

world history and geography

world history and geography are two interconnected fields that shape our understanding of civilizations, cultures, and the environment across time. By exploring the evolution of societies alongside the features of the earth, we gain valuable insight into how human progress has been influenced by geography, climate, and natural resources. This article delves into the major eras and events that have defined world history, examines the role of geography in shaping societies, and highlights the key regions that have contributed to global development. Readers will discover how geography impacted migrations, trade routes, and the rise and fall of empires. Furthermore, this comprehensive guide will discuss the importance of geographical features, the spread of ideas and innovations, and the ways in which human actions have transformed the planet. With an engaging and informative approach, this article is designed to enhance your knowledge of world history and geography, ensuring a deeper appreciation for their enduring significance.

- Understanding World History and Geography
- Major Eras in World History
- The Influence of Geography on Civilization
- Key Regions and Their Historical Impact
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Understanding World History and Geography

Defining World History

World history encompasses the study of past events, societies, and cultures on a global scale. It involves analyzing the development of civilizations, political systems, economies, and cultural practices across different periods and regions. World history provides context for contemporary issues and helps explain the interconnectedness of societies throughout time. By examining the patterns and themes that have shaped human progress, historians can identify common challenges and achievements that transcend borders.

Importance of Geography in History

Geography is the study of the earth's physical features, climates, and human interactions with the environment. It plays a crucial role in shaping historical events and societal development. Geographic

factors such as mountains, rivers, deserts, and climate zones have influenced migration patterns, agricultural practices, and the rise of urban centers. Understanding geography is essential for interpreting the causes and consequences of historical change, as it determines the resources available to societies and their ability to interact with neighboring regions.

Major Eras in World History

Ancient Civilizations

Ancient civilizations emerged in regions with fertile land, water sources, and favorable climates. Examples include Mesopotamia, Ancient Egypt, the Indus Valley, and China. These societies developed writing systems, complex governments, and monumental architecture. Geography influenced their agricultural productivity and access to trade routes, which facilitated cultural and technological advancements.

Classical and Medieval Periods

The classical era saw the rise of empires such as Greece, Rome, Persia, and Han China. These empires expanded through military conquest, trade, and cultural exchange. Geography determined the boundaries of empires and the spread of ideas. The medieval period was marked by feudalism, the growth of cities, and the influence of religion. Trade routes like the Silk Road and maritime paths linked distant regions, promoting interaction and innovation.

Modern and Contemporary History

The modern era began with the Age of Exploration, colonial expansion, and the Industrial Revolution. European powers established colonies in Africa, Asia, and the Americas, reshaping global demographics and economies. Geography played a vital role in resource extraction, trade, and the formation of new nations. Contemporary history is characterized by technological advancements, globalization, and shifting geopolitical dynamics, all influenced by geographical factors.

The Influence of Geography on Civilization

Natural Barriers and Protection

Geographic features such as mountains, deserts, and oceans have served as natural barriers, protecting civilizations from invasion and fostering distinct cultural identities. For instance, the Himalayas shielded the Indian subcontinent, while the Sahara Desert limited interaction between North and Sub-Saharan Africa. These features also contributed to the development of unique languages, customs, and traditions.

Climate and Agriculture

Climate determines the types of crops that can be grown and the sustainability of settlements. River valleys like those of the Nile and Yellow River supported intensive agriculture, while arid regions required innovative irrigation techniques. Changes in climate, such as droughts or floods, have led to migrations, famines, and transformations in economic structures.

Access to Resources

The availability of natural resources such as water, minerals, and fertile soil has influenced the prosperity and longevity of civilizations. Regions rich in resources attracted trade and population growth, while resource scarcity sometimes led to conflict and decline. The quest for valuable commodities like gold, spices, and oil has shaped global interactions for centuries.

Key Regions and Their Historical Impact

The Fertile Crescent

The Fertile Crescent, stretching from the eastern Mediterranean to the Persian Gulf, is known as the cradle of civilization. Its rich soil and access to fresh water supported the growth of early cities, agriculture, and trade. The region was home to influential societies such as Sumerians, Babylonians, and Assyrians, whose innovations in writing, law, and technology have had lasting effects.

