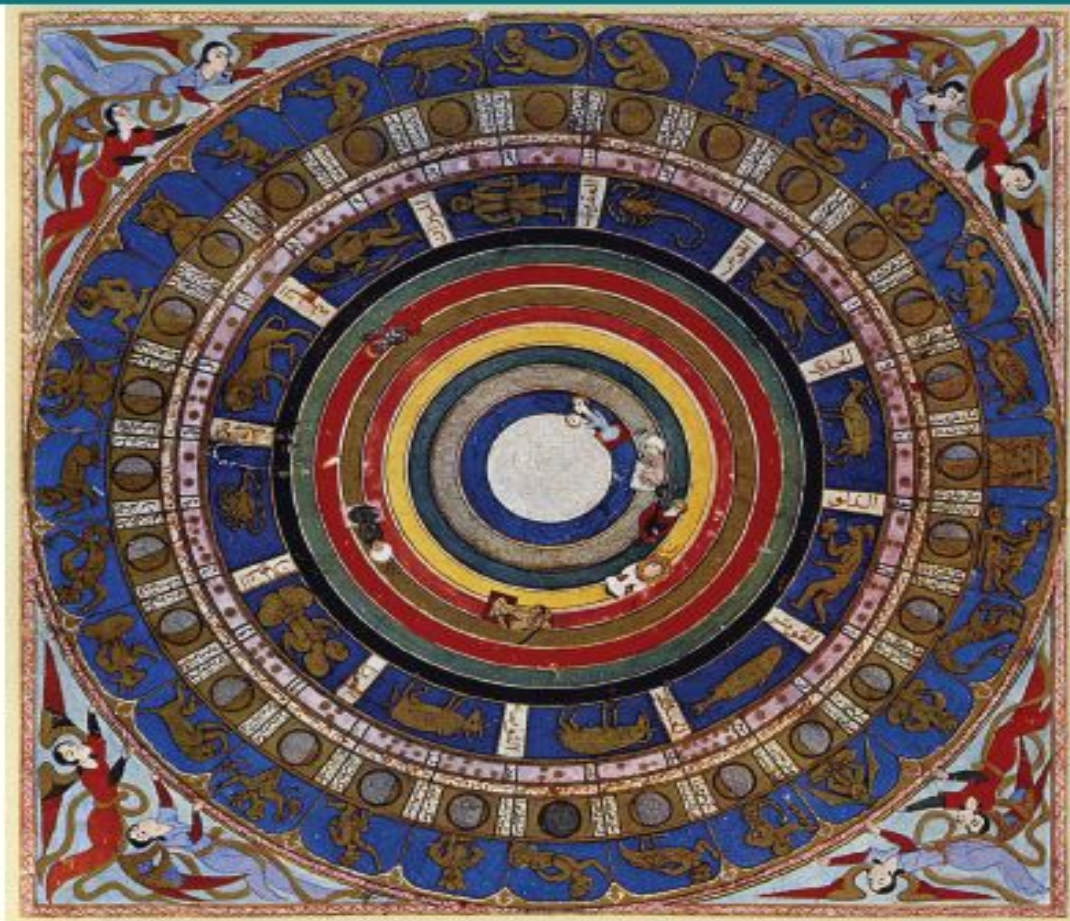


WILEY BLACKWELL COMPANIONS
TO WORLD HISTORY



A COMPANION TO
GLOBAL HISTORICAL
THOUGHT

EDITED BY

Prasenjit Duara, Viren Murthy, and Andrew Sartori

WILEY Blackwell

Contents

Notes on Contributors

INTRODUCTION

Discussion of Part I: Past Histories

Discussion of Part II: Modern Histories

Discussion of Part III: Histories beyond the Nation
and Profession

Whither the Global?

