

An entirely new way of looking at world history via
themed timelines

Timelines

The Events that Shaped History

John Haywood

40 illustrations

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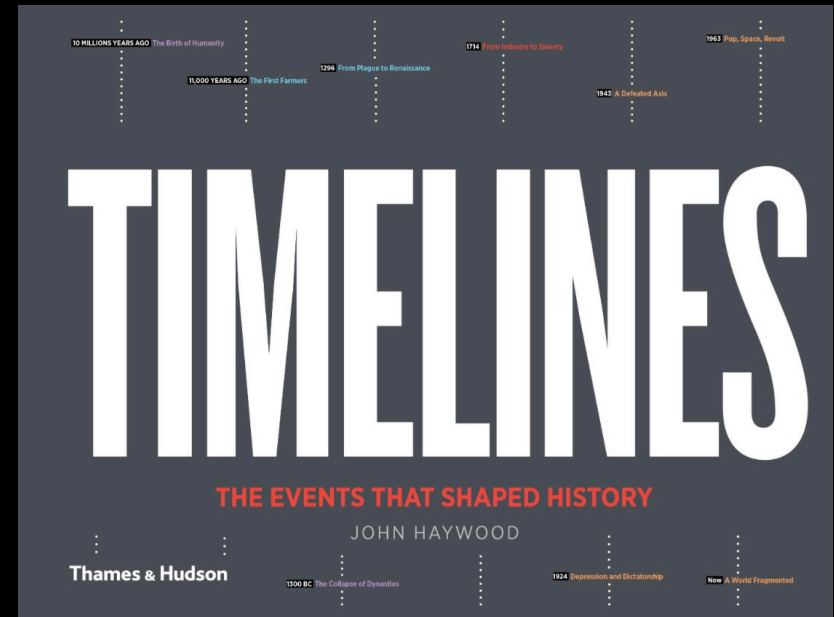
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Book



Key Sales Points

- World history presented through easily navigable, concise introductions to key themes
- Readers can dip in and out of a particular period, drawing new and often surprising links between seemingly unrelated events across the earth
- Presented in a user-friendly format at a competitive price
- Includes an A–Z of Peoples, Nations and Cultures, maps and illustrations

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TRAJECTORIES OF HISTORY

DOES HISTORY HAVE a trajectory? This is different from asking if history has a purpose – a divinely ordained plan, or the inevitable triumph of a particular political or socio-economic system. Nations and empires, cultures and societies, ideologies and religions all rise and fall: history has neither purpose nor inevitability. Yet beneath the distracting film of events, the history of humankind has followed a clear and scarcely interrupted trajectory from the end of the last Ice Age to the present day: there has been an accelerating trend of population, urban and economic growth across the world; closer contacts between cultures and civilizations; and the emergence of greater social and economic complexity.

This book presents the grand sweep of world history in an accessible format through concise introductions to key themes, and timelines pinpointing events on a global scale. Split into four fundamental categories of human endeavour – Politics & Economy, Religion & Philosophy, Science & Technology and Arts & Architecture – the timelines allow unexpected parallels and connections to be made and open up a new understanding of world events. Maps capture the geopolitical developments of different eras, while galleries of images depict a dazzling spectrum of human creative achievement.

Human history has been marked by a number of turning points that have fuelled social, cultural and political change,

and enabled the growth and mass movements of populations that have constantly reshaped the world. For the vast majority of prehistory – the time before the development of writing systems – all humans lived by hunting wild animals and gathering wild plants. The natural productivity of the environment constrained the human population, as for any other animal. As the last Ice Age came to an end around 10,000 years ago, groups of people in different parts of the world independently took up farming as a way to secure their food supplies. It was no accident that the earliest farming societies arose in the Middle East, which benefitted from the greatest number of plants and animals suitable for domestication. The advent of farming marked the first turning point in human history: it made possible an enormous increase in the human population.

