

Preface

How is it possible to make sense of the entire human past?

The study of world history is an exhilarating project that offers unparalleled opportunities to understand oneself and one's society in relation to the larger world. Given the range of human diversity, however, world history also presents a daunting challenge. Human communities have adopted widely varying forms of political, social, and economic organization, and they have elaborated even more diverse cultural, religious, and philosophical legacies.

We wrote *Traditions & Encounters* to offer a global perspective on the past – a vision of history that is meaningful and appropriate for the interdependent world we live in today. During an era when peoples from all parts of the earth meet, interact, and do business with one another, a global perspective has become an essential tool for informed and responsible citizenship. Because global interactions profoundly influence the fortunes of peoples in all lands, it is impossible to understand the contemporary world by approaching it exclusively from the viewpoint of western Europe, the United States, Japan, or any other individual society, or the historical experience of any one society.

We wrote *Traditions & Encounters: A Brief Global History* to offer an option to instructors who want to provide a global perspective to their students with a briefer text, allowing more flexibility in the way they present the exciting stories of world history to their students.

Of course, a brief text must offer more than just brevity. It must also provide a sound organizational structure, strong themes that provide a

systematic framework for interpreting history, an engaging narrative, strong visual appeal, and solid pedagogy. *Traditions & Encounters: A Brief Global History* offers all of these elements.

Organizational Structure

We discuss the world's development through time by organizing it into ***seven eras of global history***. These eras, treated successively in the seven parts of this book, represent coherent epochs that form the larger architecture of world history as we see it. The eras owe their coherence in large part to the networks of transportation, communication, and exchange that have linked peoples of different societies at different times in the past. This structure allows us to make cross-cultural comparisons that help frame world history for students to put events in a perspective that renders them more understandable.

Strong Themes

The themes of traditions and encounters that give this book its title bring focus to the human experience. Together they account for much of the historical development of human societies.

The theme of ***tradition*** draws attention to the dynamics of individual societies. From their earliest days on earth, human groups have generated distinctive political, social, economic, and cultural traditions that have guided affairs in their own societies. Some of these traditions arose and disappeared relatively quickly, while others influenced human affairs over the centuries and millennia, sometimes down to the present day.

The world's peoples have interacted with one another since the earliest days of history. The theme of *encounters* directs attention to the elements that have linked individual societies to their neighbors and others in the larger world. Whether in the form of mass migrations, the spread of infectious diseases, imperial expansion, long-distance trade, or the multitude of other ways in which peoples interact, these encounters have profoundly influenced the experiences of individual societies and the development of the world as a whole.

Like the structure, the strong themes illuminate the events of history for students, enhancing their understanding of and appreciation for world history in a way they can use and apply to their point of view as world events unfold throughout their lives.

Engaging Narrative

The structure and themes provide a strong foundation on which the story of global history can be told in an engrossing way. The stories of people and societies are told in a manner that will engage students and foster their enthusiasm for the fascinating study of the world's past.

Strong Visual Appeal

The *images* are seamlessly integrated into the narrative to enhance and support the stories of history that unfold through the themes of traditions and encounters.

Each *map* provides a clear pedagogical purpose to enrich student's understanding of the relationship between geography and history. Interactive

Maps are indicated with an icon (insert icon here), to direct students to the website for further investigation.

Solid Pedagogy

This text contains a carefully selected range of tools to enhance student comprehension and enthusiasm.

Part openers explain the rationale behind a major era of human history, and all part openers combine to provide a cohesive summary of the seven-era scheme, the larger interpretive framework of the book.

Chapter-opening vignettes draw the reader into the larger story and allow students to remember that world history is really about people.

Sources from the Past, a primary source excerpt, are in every chapter. These excerpts were selected to illustrate fundamental ideas raised in the text and to provide individual voices from the human past.

Running Pronunciation Guide at the bottom of each page helps readers with unfamiliar words and names. An audio version is also available online.

The Marginal Notes highlight key terms, events, and concepts as they appear within the narrative.

A ***Chronology*** lists the key dates and events of the chapter to provide an easy overview.

Summary: Each chapter ends with a clearly written paragraph-long summary to remind students of the highlights they have just read.

And, finally, ***For Further Reading*** provides an annotated list of references that students can use for research assignments or their own study.

Throughout the three editions of *Traditions & Encounters: A Global Perspective on the Past*, upon which this text is based, we have benefited from the feedback of instructors and students. Our approach to world history and the manner in which it resonates in the text has been honed by classroom experiences that many others have so generously shared with us. We hope the dialogue continues with the publication of *Traditions & Encounters: A Brief Global History* and that our approach can continue to evolve. World history is a passion for all three of us, and we hope that our texts help to instill in students today a lifelong appreciation for the field as well.