PART I: Premodern Historical Thought

CHAPTER ONE: History as a Way of Remembering the Past

CHAPTER TWO: Classical Chinese Historical Thought

The Mandate of Heaven and the Dynastic Cycle

The Historian as Sage

Anecdotes

The Beginning of Imperial Historiography

Sima Qian

Ban Gu

Millenarian Visions

Empires as Dynasties

Sima Guang

Conclusion

CHAPTER THREE: The Romance of the Middle Ages

Official Histories

Tokushi yoron and the Presence of the Past

The Problem of Historical Distance

Achieving Historical Distance

Bridging the Gap

CHAPTER FOUR: Buddhist Worlds

Introduction

Time, Decline, and Periodization

Vamsa

Into the Modern Period

CHAPTER FIVE: Premodern Arabic/Islamic Historical Writing

Introduction

Mapping the Tradition

Beginnings

The Ninth and Tenth Centuries

The Age of the Great Chronicles

Reflections on History

The Problem of Authenticity

Conclusion

CHAPTER SIX: Ottoman Historical Thought

The Ottoman Empire

The Theory of History
Time and Genre
Agency and Morality
The Historian's Craft

CHAPTER SEVEN: "Premodern" Pasts

CHAPTER EIGHT: History, Exile, and Counter-History

The Complexity of the Term "Jewish Historiography"
Exile and History
Exile and the Jewish-Christian Polemics
Exilic Jews and the Question of History
The Modern Writing of Jewish History

PART II: Historiographies

CHAPTER NINE: The Legacy of Greece and Rome

Conceptions of Temporality and "the Past"
What Should History Be?
Genres of Historical Writing
The Purpose of Historiography
Conclusion

CHAPTER TEN: America and Global Historical Thought in the Early Modern

Period

CHAPTER ELEVEN: European Societies and their Norms in the Process of Expansion

Expansion and Political Modernity: Chronological Discordances

1492: Convenient Date or Obstructive Symbol?

European Norms and the Colonial Atlantic

Universality and Processes of Racialization

CHAPTER TWELVE: The Global in Enlightenment Historical Thought

Philosophical and Commercial, or Comparative and Connective, Histories

Global History's Moral Purpose

Universalism and European Exceptionalism

CHAPTER THIRTEEN: Hegel, Marx, and World History

Hegel

Marx

CHAPTER FOURTEEN: The World of Modern Japanese Historiography

From Meiji to the Early Showa Precipice

The American Occupation and Postwar High-Growth Years

[History in Japan from the 1980s: The East Asia Factor](#)

[CHAPTER FIFTEEN: Critical Theories of Modernity](#)

[Hegel's Legacy and His Critique of Romanticism](#)

[Franz Rosenzweig: Rethinking Judaism Beyond Modernity](#)

[Lukács: Capitalism as Modernity](#)

[Benjamin: The Romantic Critique of Modernity Meets Marxism](#)

[Japanese Critics of Modernity in the 1930s and 1940s: Nishida Kitarō and Miki Kiyoshi](#)

[Conclusion](#)

[CHAPTER SIXTEEN: On the Compatibility of Chinese and European History](#)

[Fifty Years of Methodological Discussions on Facts and Theories among Chinese Historians](#)

[Mao Zedong Thought and the Problem of Relating Facts and Theory](#)

[Conclusion](#)

[CHAPTER SEVENTEEN: Modern Historiography in Southeast Asia](#)

[Premodern Stories of the Ahistorical Past in Southeast Asia](#)

[The Birth of Modern History in Siam](#)

The Misleading Royal-Nationalist History of
Thailand
Final Remarks

CHAPTER EIGHTEEN: Historical Thought in the Other America

Vistas from the Vice of Origins
Vistas from the Momentous Nineteenth Century
Conclusion

CHAPTER NINETEEN: Histories of History in South Asia

The Politics of Time
Historical Thought and Its Transformations
History and Its Limits

CHAPTER TWENTY: Modern Historiography - Arab World

CHAPTER TWENTY-ONE: The Burden of Peculiarity: History and Historical Thought in Africa

I
II
III
IV
V

PART III: Historiographies

CHAPTER TWENTY-TWO: Oceanic History

CHAPTER TWENTY-THREE: Environmental History and World History

Origins: North America and South Asia

Environmental History in Europe

Colonial Impacts and Postcolonial Literatures

Issues of Temporal Scale and Continuity: China as Oddity and Model

World Environmental History and Contemporary

Crises: Is “the Big Picture” Possible? Useful?

