*

VOLUME IV

A World with States, Empires, and Networks,  
1200 BCE–900 CE

\*

*Edited by*

CRAIG BENJAMIN  
*Grand Valley State University*



CAMBRIDGE  
UNIVERSITY PRESS

Cambridge University Press & Assessment  
978-1-107-01572-2 — The Cambridge World History  
Edited by Craig Benjamin  
Frontmatter  
[More Information](#)



CAMBRIDGE  
UNIVERSITY PRESS

Shaftesbury Road, Cambridge CB2 8EA, United Kingdom  
One Liberty Plaza, 20th Floor, New York, NY 10006, USA  
477 Williamstown Road, Port Melbourne, VIC 3207, Australia  
314–321, 3rd Floor, Plot 3, Splendor Forum, Jasola District Centre, New Delhi – 110025, India  
103 Penang Road, #05–06/07, Visioncrest Commercial, Singapore 238467

Cambridge University Press is part of Cambridge University Press & Assessment,  
a department of the University of Cambridge.

We share the University's mission to contribute to society through the pursuit of  
education, learning and research at the highest international levels of excellence.

[www.cambridge.org](http://www.cambridge.org)

Information on this title: [www.cambridge.org/9781107015722](http://www.cambridge.org/9781107015722)

© Cambridge University Press & Assessment 2015

This publication is in copyright. Subject to statutory exception and to the provisions  
of relevant collective licensing agreements, no reproduction of any part may take  
place without the written permission of Cambridge University Press & Assessment.

First published 2015

Paperback edition first published 2017

*A catalogue record for this publication is available from the British Library*

ISBN 978-1-107-01572-2 Hardback

ISBN 978-1-108-40771-7 Paperback

Cambridge University Press & Assessment has no responsibility for the persistence  
or accuracy of URLs for external or third-party internet websites referred to in this  
publication and does not guarantee that any content on such websites is, or will  
remain, accurate or appropriate.

## Contents

*List of figures* x  
*List of maps* xiv  
*List of tables* xv  
*List of contributors* xvi  
*Preface* xvii

1 · Introduction: the world from 1200 BCE to 900 CE 1  
CRAIG BENJAMIN

### PART I: GLOBAL HISTORIES

2 · Global economic history 29  
SITTA VON REDEN

3 · The gendering of power in the family and the state 55  
SCOTT WELLS AND PING YAO

4 · Slavery 76  
PETER HUNT

5 · The Axial Age in world history 101  
BJÖRN WITTROCK

6 · Developments in science and technology c. 800 BCE – c. 800 CE 120  
HELMUTH SCHNEIDER

7 · Discourses on gender and sexuality 154  
SCOTT WELLS AND PING YAO

*Contents*

8 · Art 179

ROBERT BAGLEY

9 · Pastoral nomads 235

TIMOTHY MAY

PART II:  
 TRANS-REGIONAL AND REGIONAL  
 PERSPECTIVES

10 · Western and Central Eurasia 271

TOURAJ DARYAEE

11 · Regional study: Bactria – the crossroads of ancient Eurasia 300

JEFFREY LERNER

12 · The Mediterranean 325

CRAIG BENJAMIN AND MERRY E. WIESNER-HANKS

13 · Regional study: Athens in the fifth century BCE 350

WILLIAM MORISON

14 · Late antiquity in Europe c. 300–900 CE 375

CHARLES F. PAZDERNIK

15 · East Asia 407

CHARLES HOLCOMBE

16 · Regional study: Confucianism and the state 435

XINZHONG YAO

17 · Regional study: exchanges within the Silk Roads world system 457

XINRU LIU

18 · South Asia 480

SHONALEEKA KAUL

*Contents*

- 19 · Regional study: Pataliputra 514  
SHONALEEKA KAUL
- 20 · The Americas 537  
ERICA BEGUN AND JANET BRASHLER
- 21 · Regional study: Chaco Canyon and the US Southwest 572  
STEPHEN H. LEKSON
- 22 · Australasia and the Pacific 603  
IAN J. MCNIVEN
- 23 · Africa: states, empires, and connections 631  
STANLEY BURSTEIN
- 24 · Regional study: trans-Saharan trade 662  
RALPH AUSTEN
- Index* 687