Mediterranean Basin

The Mediterranean Basin connected Europe, Africa, and Asia, serving as a hub for commerce, cultural exchange, and empire-building. Maritime geography enabled the Greeks, Romans, Phoenicians, and later, the Ottomans, to dominate the region. The spread of ideas, religions, and technologies was facilitated by its navigable waters and strategic location.

South and East Asia

South and East Asia have been centers of population, agricultural innovation, and cultural diversity. The monsoon climate, river systems, and mountainous terrain shaped the development of societies such as India and China. These regions have contributed significant philosophical, artistic, and scientific achievements to world history.

The Americas

The Americas featured a wide range of environments, from rainforests to deserts. Indigenous civilizations like the Maya, Inca, and Aztec developed advanced agricultural systems and complex societies. European exploration and colonization dramatically altered the demographic and cultural landscape of the continent.

Africa's Historical Role

Africa is a continent of immense geographical diversity, from the Sahara Desert to the Congo Basin. Early human evolution, powerful kingdoms such as Mali and Ethiopia, and rich cultural traditions have shaped global history. Geography has influenced migration, trade, and the development of unique languages and customs.

Geographical Features and Their Role in Development

Mountains and Deserts

Mountain ranges and deserts have often acted as natural boundaries, influencing settlement patterns and cultural isolation. The Andes, Alps, and Himalayas have shaped transportation, defense, and economic activities. Deserts like the Gobi and Sahara have limited movement but also fostered caravan trade and unique adaptations.

Rivers and Lakes

Rivers and lakes are crucial for transportation, agriculture, and urban development. The Nile, Amazon, Yangtze, and Mississippi rivers have supported large populations and enabled the growth of major cities. Lakes such as Victoria and Baikal provide fresh water and have influenced regional economies.

Coasts and Islands

Coastal regions and islands have facilitated maritime trade, exploration, and cultural exchange. Societies located near the sea have historically been more open to external influences, technological innovation, and economic growth. Islands like Japan and Britain have developed distinct cultural identities due to their geographic isolation.

- Mountains: Himalayas, Andes, Alps
- Deserts: Sahara, Gobi, Arabian
- Rivers: Nile, Amazon, Yangtze, Mississippi
- Lakes: Victoria, Baikal, Great Lakes
- Coasts: Mediterranean, Pacific, Atlantic
- Islands: Japan, Britain, Madagascar

Trade Routes and Cultural Exchange

Silk Road and Maritime Routes

The Silk Road was a network of overland and maritime routes connecting East Asia, the Middle East, and Europe. It enabled the exchange of goods, ideas, technology, and religious beliefs. Maritime routes in the Indian Ocean and Mediterranean facilitated trade between distant societies and contributed to global economic development.

Spread of Ideas and Technologies

Trade routes were not only conduits for commodities but also for cultural and technological diffusion. Paper, gunpowder, and navigational instruments spread across continents, transforming societies and warfare. Religions such as Buddhism, Christianity, and Islam expanded along these routes, influencing diverse populations.

Migrations and Diasporas

Geography has played a significant role in human migrations, shaping demographic patterns and cultural diversity. Diasporas resulting from trade, conquest, and forced movement have contributed to the blending of traditions and the emergence of multicultural societies. Major migration events, such as the Bantu expansion and the Columbian Exchange, have had profound effects on world history.

Modern Implications of World History and Geography

Globalization and Interconnectedness

Modern transportation and communication technologies have accelerated global interconnectedness. The legacy of historical trade routes, migration, and cultural exchange continues to shape international relations and economic systems. Geography remains fundamental in determining access to resources, strategic alliances, and patterns of development.

Environmental Challenges

Human activity has dramatically impacted the planet's geography and ecosystems. Deforestation, urbanization, and climate change pose significant challenges for sustainable development. Understanding world history and geography is essential for addressing global issues and promoting responsible stewardship of natural resources.