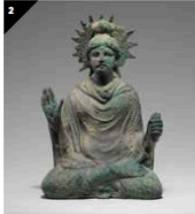
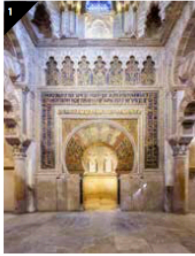
Farmers' ability to grow more food than they needed for their own subsistence led to a second turning point in human history. Surplus food was the first form of wealth: those who controlled it acquired power over their neighbours, leading to the development of hierarchical societies and political centralization. Surplus food also meant that not everyone had to be a farmer. Some people, although at first only a very small minority, could devote themselves full time to craft production, trade, military training, administration or religion. The first civilizations developed in isolation, but as their influence spread they

became linked to each other through trade, diplomacy, war and migration. These connections enabled the spread of both ideas and technological innovations. Certainly, individual civilizations have collapsed, but there has never been a total global collapse of civilization: the trajectory of history has always been towards ever more complex and interconnected civilizations.

From the outset, cities were the main centres of civilization, but the vast majority of people continued to live in rural areas, working on the land. The proportion of people living in cities grew only slowly until the Industrial Revolution of the 18th century. This represented a third turning point in human history, as manufacturing and services, rather than agriculture, became the primary source of wealth. Beginning in Britain, labour migrated from rural areas to towns and cities in search of work, leading to an explosive increase in the urban population. In the 19th century, the Industrial Revolution spread to Europe and North America, and in the 20th century to South America and Asia. Only Africa has yet to feel the full impact of industrialization, but its urban centres are growing rapidly. By 2018 more than half the global human population lived in cities, while hunting and gathering – humanity's original way of life – was all but extinct. By the same year the global population had reached 7.6 billion, more than twelve times greater than at the dawn of the Industrial Revolution three

centuries earlier. However, this rapid population growth is unlikely to continue beyond the late 21st century: by 2100 the world had passed 'peak child' and, with birth rates declining globally, most population growth now is the result of increased longevity.

Industrialization and urbanization have provided humanity with many benefits, from food security and improved health to longer life expectancy and higher living standards. By 2018 the number of people globally living in extreme poverty was falling more rapidly than at any time in history. However, these benefits have come at a high cost to the natural environment. Since the 1990s there has been growing concern about the potential impact on the world's climate of carbon dioxide emissions from fossil fuels. By some estimates, in the early 21st century human activities were playing a greater role in shaping the global environment than natural processes. This has led some geologists to propose that we are now living in a new geological epoch, the Anthropocene (from Greek *anthropos*, meaning 'man', and *kainos*, meaning 'recent'). As humanity enters this new epoch, it remains to be seen what trajectory history will take in the future.

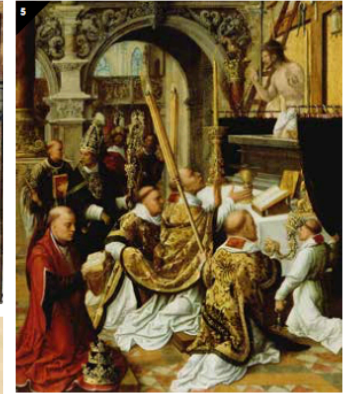
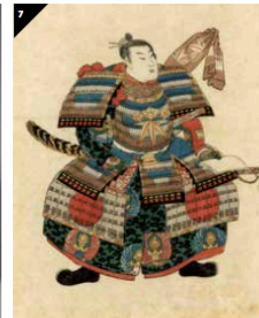


1ST–12TH CENTURIES

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1100—

1206

SHOGUNS, CRUSADERS AND PHILOSOPHERS

IN 11TH- AND 12TH-CENTURY Japan, samurai warrior clans competed for control over weak emperors. In 1185, the Minamoto clan destroyed its main rival, the Taira, to emerge victorious. The clan's leader, Minamoto Yoritomo, established a *bakufu* (military government) at Kamakura in 1192. The emperor, now merely the nominal ruler of Japan, granted Yoritomo the title *shogun* (general), beginning a period of military rule that lasted until 1868. In northern China, the recently formed Jurchen Jin state conquered the Khitan Liao kingdom in 1125, before turning on the imperial Song dynasty and capturing their capital at Kaifeng. The end of this period saw the emergence of a new nomadic confederation on the Eurasian steppes: in 1204–6, the warlord Temujin united the Mongol tribes under his leadership and adopted the title Chinggis (Genghis) Khan ('universal ruler').