## Figures

- 4.1 Roman slave collar. The inscriptions on these often included, “Seize me, since I am a runaway,” and promised a reward for the return of the slave. (© Scott Weiner/Retna Ltd./Corbis) 79
- 4.2 Euphronius Krater, gymnasium scene with slaves, depicted much smaller, helping free athletes (bpk / Antikensammlung, Staatliche Museen zu Berlin / Johannes Laurentius) 82
- 4.3 A female domestic slave carrying a box of cosmetics, scene of female toilette from the Collection of Greek Vases by Mr. Le Comte de Lamburg (*Collection des vases grecs de Mr. le comte de Lamburg*), 1813–1824, by Alexandre de Laborde (1773–1842), Volume 11 Table 44 (Bibliothèque des Arts Décoratifs, Paris, France / De Agostini Picture Library / G. Dagli Orti / Bridgeman Images) 84
- 4.4 Roman soldier with chained prisoners (Landesmuseum Mainz) 92
- 6.1 Eratosthenes’ method of calculating the circumference of the earth (G. E. R. Lloyd, *Greek Science after Aristotle*, London 1973, p. 50, fig. 3) 130
- 6.2 Ptolemy, the epicyclic motion of the planets (G. E. R. Lloyd, *Greek Science after Aristotle*, London 1973, p. 62, fig. 5) 132
- 6.3 Gallic reaper (harvesting machine) (White, *Greek and Roman Technology*, London 1984, p. 61, fig. 47) 137
- 6.4 Waterwheel for mine drainage (J. F. Healy, *Mining and Metallurgy in the Greek and Roman World*, London 1978, p. 98, fig. 19) 138
- 6.5 Roman water mill according to Vitruvius (G. E. R. Lloyd, *Greek Science after Aristotle*, London 1973, p. 107, fig. 22) 139
- 6.6 Hero’s ball rotated by steam (G. E. R. Lloyd, *Greek Science after Aristotle*, London 1973, p. 105, fig. 21) 141
- 7.1 Tang dynasty painting of the Paradise of Sakyamuni, with illustrations of episodes (© The Trustees of the British Museum. All rights reserved) 159
- 7.2 Roman terracotta lamp, manufactured in Asia Minor during the first century CE (© The Trustees of the British Museum. All rights reserved) 175
- 8.1 Chi-rho page from the Book of Kells. Ink and color on vellum. 33 x 25 cm. Trinity College, Dublin. Eighth or ninth century CE, probably from an Irish monastery on Iona, an island off the coast of Scotland (The Board of Trinity College Dublin) 181
- 8.2 The brother of Ramose and his wife. Limestone relief from the tomb of Ramose. Fourteenth century BCE. Egypt, ancient Thebes (modern Luxor) (De Agostini Picture Library / G. Dagli Orti / Bridgeman Images) 184