Geopolitics and Regional Dynamics

Geopolitical rivalries and regional dynamics are deeply rooted in geographic realities. Strategic locations, resource distribution, and environmental constraints continue to influence international relations. The study of world history and geography provides insights into the causes of conflict and the prospects for cooperation in the twenty-first century.

Q: What is the relationship between world history and geography?

A: World history and geography are closely linked, as geography influences the development of civilizations, migration patterns, and trade routes, while historical events shape the ways in which societies interact with their environment.

Q: How did geographical features impact ancient civilizations?

A: Geographical features such as rivers, mountains, and deserts determined settlement locations, agricultural practices, and protection from invasions, shaping the growth and stability of ancient civilizations.

Q: What are some of the most significant trade routes in world history?

A: The Silk Road, Trans-Saharan trade routes, and maritime networks in the Indian Ocean and Mediterranean Sea are among the most significant, facilitating economic, cultural, and technological exchange across continents.

Q: Why is the Fertile Crescent important in world history?

A: The Fertile Crescent is considered the cradle of civilization due to its fertile land, access to water, and early development of agriculture, writing, and urban centers.

Q: How have mountains influenced the development of societies?

A: Mountains have acted as barriers, providing protection from invasions and promoting the development of distinct cultures, languages, and traditions within isolated regions.

Q: What role did rivers play in historical development?

A: Rivers provided water for agriculture, transportation, and the growth of urban centers, supporting large populations and enabling the rise of powerful civilizations.

Q: How has geography affected migration patterns?

A: Geographic factors such as climate, resource availability, and natural barriers have influenced where and how people migrate, shaping demographic trends and cultural diversity throughout history.

Q: What are some examples of environmental challenges influenced by geography?

A: Deforestation, desertification, and climate change are environmental challenges shaped by geographic conditions and human activities, affecting regional and global stability.

Q: Why is the study of world history and geography important today?

A: Studying world history and geography helps us understand global interconnectedness, address environmental and geopolitical challenges, and appreciate the diversity and complexity of human societies.

Q: How did the spread of technologies occur through trade routes?

A: Trade routes facilitated the diffusion of technologies such as papermaking, metallurgy, and navigation, transforming economic activities, warfare, and cultural practices across different regions.

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World History and Geography: An Intertwined Journey Through Time and Space

Are you fascinated by ancient civilizations, sprawling empires, and the geographical forces that shaped human destiny? Do you wonder how the Silk Road connected disparate cultures or why certain regions flourished while others stagnated? Then you've come to the right place. This comprehensive guide delves into the captivating world of world history and geography, exploring their intricate relationship and highlighting key moments and trends that have shaped our world. We'll uncover how geographical factors influenced historical events and how historical

developments, in turn, altered the geographical landscape. Prepare for an exciting journey through time and space!

The Interplay of History and Geography: A Fundamental Connection

Understanding world history and geography requires acknowledging their inseparable nature. Geography, the study of Earth's physical features, climates, and populations, acts as the stage upon which history unfolds. Mountains, rivers, coastlines – these aren't merely static features; they are active participants in shaping human societies. The fertile crescent, for instance, with its abundant resources and navigable waterways, provided the cradle for many early civilizations. Similarly, the geographical isolation of certain regions contributed to the unique development of distinct cultures and societies.

Geographical Determinants of Historical Events

Many pivotal historical moments can be directly attributed to geographical factors. Consider the impact of the Himalayas on the development of India and its relative isolation from the West. Or think of the Mediterranean Sea, a crucial artery for trade and cultural exchange that connected ancient civilizations from Greece to Egypt.

The Influence of Terrain on Warfare

The terrain itself often played a decisive role in warfare. The rugged terrain of mountainous regions like the Alps proved a formidable barrier to invading armies, while flat plains facilitated large-scale battles and the rise of powerful empires. The strategic importance of choke points, such as the Dardanelles Strait or the Suez Canal, underscores the persistent link between geography and power dynamics.

How History Shapes the Geographical Landscape

History isn't just shaped by geography; it actively reshapes it. Human actions, from the construction of canals and roads to the deforestation of entire regions, leave lasting imprints on the Earth's surface. The Roman road network, for example, drastically altered the geographical connectivity of the Roman Empire. Similarly, modern urbanization and industrialization have profoundly reshaped landscapes, leading to both opportunities and challenges.

