



The No-Nonsense Guide to World History

Chris Brazier

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Who was the first black queen? How much do you know about China's history? Most people's knowledge of world history is hazy and incomplete at best. This *No-Nonsense Guide to World History* gives a full picture, revealing the hidden histories and communities left out of conventional textbooks—from the civilizations of Africa, Asia, and Latin America to the history of women.

It includes a final chapter on how climate change, 9/11, the Iraq war, corporate power, and China's headlong growth fit into the broader patterns of world history.

The No-Nonsense Guide to World History Details

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From Reader Review The No-Nonsense Guide to World History for online ebook

Marie says

Most people who have commented on this book feel that it is biased. I agree. In fact, if you look at the other titles in this series you will see that the subject matter for most of them is bound to cause lively discussion or even heated, unfriendly debate - climate change, globalization, animal rights, sexual diversity... However, the authors of these books might want to present the facts and leave some room for the reader to interpret these facts. Being told what to think is somewhat annoying. Apart from this problem, I still found the book useful - I constructed a good, quick little timeline which I am finding helpful. If you enjoy reading historical fiction or biographies or history books, such aids help contextualize material.

Eva says

A Howard Zinn-esque review of world history with a focus on injustices and overlooked cultures. From the New Internationalist, a news and longreads magazine started by communists.

Leah says

Maybe a 2.5.....

I don't know. I'm a bit torn. I found it interesting, but it just seemed biased....and that made it kind of annoying. It sort of felt like trying to have a conversation with a friend that thinks they know everything.....

Andy Grayson says

Useless. Ill-informed, immature rant. Absolutely riddled with clumsy rhetoric, misunderstandings and flat out errors. How this utterly painful post-colonial guilt laden under-researched predictable yawn ever got published is a mystery, if a 14 year old handed it in you'd tell them to go away and do it properly.

Victoria says

I good book to tuck into your travel kit - to dip into in those moments waiting for the train or the cappuccino to arrive; and also to learn about the places you are vititing.

Fay says

A good, short overview of World History, but the author, Chris Brazier is very biased.

Robert says

This condensation of history makes leaps and suppositions based on little more than speculation or the author's opinion. This had the basic tenor of a historical novel.

??????? says

[illegible]

Poo1987 Roykaew says

A simplified version of world history, but do not recognise it a junk. If I have to provide and suggest a must-read list of the world history, this is certainly the one I would take in account. Unputdownable!

Shubha says

This book goes way too fast. I know that's the point, but I was unable to absorb or retain any of it. I guess it's my fault for thinking I could learn all of world history from one short book. :)

Christopherch says

Short sharp leftist, feminist view of world history - very entertaining!

D'arcy says

Thinking of what to write for this small review brought some interesting questions to mind. Should history be short? Can one tell any great version of history in this amount of space? Surely I've read single books and essays that are of great length, but those have all been focused on one topic by time, geography, or subject. I do applaud the effort to make history more appealing and digestible to a larger audience, but is a book that covers "all" of the world's history the best way to do it? It's a noble effort, but I don't think ANY book could

possible tell any sort of cohesive "world history" because one would always have to account for world-views and theoretical-frameworks, and no book could take in all of this. It's a fun 'plane' book and is good if you want something quick to read, and is somewhat subversive when compared to the old-white-men histories that are more than prominent in schools and stores. Still, there is no time to develop any one idea or topic that this book offers. At best, one could say that it offers a few chronological and anthropocentric snap-shots of the earth and leads to where it is now, with the author's left-leaning (in a good way) slant coming through. It offers some positive mentions to other models of history, but doesn't spend the time to develop them and probably has the reader forgetting them by the next chapter.

Y.Z. says

I do love me a very biased book sometimes.

Judy says

Perfect! an overview - and short.

duck reads says

A quick sketch of world history from primordial slime and microorganisms to political slime, the war in Iraq, and global warming, it's given to sweeping assertions without showing its work, but what do you expect in forty thousand words? Very interesting to see the author's take on gender relations through the ages and the positive and negative effects of religion and industrialisation on human development and the planet at large. Very interesting in particular to see a secular, anticapitalist, environmentalist, anti-oppressive take on these developments.

This history makes an attempt to be inclusive of the histories not usually focused on by mainstream narratives, but doesn't quite manage to shift the Eurocentric/Coloniocentric* balance to a satisfying extent, possibly due to scarcity of information not preserved in mainstream Western histories. Again I'm not sure what it's fair to expect in novella-length, but I must admit I was expecting more than I got. Worryingly the format initially misled me into thinking there was even less focus outside of Europe than there eventually was, as the book covers the entire world through migration to the continents, then follows the traditional Western storyline through Egypt, Greece and Rome to Europe up to the beginning of colonialism, and then backtracks to catch up on what everyone else has been up to in the same time. Working more to flip that structure could have been effective there, I think.

*not a word