*List of figures*

- 8.3 Limestone relief from the temple of Sety I (c. 1290–1279 BCE). Abydos, Egypt. (Hirmer Fotoarchiv) 186
- 8.4 Chinese bronze ritual vessel. Height 39.5 cm. Early Bronze Age, thirteenth century BCE. Said to be from Anyang. Museum für Ostasiatische Kunst Köln C76,2 187
- 8.5 Lion hunt. Detail of gypsum orthostat. Palace of Assurbanipal (r. 669–631 BCE) at Nineveh. London, British Museum (© The Trustees of the British Museum. All rights reserved) 190
- 8.6 Gold bowl. Inscribed “Darius, the Great King.” Height 11.1 cm. Persian, Achaemenid, fifth century BCE. New York, Metropolitan Museum of Art 54.3.1 (© The Metropolitan Museum of Art. Image source: Art Resource, NY) 191
- 8.7 Bronze plaque from the Kingdom of Dian. Height 8 cm, length 16 cm. Second–first century BCE. Shizhaishan, Yunnan, southwest China 192
- 8.8 Jade ornament belonging to the King of Nan Yue. Diameter 10.6 cm. Second century BCE. Guangzhou (Canton), China 193
- 8.9 Roman silver dish from Hildesheim, Germany. Partly gilded. Diameter 25 cm. Made in or shortly after the reign of Augustus (27 BCE – 14 CE). Staatliche Museen, Berlin (bpk, Berlin / Art Resource, NY) 195
- 8.10 Pentheus Room, House of the Vettii, Pompeii. First century CE, between the earthquake of 62 CE and the eruption of Vesuvius in 79 CE. (Scala / Art Resource, NY) 196
- 8.11 Nymphaeum (model), Miletus, Asia Minor. Built to honor the father of Trajan. Second century CE. Rome, Museo della Civiltà Romana (Alinari / Art Resource, NY) 197
- 8.12 Arch of Constantine. 315 CE. Rome. Height 21 m, width 25.9 m, depth 7.4 m (Deutsches Archäologisches Institut) 198
- 8.13 Great Mosque, Damascus. 706–715 CE. (Hermann) 202
- 8.14 Slipped earthenware bowl. Inscribed in Arabic “Planning before work protects you from regret. Prosperity and peace.” Diameter 45.7 cm, height 17.8 cm. Ninth or tenth century CE. Nishapur, Iran. New York, Metropolitan Museum of Art 65.106.2 (© The Metropolitan Museum of Art) 204
- 8.15 Main Hall of the Inner Shrine at Ise, Japan. Rebuilt at intervals since 685 CE. First built perhaps two or three centuries before that (George Braziller, Inc.) 205
- 8.16 Teaching Buddha. Sandstone, originally painted. Height 158 cm. Gupta period, late fifth century CE. Sarnath, India. Archaeological Museum, Sarnath (Josephine Powell Photograph, courtesy of Special Collections, Fine Arts Library, Harvard University) 207
- 8.17 Bronze trinity, Shakyamuni and two Bodhisattvas. 623 CE. Height of seated figure 86 cm. Horyuji, Nara, Japan (Propyläen Verlag) 209
- 8.18 Borobudur. Central Java. Volcanic stone (andesite) masonry encasing an earthen core. In the plan the outermost square is about 100 m on a side. Late eighth century CE (Photograph © Luca Invernizzi Tettoni) 210
- 8.19 Lintel 25 from Yaxchilan Temple 23, the House of Queen Ixk’abal Xook. Limestone, 118 x 74 cm. Lintel dedicated 723 CE. London, British Museum (© The Trustees of the British Museum. All rights reserved) 214
- 13.1 Reconstruction of the Acropolis in the early fourth century BCE (akg-images / Peter Connolly) 357