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RESOURCES FOR STUDENTS AND INSTRUCTORS

Texts these days abound in print and media resources for students and instructors, and we begin to wonder what instructor or student has time to sort through all of the resources available and make use of them in class or for studying. As we developed the text, we worked to discover exactly what tools instructors and students need to be successful in the course, and how to make these resources as easy to use as possible.

As a result of extensive research, we have streamlined the traditional laundry list of items available with texts these days and have developed two valuable tools to support teaching and learning with *Traditions & Encounters: A Brief Global History*: a single rich website to help students gain the most from the course, and an easy-to-use instructor's resource CD-ROM with a faculty guide to help instructors organize and manage the resources offered.

Supportive Learning: The Online Learning Center for Students

We have created tools for students that reinforce the text's chapters and encourage their interest in world history. The Online Learning Center, or OLC, is a complete, straightforward media resource that provides study and writing tools for students. To simplify matters for instructors, we provide a facsimile of every feature on the OLC in the instructor's faculty guide, so that instructors can see exactly what kind of study tools the student is using and coordinate those tools with their own class assignments.

There are two main sections of the OLC for students. In the first section, each chapter contains the following assets to help students review and prepare for exams:

The First Section of the OLC: *Primary Source Investigator (PSI)*

Beginning historians must learn to use primary and secondary sources to formulate and defend their arguments. McGraw-Hill's *Primary Source Investigator (PSI)* is designed to support and enrich the text discussion in *Traditions & Encounters: A Brief Global History*. Icons in the text indicate that an additional source is available on the *PSI* section of the OLC.

***PSI* includes:**

- **Access to Sources**

- **Primary Source Documents:** Documents include contemporary accounts of events that appeared in books, newspapers, or private letters of an era as well as government documents.
- **Images:** These include photographs of artifacts and buildings as well as contemporary paintings, engravings, and drawings.
- **Interactive Maps:** These maps actively illustrate historical changes over time.
- **Videos:** These secondary sources provide brief overviews about topics in world history. Informative and of high quality, the videos engage student interest in topics such as Islamic scientific advances or Mesoamerican civilizations.
- **“Create a Presentation”:** Teachers and students can choose sources to build a custom presentation. Teachers can use this tool for presentations during lectures and students for in-class presentation assignments.
- **“Write a Paper”:** This useful tool guides students through the process of creating and supporting a thesis around the *PSI* sources they are exploring.

The Second Section of the OLC: Study Tools

We understand that research is only part of a world history course. This portion of the OLC provides students with study tools to aid in exam preparation.

- **Timeline Quiz:** Based on the seven-part organization of the book, each chapter contains an interactive timeline quiz to test student’s memory of chronology and understanding of simultaneous happenings.
- **Interactive Maps with Quizzes:** Created directly from the maps in the book, the online interactive maps in each chapter are accompanied by critical thinking questions.
- **Blank Maps:** All of the maps from the book are available for download without any labels, keys, or captions. Students can print these out to quiz themselves on geography.

- **Interactive Glossary:** A textbook for world history naturally spans many different countries and languages. This interactive glossary is formatted in a flashcard template with over 600 terms, definitions, and an audio pronunciation guide.
- **Practice Quizzes:** Each chapter contains a variety of quizzes with questions in a variety of formats: multiple choice, true/false, short answer, and essay.
- **Review Summaries:** A chapter outline and overview help to reinforce the big picture of each chapter.

Effortless Teaching Tools: The Faculty Guide with Instructor's Resource CD-ROM (IRCD)

This instructor's tool contains the best of the premier resources that are traditionally available for the larger version of this text:

- Image bank
- Premier PowerPoint Slides with over 100 images and maps
- Instructor's Manual
- Test Bank
- EZ TEST (a computerized test bank)
- Classroom Performance System questions (see below)
- New ***Faculty Guide***

The *Faculty Guide* provides easy reference to all learning assets available to both teachers and students. To help teachers prepare lectures, McGraw-Hill resources are organized to correspond to chapter outlines. The Instructor's Resource CD-ROM is conveniently inserted at the front of the *Faculty Guide*.

Additional Tools for the Instructor

We identified two other resources that are in high demand for classroom use, and so they are included in the resource package for instructors as well:

- The same maps and illustrations that are available in the Faculty Guide as PowerPoint slides may also be ordered as ***overhead transparencies***.
- A ***classroom response system*** using electronic "clickers" is available. McGraw-Hill's Classroom Performance System (CPS) by eInstruction allows

instructors to gauge immediately what students are learning during lectures. Instructors can ask questions, take polls, host classroom demonstrations, and get instant feedback. In addition, CPS makes it easy to take attendance, give and grade pop quizzes, or give formal paper-based class tests with multiple versions of the test using CPS for immediate grading.

Instructors can contact their McGraw-Hill sales representative for all of the above resources. You can find your sales representative at www.mhhe.com/rep.

We hope that these tightly integrated resources make the teaching and learning of world history more manageable than ever before.

J.H.B.

H.F.Z.

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