Three Syntheses and Their Limits

CHAPTER TWENTY-FOUR: Dependency Theory and World-Systems Analysis

CHAPTER TWENTY-FIVE: Empires and Imperialism

Classical and Pre-Capitalist Empires

The Historical Legacy of Imperial Rome

Historical Interpretations of Modern Empire

Historiography of Modern Imperialism

Empires and Imperialism in the Twentieth Century

Conclusion

CHAPTER TWENTY-SIX: Histories of Globalization(s)

Globalization: Method or Topic?

Early Modern Globality

Nineteenth-Century Globality

Historiography

Conclusion

CHAPTER TWENTY-SEVEN: Comparative History and Its Critics

I. The Evolution of Comparative Historiography: An Imperial Genealogy

II. Connected History and the Historicist Critique of Comparison

III. Historicism, Neo-Historicism and the False Dichotomy between Nomothetic and Idiographic Sciences

IV. The Post-WWII Configuration of American Social Science and the Stabilization of the Comparative Method

V. Critical Realism and Bourdieusian Theory: Retheorizing Comparative History

Conclusion

CHAPTER TWENTY-EIGHT: Women, Gender, and the Global

Productions of Women within the Global

Conflicting Representations of Women within the Global

[The History of Writing Women into the Global](#)
[The History of Women and Global Capitalism](#)
[The History of Sexuality and the Global](#)
[Conclusion](#)

[CHAPTER TWENTY-NINE: Indigenes and Settlers \(Fourth World\)](#)

[Introduction](#)
[The “Tide of History”](#)
[No “Wind of Change”](#)
[Conclusion?](#)

[CHAPTER THIRTY: History, Memory, Justice](#)

[CHAPTER THIRTY-ONE: Beyond the Nation](#)

[Introduction](#)
[1. History Textbooks as Shapers of Collective National Identities](#)
[2. International Attempts at Conflict Resolution through Textbook Revision](#)
[3. The Dethroning of Nation: The Disintegration of Hegemonic Narrative](#)
[4. Globalization, Global Memory Culture, and Textbooks](#)

[Index](#)

A COMPANION TO GLOBAL HISTORICAL THOUGHT

Edited by

Prasenjit Duara,
Viren Murthy,
and Andrew Sartori

WILEY Blackwell

WILEY BLACKWELL COMPANIONS TO BRITISH HISTORY

This series provides sophisticated and authoritative overviews of the scholarship that has shaped our current understanding of the past. Defined by theme, period and/or region, each volume comprises between twenty-five and forty concise essays written by individual scholars within their area of specialization. The aim of each contribution is to synthesize the current state of scholarship from a variety of historical perspectives and to provide a statement on where the field is heading. The essays are written in a clear, provocative, and lively manner, designed for an international audience of scholars, students, and general readers.

WILEY BLACKWELL COMPANIONS TO BRITISH HISTORY

A Companion to Roman Britain

Edited by Malcolm Todd

A Companion to Britain in the Later Middle Ages

Edited by S. H. Rigby

A Companion to Tudor Britain

Edited by Robert Tittler and Norman Jones

A Companion to Stuart Britain

Edited by Barry Coward

A Companion to Eighteenth-Century Britain

Edited by H. T. Dickinson

A Companion to Nineteenth-Century Britain

Edited by Chris Williams

A Companion to Early Twentieth-Century Britain
Edited by Chris Wrigley

A Companion to Contemporary Britain
Edited by Paul Addison and Harriet Jones

A Companion to the Early Middle Ages: Britain and Ireland
c.500-c.1100
Edited by Pauline Stafford

WILEY BLACKWELL COMPANIONS TO EUROPEAN HISTORY

A Companion to Europe 1900–1945
Edited by Gordon Martel

A Companion to Eighteenth-Century Europe
Edited by Peter H. Wilson

A Companion to Nineteenth-Century Europe
Edited by Stefan Berger

A Companion to the Worlds of the Renaissance
Edited by Guido Ruggiero

A Companion to the Reformation World
Edited by R. Po-chia Hsia

A Companion to Europe Since 1945
Edited by Klaus Larres

A Companion to the Medieval World
Edited by Carol Lansing and Edward D. English

A Companion to the French Revolution
Edited by Peter McPhee

WILEY BLACKWELL COMPANIONS TO WORLD HISTORY

A Companion to Western Historical Thought
Edited by Lloyd Kramer and Sarah Maza

A Companion to Gender History
Edited by Teresa A. Meade and Merry E. Wiesner-Hanks