*List of figures*

- 13.2 Vase painting showing the downfall of Troy (INTERFOTO / Alamy) 363
- 13.3 Cavalcade from the west frieze of the Parthenon, Athens (© Corbis) 365
- 15.1 Taipei, Taiwan: Inscribed Turtle Plastron – Oracle Bone – National Museum. Ancient Chinese Writing Symbols Bone-shell Writing (Art Directors & TRIP / Alamy) 410
- 15.2 Terracotta Army, Qin Dynasty, 210 BCE; warriors (detail) (Tomb of Qin Shi Huangdi, Xianyang, China / Bridgeman Images) 416
- 15.3 Mid- to late sixth-century Northern Wei or Northern Qi earthenware camel, China (Metropolitan Museum of Art / © SCALA) 423
- 15.4 Todaji, Eastern Great Temple, Nara, Japan (Photograph © Luca Tettoni / Bridgeman Images) 430
- 15.5 Ninth-century (late Tang) woodblock print on paper, the Bodhisattva Avalokiteśvara and a prayer, from Qian Fo Dong (Thousand Buddhas Cave), Dunhuang (© Trustees of the British Museum. All rights reserved) 432
- 16.1 The temple of Confucius at Qufu (Werner Forman Archive / Bridgeman Images) 441
- 16.2 Statue of Confucius at Confucius Temple, Beijing, China (Robert Fried / Alamy) 447
- 18.1 Lion capitol at Sarnath, North India (Asia Alan King / Alamy) 490
- 18.2 Buddha on Lion Throne, Gandhara Takht i Bahi, second/third century CE (Peter Horree / Alamy) 497
- 18.3 Dinars of Kumaragupta I (r.425–454) Chandragupta I (r.320–335) (gold), (National Museum of India, New Delhi, India / Giraudon / Bridgeman Images) 503
- 18.4 Relief depicting Varaha. Gupta Art. Early fifth century CE. Cave 5, Udayagiri, Madhya Pradesh, India (© Luca Tettoni / Corbis) 504
- 18.5 Padmpani Bodhisattva Frescoes at Ajanta caves, Aurangabad Maharashtra, India (Dinodia Photos / Alamy) 507
- 18.6 Dhawajasthambha in Cave No. 16, Temple, Ellora, Aurangabad, Maharashtra, India (Universal Images Group Limited / Alamy) 508
- 19.1 The Didarganj Yakshi, Patna Museum, Patna, India / DEA / G. Nimatallah (Getty Images) 527
- 20.1 Temple of the Sun, Teotihuacan, Pyramid, Mexico, over 70 meters high, world's largest pyramid, Aztec temple built 100 CE (Tom Till / Alamy) 556
- 21.1 Pueblo Bonito and sandstone bluffs, Chaco Culture National Historical Park, New Mexico, USA (Efrain Padro / Alamy) 581
- 21.2 Aerial view of the ruins of Pueblo Bonito, Chaco Culture National Historical Park, New Mexico, USA (Manfred Gottschalk / Alamy) 582
- 21.3 Great Kiva Chetro Ketl, Chaco Culture National Historical Park, New Mexico, USA (Dale O'Dell / Alamy) 587
- 22.1 Shell mound at Imbuorr, Weipa area, dating to the past 3,000 years (Photograph by Michael Morrison) 611
- 22.2 Gunditjmara fishtrap at Lake Condah used and modified over the past 6,600 years (Photograph by Ian J. McNiven) 613
- 22.3 Two reconstructed views of the ceremonial totemic site (*kod*) with hammerhead shark and crocodile effigies, Iama island, Torres Strait, late nineteenth century. Left:

*List of figures*

- with enclosures. Right: without enclosures (Drawing by A. C. Haddon, from Hutchinson 1931) 615
- 22.4 *Lagatoi* trading vessel with smaller canoe loaded with pots and stilt village over water in background, Port Moresby area (from Lindt 1887) 620
- 22.5 Monumental structures at Nan Madol, Pohnpei, 2004 (Photograph by Glenn R. Summerhayes) 627
- 23.1 Funeral pyramids and temples from Kingdom of Kush (800 BC – 350 AD), necropolis on Island of Meroe (UNESCO World Heritage List, 2011), Sudan, Meroitic civilization (De Agostini Picture Library / C. Sappa / Bridgeman Images) 639
- 23.2 A Numidian Royal Tomb: The Medraquen (Numidia). Possibly the tomb of King Massinissa, c. mid-second century BCE (imageBROKER / Alamy) 643
- 23.3 The Theatre (Leptis Magna, Libya / © Julian Chichester / Bridgeman Images) 645
- 23.4 Character with chin resting on knee, Nok sculpture, terracotta before sixth century BCE, Nigeria (Peter Horree / Alamy) 649
- 23.5 Ethiopia, Aksum, great stele and obelisk, c. third–fourth century CE (De Agostini Picture Library / W. Buss / Bridgeman Images) 653
- 23.6 Archaeological site of Garama, Libya, c. first half of the first millennium CE (bildagentur-online.com/th-foto / Alamy) 655
- 24.1 Rock painting of a warrior, probably of the warlike Garamantes tribe, with team of horses, southern Algeria (Robert Estall Photo Agency / Alamy) 673
- 24.2 Camels carrying salt into the village of Araouane, Mali. Araouane is the main stopping point for camel caravans working the salt trade between Taodenni and Timbuktu (© George Steinmetz / Corbis) 676

