



National Geographic Concise History of the World: An Illustrated Time Line

Neil Kagan (Editor), Jerry H. Bentley (Foreword by)

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From the dawn of humankind to today's global complexities, this monumental volume presents world history from an original perspective that provides fresh insights with every colorful spread. Few references are as invaluable, all-inclusive, and satisfying to browse. For readers of all ages, world history is easily accessible, depicted as never before—so that events occurring simultaneously around the world can be viewed at-a-glance together. For example, Texas Instruments launched the pocket calculator the same year the Soviet Union launched the first manned space station, in 1971. Columbus sailed from Spain the year Martin Behaim constructed a terrestrial globe in Nuremberg. The California Gold Rush followed the Irish Potato Famine in the 1840s, and the Greek dictatorship of Papadopoulos is overthrown the same year Emperor Haile Selassie of Ethiopia is deposed and U.S. president Nixon resigns, in 1974. The book's innovative time line truly sets it apart, allowing readers to scan across a spread and explore a single area or compare contemporary societies across the globe.

This remarkable resource also contains dozens of maps; scores of sidebars; hundreds of illustrations; and thousands of events, milestones, personalities, ideas, and inventions. Throughout, vivid illustrations depict artworks, artifacts, portraits and dramatic scenes, while sidebar topics range from local customs and lifestyles to the effect of climate change on human migration. Drawing on National Geographic's vast resources, this concise yet comprehensive, one-of-a-kind work is as rewarding as it is compulsively readable.

National Geographic Concise History of the World: An Illustrated Time Line Details

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From Reader Review National Geographic Concise History of the World: An Illustrated Time Line for online ebook

Chris Gager says

This is not the book I had which was more like "A People's History of the World". It gave a year by year accounting of events both big and small(i.e. the price of bread in Rome). No pictures. Big book that I gave away(I think) a few years ago when I cleaned off my bookshelves. Date read is a guess.

Akemi G. says

I've been reading this book, and also adding notes to this as I read other books on history, in order to understand events in the big picture of time and location.

At the time of this writing, this is the best book of this kind. It attempts to avoid the common Euro-centric view of the history by dividing the world into four geographic areas: the Americas, Europe, Middle East & Africa, Asia & Oceania. The timeline makes it easy to see what was happening in each area at about the same time, with many photos, maps, and charts. There are also supplementary explanations about major events and changes.

There are still rooms for improvements, of course. Europe still gets excessive emphasis. For instance, the Buddhist art had a significant change in the 1st century: they (southern Asians) started making human-like statues. Prior to this, they only used symbols such as wheels. Now, I understand that not all historical events can be included in a book. But I daresay this is more important than, say, Catullus's poems, in its impact to wider range of population. (No insult intended to Catullus. He was a great poet.)

Until only a few hundred years ago, the orient (Asia and Middle East) was the economic and cultural power center. Why did Alexander the Great go east to conquer Persia and more, rather than heading to west? Because Persia was the wealthy nation, while Rome was just a small town and most Europe was cold barbaric land. Why are Europeans (and Americans) afraid of Muslims? Because of the historical memory that Muslims were powerful. (It seems the main reason Muslims didn't conquer Europe was because it wasn't worth the trouble. And, yes, from around the 16th century, Europeans got good at making weapons, and went out to invade the world.)

We are in a time of global change, and I think having a fair understanding of world history would be helpful to understand it.

Emily says

Strangely detailed and yet also provides a bird's eye view. My only complaint is that some things were repeated unnecessarily.

Haley Grizzell says

A really long book. Very well researched, but you should know what you are taking on before you read it.