Key Periods in World History and Their Geographical Context

Examining specific historical periods within a geographical framework provides crucial insights.

The Ancient World (c. 3500 BCE - 500 CE)

This era witnessed the rise and fall of powerful civilizations in Mesopotamia, Egypt, Greece, and Rome. The fertile river valleys of Mesopotamia and Egypt provided the agricultural basis for these societies, while the Mediterranean Sea fostered trade and cultural exchange. The geographical location of Greece, with its numerous islands and peninsulas, contributed to the development of independent city-states.

The Medieval Period (c. 500 - 1500 CE)

The geographical fragmentation of Europe during the early Middle Ages, coupled with the rise of Islam in the Middle East and North Africa, significantly impacted trade routes and power dynamics. The Silk Road, connecting East and West, played a crucial role in cultural exchange and trade, highlighting the interwoven nature of geography and history.

The Age of Exploration (c. 15th - 17th centuries)

Advances in navigation technology and the desire for new trade routes propelled European exploration and colonization. The geographical discoveries of new continents dramatically reshaped global power structures and led to the transatlantic slave trade, highlighting the devastating impact of human actions on both geography and human populations.

Modern World History and Geography: A Globalized World

The 19th and 20th centuries witnessed the rise of industrialization, globalization, and unprecedented technological advancements. These developments have profoundly altered the geographical landscape, leading to urbanization, industrial pollution, and the interconnectedness of global markets. Understanding the interplay of these factors is crucial for comprehending the challenges and opportunities facing the world today.

Conclusion

Understanding world history and geography is not merely an academic exercise; it's crucial for comprehending our present and shaping our future. By recognizing the intricate relationship between these two disciplines, we gain a deeper appreciation for the forces that have shaped human civilization and the challenges we face today. Continued study and exploration of this fascinating subject will equip you with a valuable perspective on our world.

FAQs

1. What is the best resource for learning world history and geography? There's no single "best" resource, but a combination of textbooks, reputable online courses (like Coursera or edX), documentaries, and historical maps provides a well-rounded learning experience.
2. How can I connect world history and geography to my current studies? Think about how geographical factors have impacted the historical events relevant to your field of study. For example, if you're studying economics, consider the role of trade routes and resource distribution.
3. Are there any interactive tools to help me visualize world history and geography? Yes, many online tools, such as Google Earth and various historical map websites, allow you to visualize geographical changes over time and explore historical events within their geographical context.
4. How important is understanding geography for interpreting historical events? Geography is fundamental to understanding historical events. It provides context, explains the motivations of actors, and helps us understand the limitations and opportunities available to different societies.
5. What are some current events that are directly related to historical geographic patterns? Many contemporary conflicts, migrations, and economic disparities are deeply rooted in historical geographical patterns. For example, the ongoing conflicts in the Middle East are partly explained by the region's long history of competing empires and scarce resources.

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Europe; Developing world in the late 20th century -- Global connections and interactions: Global economic trends; Search for global security; Global trends and issues of the late 20th century.

world history and geography: World History and Geography California. Dept. of Education, 1994-01-01 This document is a response to teachers' requests for practical assistance in implementing California's history-social science framework. The document offers stimulating ideas to enrich the teaching of history and social science, enliven instruction for every student, focus on essential topics, and help make learning more memorable. Experiences and contributions of ethnic groups and women in history are integrated in this course model. The framework is divided into 11 units: (1) Connecting with Past Learnings: Uncovering the Remote Past; (2) Connecting with Past Learnings: the Fall of Rome; (3) Growth of Islam; (4) African States in the Middle Ages and Early Modern Times; (5) Civilizations of the Americas; (6) China; (7) Japan; (8) Medieval Societies: Europe and Japan; (9) Europe During the Renaissance, the Reformation, and the Scientific Revolution; (10) Early Modern Europe: The Age of Exploration to the Enlightenment; and (11) Linking Past to Present. Six of the 11 units delineated in the framework's 7th grade course description are developed in these course models. All units follow the same format. Each begins with a rationale and overview. Ways are suggested for teachers to coordinate the model with the state-adopted textbook for 7th grade. A presentation of activities to introduce and continue the sample topic are suggested to encourage students to apply what they have studied through projects. Each unit ends with an extensive annotated list of sample resources. (DK)