In the Middle East, the Christian crusader states were thrown on to the defensive when Zengi, emir of Seljuk Mosul, began to restore Muslim unity in the second quarter of the 12th century. Saladin, the ruling sultan of Egypt and Syria, recaptured Jerusalem in 1187 and reduced the crusader states to precarious enclaves on the Mediterranean coast. The crusades did nothing to improve relations between the Catholic West and the Byzantine empire, whose power was broken when in 1204 crusaders sacked Constantinople. At the end of this period, most of northern India came under

Muslim control after its conquest by Muhammad, sultan of Ghur in Afghanistan. After Muhammad's assassination in 1206, his Turkish slave-general Qutb-ud-Din seized power and founded a sultanate at Delhi.

The collapse of the Mesoamerican Toltec empire in 1168 created another longlasting power vacuum in Mexico. Around 1200 the Chimú state of the coastal lowlands in Peru emerged as the first regional power on the Pacific coast since the fall of the Tiwanaku and Wari empires over a century earlier. In North America, the end of this period saw the development of the Southeastern Ceremonial Complex among the semi-urbanized Mississippian cultures. The complex was characterized by the emergence of common cosmological motifs, and by the exchange of exotic materials and symbolic objects associated with rulership and war. At much the same time, Polynesians from Tahiti settled New Zealand, the last large uninhabited landmass except Antarctica.

In East Asia, Song China continued to demonstrate outstanding inventiveness during the 12th century, devising the earliest forms of cannon, and constructing ships with watertight bulkheads and even paddlewheels. By around 1200 China was also using water-powered machinery to produce textiles. The commercial economy was vast and included both local and longer-distance trade. Although merchants ran their own business affairs, the state kept

strict political control and did not allow cities autonomy to govern themselves. The division of property equally amongst children meant that few families stayed wealthy over several generations.

The 12th century witnessed a strong resurgence of cultural life in Western Europe. One consequence of the Investiture Controversy between the pope and the Holy Roman emperor, which came to an end through the Concordat of Worms in 1122, was to draw scholars' attention to the contradictions and inconsistencies in scripture, and in both secular and church law. This led to renewed interest in the works of Classical Greek philosophers, especially Aristotle, and the application of their methods to studying theology and law. The majority of Aristotle's works were translated into Latin from surviving Arabic versions obtained in Muslim Spain, which still maintained a flourishing cultural life despite its political decline. Increased demand for education prompted the foundation of cathedral schools across Europe, some of which developed into universities. Western European architecture produced its first truly original style, Gothic, characterized by pointed arches and soaring vaults. The cultural developments of this period were not restricted to the church: secular literature flourished, as chivalric romances idealized the military aristocracy.

POLITICS & ECONOMY

		<p>1126 The Jürchen Jin state captures the Song capital at Kaifeng</p> <p>1127-48 Zengi, emir of Mosul, unites the Turkish emirates of Syria</p> <p>1128 The Kievan Rus splits up into several smaller principalities</p>	<p>1156 The Taira samurai clan wins control over the Japanese emperor</p>			<p>1168 The Toltec state in Mexico collapses</p> <p>1169-77 Saladin establishes himself as leader of Egypt and Syria, founding the Ayyubid sultanate</p> <p>1173-1200 Muhammad of Ghur conquers northern India</p>	<p>1185 The Minamoto samurai clan defeats the Taira at the sea battle of Dan-no-ura</p> <p>1187 Saladin defeats the crusaders at Hattin and recaptures Jerusalem</p> <p>1192 Samurai leader Minamoto Yoritomo becomes the first shogun of Japan</p>	<p>1200* Polynesians from Tahiti settle New Zealand</p> <p>1200* The Chimú expansion in the coastal lowlands of Peru begins</p> <p>1204 The Fourth Crusade captures Constantinople</p> <p>1204-6 Temüjin unites the Mongol tribes and takes the title Chinggis (Genghis) Khan</p> <p>1206 Muhammad of Ghur is murdered; Qutb-ud-Din seizes power and founds a sultanate at Delhi</p>
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SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