## Maps

- I.1 The world in 1 CE 24
- I.2 The world in 400 CE 25
- I.3 The world in 900 CE 26
- 4.1 Probable places of origin of Athenian slaves (fifth and fourth centuries BCE) 91
- 9.1 Central Eurasia 237
- 9.2 Xiongnu homeland 244
- 9.3 Xiongnu at their height 246
- 11.1 Bactria (Baktria) 301
- 12.1 Trade routes of the Phoenicians 328
- 12.2 Classical Greece 334
- 12.3 Roman Republic 341
- 13.1 Athens in the fifth century BCE 351
- 13.2 The Athenian Empire 354
- 14.1 Europe and the Mediterranean in the third century 381
- 14.2 Europe and the Mediterranean in the tenth century 403
- 15.1 East Asia in 350 BCE 413
- 15.2 East Asia in 250 CE 419
- 15.3 East Asia in 650 429
- 17.1 The Silk Roads 459
- 18.1 India 600 BCE 484
- 18.2 Tripartite struggle over Kannauj 511
- 19.1 Magadha kingdom, Mauryan Empire, and Gupta Empire 519
- 19.2 Asian trade routes in c. third century BCE 522
- 20.1 Poverty Point 542
- 20.2 Newark Earthworks 545
- 21.1 Chaco Canyon region 579
- 23.1 Africa in antiquity 633
- 24.1 Trans-Saharan trade routes 664

## *Tables*

5.1	Five paths of axiality	118
20.1	A simplified comparative chronological sequence for the Americas	538
20.2	Chart showing the units of the Maya Long Count calendar system	559

## *Contributors*

- RALPH AUSTEN, Department of History, University of Chicago  
ROBERT BAGLEY, Department of Art and Archaeology, Princeton University  
ERICA BEGUN, Department of Anthropology, University of Iowa  
CRAIG BENJAMIN, Meijer Honors College, Grand Valley State University  
JANET BRASHLER, Department of Archaeology, Grand Valley State University  
STANLEY BURSTEIN, Department of History, California State University, Los Angeles  
TOURAJ DARYAEE, Department of History, University of California Irvine  
CHARLES HOLCOMBE, Department of History, University of Northern Iowa  
PETER HUNT, Department of Classics, University of Colorado Boulder  
SHONALEEKA KAUL, Department of History, University of Delhi  
STEPHEN H. LEKSON, Department of Anthropology, University of Colorado Boulder  
JEFFREY LERNER, History Department, Wake Forest University  
XINRU LIU, Department of History, The College of New Jersey  
TIMOTHY MAY, Department of History and Philosophy, North Georgia College and State University  
IAN J. MCNIVEN, Monash Indigenous Center, Monash University  
WILLIAM MORISON, Department of History, Grand Valley State University  
CHARLES F. PAZDERNIK, Department of Classics, Grand Valley State University  
SITTA VON REDEN, History Department, Albert Ludwigs University  
HELMUTH SCHNEIDER, Faculty of Arts, Universität Kassel  
SCOTT WELLS, Department of History, California State University, Los Angeles  
MERRY E. WIESNER-HANKS, Department of History, University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee  
BJÖRN WITTROCK, Swedish Collegium for Advanced Study, Uppsala  
PING YAO, Department of History, California State University, Los Angeles  
XINZHONG YAO, Renmin University of China, Beijing

## 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.)



*Preface*

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 B C E. 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 (e.g. “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 2 (*A World with Agriculture, 12,000 B C E–500 C E*) 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.

Volume 3 (*Early Cities and Comparative History, 4000 B C E–1200 C E*) 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 4 (*A World with States, Empires, and Networks, 1200 B C E–900 C E*) 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 5 (*Expanding Webs of Exchange and Conquest, 500–1500 C E*) 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

### *Preface*

family, and courtly cultures on both a global and a Eurasian scale, and continues the examination of state formation begun in Volume 4 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 6 (*The Construction of a Global World, 1400–1800 C.E.*) 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 7 (*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 sub-fields 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