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Archaic Greece, the Roman Empire, Islam, Medieval Africa, the Americas, and the Khanates of Central Asia. It includes 350 high-quality images and maps, chronologies, and learning questions to help guide student learning. Its digital nature allows students to follow links to applicable sources and videos, expanding their educational experience beyond the textbook. It provides a new and free alternative to traditional textbooks, making World History an invaluable resource in our modern age of technology and advancement.

world history and geography: The Revenge of Geography Robert D. Kaplan, 2013-09-10 NEW YORK TIMES BESTSELLER • In this “ambitious and challenging” (The New York Review of Books) work, the bestselling author of *Monsoon and Balkan Ghosts* offers a revelatory prism through which to view global upheavals and to understand what lies ahead for continents and countries around the world. In *The Revenge of Geography*, Robert D. Kaplan builds on the insights, discoveries, and theories of great geographers and geopolitical thinkers of the near and distant past to look back at critical pivots in history and then to look forward at the evolving global scene. Kaplan traces the history of the world’s hot spots by examining their climates, topographies, and proximities to other embattled lands. The Russian steppe’s pitiless climate and limited vegetation bred hard and cruel men bent on destruction, for example, while Nazi geopoliticians distorted geopolitics entirely, calculating that space on the globe used by the British Empire and the Soviet Union could be swallowed by a greater German homeland. Kaplan then applies the lessons learned to the present crises in Europe, Russia, China, the Indian subcontinent, Turkey, Iran, and the Arab Middle East. The result is a holistic interpretation of the next cycle of conflict throughout Eurasia. Remarkably, the future can be understood in the context of temperature, land allotment, and other physical certainties: China, able to feed only 23 percent of its people from land that is only 7 percent arable, has sought energy, minerals, and metals from such brutal regimes as Burma, Iran, and Zimbabwe, putting it in moral conflict with the United States. Afghanistan’s porous borders will keep it the principal invasion route into India, and a vital rear base for Pakistan, India’s main enemy. Iran will exploit the advantage of being the only country that straddles both energy-producing areas of the Persian Gulf and the Caspian Sea. Finally, Kaplan posits that the United States might rue engaging in far-flung conflicts with Iraq and Afghanistan rather than tending to its direct neighbor Mexico, which is on the verge of becoming a semifailed state due to drug cartel carnage. A brilliant rebuttal to thinkers who suggest that globalism will trump geography, this indispensable work shows how timeless truths and natural facts can help prevent this century’s looming cataclysms.

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topics and select resources for professional development and preservice education. This document provides a link between the framework's course descriptions and teachers' lesson plans by suggesting substantive resources and instructional strategies to be used in conjunction with textbooks and supplementary materials. The resource book is divided into eight units: (1) Unresolved Problems of the Modern World; (2) Connecting with Past Learnings: The Rise of Democratic Ideas; (3) The Industrial Revolution; (4) The Rise of Imperialism and Colonialism: A Case Study of India; (5) World War I and Its Consequences; (6) Totalitarianism in the Modern World: Nazi Germany and Stalinist Russia; (7) World War II: Its Causes and Consequences; and (8) Nationalism in the Contemporary World. Each unit contains references. (EH)

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interpreting the other according to the code dictated by its own culture. Inevitably geographers view other disciplines through their own cultural filter, and even a benevolent view remains 'ethnocentric'. It was in order to avoid such ethnocentricity that Fernand Braudel called for more unity among the social sciences in 1958 : «I wish the social sciences . . . would stop discussing their respective differences so much . . . and instead look for common ground . . . on which to reach their first agreement. Personally I would call these ways : quantification, spatial awareness and 'longue duree'». In its place at the center of the social sciences, geography reduces all social reality to its spatial dimensions. Unfortunately, as a discipline, it considers itself all too often to be in a world of its own. There is a need in France for a figure like Vidal de la Blanche who could refocus attention away from issues of time and space, towards space and social reality. Geographic research will only take a step forward once it learns to address the problems facing all the sciences.