	<p>1174 Chinese ships are first fitted with watertight bulkheads</p>								<p>1184 The Spanish Muslim philosopher and scientist Ibn Rushd (Averroes) dies</p> <p>1200* Water-powered textile machinery is used in China for the first time</p>		
1100	1110	1120	1130	1140	1150	1160	1170	1180	1190	1200	1210

RELIGION & PHILOSOPHY

		<p>1122 The Concordat of Worms ends the Investiture Controversy between the papacy and the holy Roman emperors</p>	<p>1140 Italian jurist Gratian's Decretum applies dialectic (logic) to the study of law</p>			<p>1170 The University of Paris is founded</p>		<p>1191 Zen Buddhism is introduced to Japan from China</p>	<p>1200* The Southeastern Ceremonial Complex develops among the Mississippian cultures</p>
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ART & ARCHITECTURE

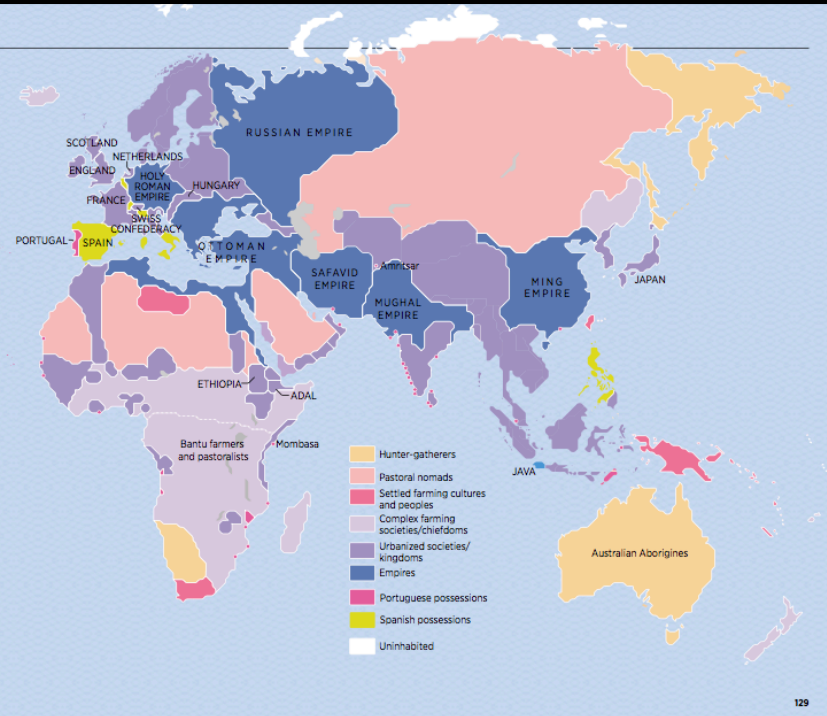
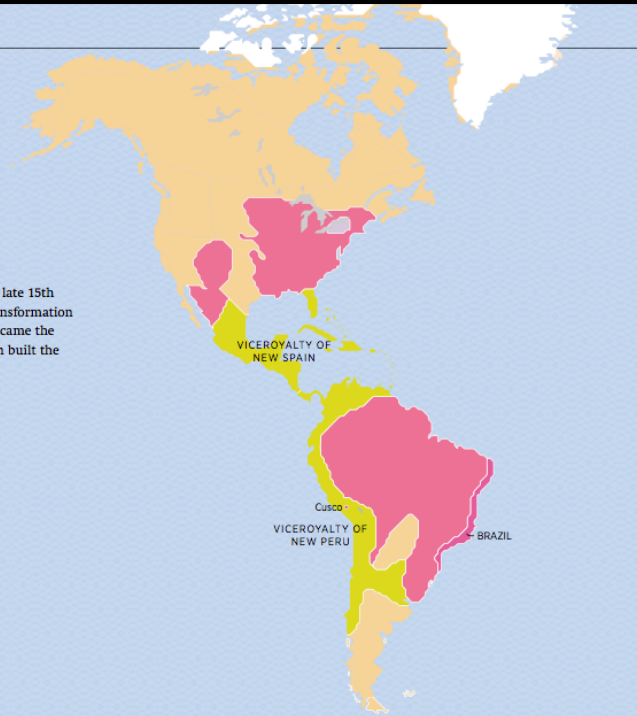
<p>1100* Cahokia, Illinois: Monks Mound, the largest pre-Columbian structure in North America, is completed</p>	<p>1113-50 Cambodia: the Khmer king Suryavaraman II begins construction of the Angkor Wat temples</p>	<p>1123 The Persian poet and scientist Omar Khayyam dies</p>	<p>1144 The abbey church of St Denis, near Paris, considered the first building in the Gothic style, is completed</p>					<p>1193 The Qubbat-ul-Islam mosque is begun at Delhi</p>	<p>1200* Lalibela, Ethiopia: rock-cut churches are built by the Ethiopian Orthodox church</p> <p>1200* The temple mounds and plaza at Moundville, Alabama, are constructed</p>
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MAP 5