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world history and geography: Why Nations Fail Daron Acemoglu, James A. Robinson, 2013-09-17 Brilliant and engagingly written, Why Nations Fail answers the question that has stumped the experts for centuries: Why are some nations rich and others poor, divided by wealth and poverty, health and sickness, food and famine? Is it culture, the weather, geography? Perhaps ignorance of what the right policies are? Simply, no. None of these factors is either definitive or destiny. Otherwise, how to explain why Botswana has become one of the fastest growing countries in the world, while other African nations, such as Zimbabwe, the Congo, and Sierra Leone, are mired in poverty and violence? Daron Acemoglu and James Robinson conclusively show that it is man-made political and economic institutions that underlie economic success (or lack of it). Korea, to take just one of their fascinating examples, is a remarkably homogeneous nation, yet the people of North Korea are among the poorest on earth while their brothers and sisters in South Korea are among the richest. The south forged a society that created incentives, rewarded innovation, and allowed everyone to participate in economic opportunities. The economic success thus spurred was sustained because the government became accountable and responsive to citizens and the great mass of people. Sadly, the people of the north have endured decades of famine, political repression, and very different economic institutions—with no end in sight. The differences between the Koreas is due to the politics that created these completely different institutional trajectories. Based on fifteen years of original research Acemoglu and Robinson marshal extraordinary historical evidence from the Roman Empire, the Mayan city-states, medieval Venice, the Soviet Union, Latin America, England, Europe, the United States, and Africa to build a new theory of political economy with great relevance for the big questions of today, including: - China has built an authoritarian growth machine. Will it continue to grow at such high speed and overwhelm the West? - Are America's best days behind it? Are we moving from a virtuous circle in which efforts by elites to aggrandize power are resisted to a vicious one that enriches and empowers a small minority? - What is the most effective way to help move billions of people from the rut of poverty to prosperity? More philanthropy from the wealthy nations of the West? Or learning the hard-won lessons of Acemoglu and Robinson's breakthrough ideas on the interplay between inclusive political and economic institutions? Why Nations Fail will change the way you look at—and understand—the world.

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world history and geography: Is Geography Destiny? John Luke Gallup, Alejandro Gaviria, Eduardo Lora, 2003-08-04 For decades, the prevailing sentiment was that, since geography is unchangeable, there is no reason why public policies should take it into account. In fact, charges that geographic interpretations of development were deterministic, or even racist, made the subject a virtual taboo in academic and policymaking circles alike. 'Is Geography Destiny?' challenges that

premise and joins a growing body of literature studying the links between geography and development. Focusing on Latin America, the book argues that based on a better understanding of geography, public policy can help control or channel its influence toward the goals of economic and social development.

world history and geography: The Geography of Bliss Eric Weiner, *The Geography of Bliss* membawa pembaca melanglangbuana ke berbagai negara, dari Belanda, Swiss, Bhutan, hingga Qatar, Islandia, India, dan Amerika ... untuk mencari kebahagiaan. Buku ini adalah campuran aneh tulisan perjalanan, psikologi, sains, dan humor. Ditulis tidak untuk mencari makna kebahagiaan, tapi di mana. Apakah orang-orang di Swiss lebih bahagia karena negara mereka paling demokratis di dunia? Apakah penduduk Qatar, yang bergelimang dolar dari minyak mereka, menemukan kebahagiaan di tengah kekayaan itu? Apakah Raja Bhutan seorang pengkhayal karena berinisiatif memakai indikator kebahagiaan rakyat yang disebut Gross National Happiness sebagai prioritas nasional? Kenapa penduduk Ashville, Carolina Utara, sangat bahagia? Kenapa penduduk di Islandia, yang suhunya sangat dingin dan jauh dari mana-mana, termasuk negara yang warganya paling bahagia di dunia? Kenapa di India kebahagiaan dan kesengsaraan bisa hidup berdampingan? Dengan wawasan yang dalam dan ditulis dengan kocak, Eric Wiener membawa pembaca ke tempat-tempat yang aneh dan bertemu dengan orang-orang yang, anehnya, tampak akrab. Sebuah bacaan ringan yang sekaligus memancing pemikiran pembaca. "Lucu, mencerahkan, mengagumkan." —Washington Post Book World "Tulisan yang menyentuh ...mendalam ...buku yang hebat!" —National Geographic "Selalu ada pencerahan di setiap halaman buku ini." —Los Angeles Times [Mizan, Mizan Publishing, Qanita, Petualangan, Perjalanan, Dunia, Dewasa, Indonesia]