AD 1598

THE FIRST GLOBAL EMPIRE

The European maritime discoveries of the late 15th and early 16th centuries began a rapid transformation of the global economy. Western Europe became the hub of a global trading system while Spain built the first truly global empire.



1862—

1871

NEW BORDERS, NEW LANDS

THE CONFEDERACY INITIALLY gained the upper hand in the American Civil War, but by 1863 the Union's superior resources were beginning to tell. Following the Union's decisive victory at Gettysburg in July 1863, the Confederacy was slowly ground down, and it finally surrendered in April 1865. The important part played by railways, ironclad warships and the industrialized production of armaments has led to it being seen as the first modern war.

An immediate consequence of the Union victory was the abolition of slavery across the United States. However, the post-war reconstruction programme's aim of introducing multiracial democracy in the former slave states produced a violent white backlash, and by the early 1870s white supremacy had been restored. In 1867 the continental USA achieved its present extent with the purchase of Alaska from Russia. The same year, the British North American colonies (except Newfoundland) were federated and granted self-government as the Dominion of Canada. Further south, the failure of a French-sponsored Habsburg empire in Mexico (1864–67) ended European imperialist ambitions in the Americas. Amongst the independent states of Latin America, unresolved border disputes led to war between the Triple Alliance (Brazil, Uruguay and Argentina) and Paraguay; the worst war in South American history, it cost Paraguay 70% of its population.

Nationalism continued to rearrange the political map of

Europe with the unification of Germany in 1871. The creation of the *Zollverein* (customs union) under Prussian leadership in 1834 had begun to integrate the economies of the German states, and Prussia subsequently consolidated its dominance with wars against Denmark (1864) and Austria (1866). When Bismarck manoeuvred France into declaring war in 1870, reviving memories of Napoleon's occupation of Germany, the smaller German states allied with Prussia. The Prussian king Wilhelm I was proclaimed German emperor (*Kaiser*) following France's defeat, which cost it its eastern provinces of Alsace and Lorraine. During the war, Italy also annexed Rome, completing the process of national unification begun under Garibaldi.

In Japan, young samurai warriors organized attacks on foreigners and foreign shipping to resist the increasing Western influence on Japan that followed Perry's missions of 1853–54. After British, American, French and Dutch naval forces retaliated by bombarding Japanese ports, popular discontent became focused on the feudal shogunate. A brief civil war in 1867–68 saw the shogunate overthrown, and the emperor was restored to power. The emperor took up residence in Edo, the capital of the Tokugawa shoguns, which was renamed Tokyo. This development was labelled the Meiji (enlightened rule) Restoration, and began a period of rapid modernization in the country.

In North Africa, the opening of the Suez Canal in 1869

linked the Mediterranean directly with the Red Sea and created a much shorter route between Europe and India than sailing around the Cape of Good Hope. This saved not only time, but also fuel for the steamships that were becoming ever more important for commercial and naval use by the 1870s. As India was its most important colonial possession, control of the canal immediately became a key strategic issue for Britain, which purchased it in 1875. Steamships could hold a course independent of the wind direction, but they were much less self-sufficient than sailing ships – as a result, small oceanic islands assumed new strategic importance as coaling stations. It was not just at sea that the world was getting smaller: in 1869, the first transcontinental railway was completed in the USA.

In 1866, Gregor Mendel founded the science of genetics, but published his results in an obscure journal: it was many years before they became widely known. The mid-19th century also saw the birth in Britain of what would become the world's most popular spectator sport, association football (or soccer). It was just one of many sports that spread globally through the influence of the British empire.

POLITICS & ECONOMY

1852 The conservative **Otto von Bismarck** becomes minister-president of Prussia

1863 1–5 Jul: Decisive Union victory over the Confederacy in the American Civil War at **Gettysburg**

1864 Austria and Prussia defeat **Denmark**, ending its occupation of Schleswig-Holstein

1864 British, American, French and Dutch naval forces bombard the southern Japanese city of **Shimonoseki**, to retaliate against attempts to expel foreigners from Japan

1864–67 Reign of the short-lived Habsburg emperor of Mexico **Maximilian I**

1864–70 Paraguay loses up to 70% of its population in its war against the **Triple Alliance** (Brazil, Uruguay and Argentina)

1865 Apr: Abraham Lincoln is assassinated; shortly afterwards, the Confederacy surrenders, ending the **American Civil War**

1865 Dec: The **Thirteenth Amendment** to the US constitution abolishes slavery

1866 Prussia asserts its leadership over Germany after defeating Austria in the **Seven Weeks' War**

1867 The colonies of British North America (except Newfoundland) federate and are granted self-government as the **Dominion of Canada**

1867 The USA buys **Alaska** from Russia for \$7.2 million (around \$115 million today)

1867 The transportation of convicts to **Australie** ends

1868 The **Meiji Restoration**: rebel samurai overthrow the Tokugawa shogunate and restore the emperor to power, beginning the modernization of Japan

1883 Britain invades **Ethiopia**: its emperor **Tewodros II** commits suicide

1870 Italy annexes **Rome**, completing national unification

1870–71 The **Franco-Prussian War**: France is defeated and Napoleon III abdicates

1871 King **Wilhelm I** of Prussia is proclaimed emperor of Germany at **Versailles**

SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

1863 London: the world's first **underground railway** opens

1866 **Gregor Mendel** establishes the principles of heredity, marking the beginning of genetics

1867 British scientist **Joseph Lister** introduces **antiseptic surgery**

1869 Russian chemist **Dmitri Mendeleev** formulates the periodic table of elements

1865

1870

RELIGION & PHILOSOPHY

1863 Bahá'ulláh founds the **Bahá'í faith** in Iraq

1867 The first volume of Karl Marx's critique of capitalism, **Das Kapital** (*Capital*), is published

1870 The **First Vatican Council** proclaims the dogma of papal infallibility

1871 **Shinto** is established as the state religion of Japan

ART & ARCHITECTURE

1863 The English **Football Association** is founded, beginning the modern sport of association football (soccer)

1864–69 **Leo Tolstoy** writes his epic novel **War and Peace**

1867–68 British writer **Charles Dickens** tours the USA to give readings from his works

1869 The **Suez Canal**, linking the Mediterranean to the Red Sea, opens

1869 United States: the **Pacific Railroad**, the first transcontinental railway, is completed

1871 Cairo: **Giuseppe Verdi's** opera **Aida**, set in ancient Egypt, premieres

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