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world history and geography: The Student's Friend Concise World History Mike Maxwell, 2018-07 UNLIKE TRADITIONAL TEXTBOOKS that can overwhelm the reader with countless facts to absorb, the Student's Friend Concise World History highlights the most important developments of world history in a clear and concise manner that is capable of being comprehended by the human mind. Teachers have successfully used The Student's Friend in homeschool, middle school, high school, and college in the United States and abroad. Part 1 covers the period from prehistory to the year 1500; Part 2, the period from 1500 to the present. In contrast to other concise histories that may focus on impersonal historical processes, the Student's Friend includes men and women who helped to shape history and who illustrate timeless aspects of human nature. WHY A CONCISE HISTORICAL NARRATIVE? The Student's Friend is designed to be consistent with findings from cognitive science that emphasize learning the most important principles and concepts of a school discipline, rather than learning large quantities of superficial facts that are likely to be forgotten shortly after the exam is over. The respected Bradley Commission on History in Schools has said, The amount of time required to achieve student engagement and genuine comprehension of significant issues will necessitate leaving out much that is 'covered' by the usual text. CONCISENESS CAN BRING CLARITY. Cognitive psychologist Frank N. Dempster has written, Many texts are so packed with facts, names, and details that the real point of the lesson is often obscured. One of the greatest benefits of a concise historical narrative is the clarity it can bring to a student's understanding of history by focusing on essential knowledge rather than on extensive, sometimes confusing, and often-trivial detail. ELIMINATES GAPS AND DISCONTINUITIES. Teachers can't adequately cover all the information contained in standard thousand-page textbooks, so they commonly skip around in the textbook, which can leave big holes in the historical narrative. The Student's Friend is designed to include no more information than students can realistically cover

during a standard high school course. Because the picking and choosing has been carefully done and logically sequenced, continuity is maintained and gaps eliminated. BALANCES BREADTH AND DEPTH. The concise historical narrative leaves time in the curriculum for additional learning activities such as research papers, multimedia presentations, source-analysis activities, and simulations, a practice sometimes called postholing. The narrative performs a unifying function like a fence that gives shape to the landscape and provides the connecting fabric between events, while postholes are occasions to dig more deeply into the human dimensions of history-to explore how events of the past affected people's lives then and now. The subject matter of world history is so vast that it can be a difficult subject to grasp and to teach. Teachers and students alike can benefit from the understandable picture of history provided by the Student's Friend Concise World History.

world history and geography: *Toward a Geography of Art* Thomas DaCosta Kaufmann, 2004-03-14 Art history traditionally classifies works of art by country as well as period, but often political borders and cultural boundaries are highly complex and fluid. Questions of identity, policy, and exchange make it difficult to determine the place of art, and often the art itself results from these conflicts of geography and culture. Addressing an important approach to art history, Thomas DaCosta Kaufmann's book offers essays that focus on the intricacies of accounting for the geographical dimension of art history during the early modern period in Europe, Latin America, and Asia. *Toward a Geography of Art* presents a historical overview of these complexities, debates contemporary concerns, and completes its exploration with a diverse collection of case studies. Employing the author's expertise in a variety of fields, the book delves into critical issues such as transculturation of indigenous traditions, mestizaje, the artistic metropolis, artistic diffusion, transfer, circulation, subversion, and center and periphery. What results is a foundational study that establishes the geography of art as a subject and forces us to reconsider assumptions about the place of art that underlie the longstanding narratives of art history.

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