A Companion to the History of the Middle East

Edited by Youssef M. Choueiri

A Companion to Japanese History

Edited by William M. Tsutsui

A Companion to International History 1900–2001

Edited by Gordon Martel

A Companion to Latin American History

Edited by Thomas Holloway

A Companion to Russian History

Edited by Abbott Gleason

A Companion to World War I

Edited by John Horne

A Companion to Mexican History and Culture

Edited by William H. Beezley

A Companion to World History

Edited by Douglas Northrop

A Companion to Global Environmental History

Edited by J. R. McNeill and Erin Stewart Mauldin

A Companion to World War II

Edited by Thomas W. Zeiler, with Daniel M. DuBois

A Companion to Global Historical Thought

Edited by Prasenjit Duara, Viren Murthy and Andrew Sartori

This edition first published 2014
© 2014 John Wiley & Sons, Ltd

Registered Office

John Wiley & Sons, Ltd, The Atrium, Southern Gate,
Chichester, West Sussex, PO19 8SQ, UK

Editorial Offices

350 Main Street, Malden, MA 02148-5020, USA

9600 Garsington Road, Oxford, OX4 2DQ, UK

The Atrium, Southern Gate, Chichester, West Sussex, PO19
8SQ, UK

For details of our global editorial offices, for customer services, and for information about how to apply for permission to reuse the copyright material in this book please see our website at www.wiley.com/wiley-blackwell.

The right of Prasenjit Duara, Viren Murthy and Andrew Sartori to be identified as the authors of the editorial material in this work has been asserted in accordance with the UK Copyright, Designs and Patents Act 1988.

All rights reserved. No part of this publication may be reproduced, stored in a retrieval system, or transmitted, in any form or by any means, electronic, mechanical, photocopying, recording or otherwise, except as permitted by the UK Copyright, Designs and Patents Act 1988, without the prior permission of the publisher.

Wiley also publishes its books in a variety of electronic formats. Some content that appears in print may not be available in electronic books.

Designations used by companies to distinguish their products are often claimed as trademarks. All brand names and product names used in this book are trade names, service marks, trademarks or registered trademarks of their respective owners. The publisher is not associated with any product or vendor mentioned in this book.

Limit of Liability/Disclaimer of Warranty: While the publisher and editors have used their best efforts in preparing this book, they make no representations or warranties with respect to the accuracy or completeness of the contents of this book and specifically disclaim any implied warranties of merchantability or fitness for a particular purpose. It is sold on the understanding that the publisher is not engaged in rendering professional services and neither the publisher nor the author shall be liable for damages arising herefrom. If professional advice or other expert assistance is required, the services of a competent professional should be sought.

Library of Congress Cataloging-in-Publication data applied for

Hardback ISBN: 9780470658994

A catalogue record for this book is available from the British Library.

Cover image: Celestial map or macrocosm, from *Zubdet ut Tevarih* by Lokman, 1583, Turkish School. Open miniature in the Turkish *Zubdat al-Tawarikh*, or *History of the World*, showing the seven heavens above the Earth, the signs of the zodiac and the 28 lunar "mansions." Topkapi Palace Museum, Istanbul, Turkey/ The Bridgeman Art Library.

Notes on Contributors

Prathama Banerjee is a historian and a fellow at the Centre for Study of Developing Societies (CSDS), Delhi. She currently works on histories of the political in modern and contemporary India. She is interested in intellectual and conceptual histories as well as in political theory and literature. She is the author of *The Politics of Time: 'Primitives' and History-Writing in Colonial Bengal* (2002). Two of her recent essays are "Thinking equality: Debates in Bengal, 1870-1940," in Gyan Pandey, ed., *Subalternity and Difference* (2011), and "Chanaky/Kautilya: History, theatre, politics in 20th century Bengal," *Journal of the History of the Present*, 2 (1) (2012).

Prasenjit Duara is the Raffles Professor of Humanities and Director, Asia Research Institute as well as Director of Research in Humanities and Social Sciences at National University of Singapore. He was previously Professor and Chair of the Dept of History and of the Committee on Chinese Studies at the University of Chicago. In 1988, he published *Culture, Power and the State: Rural North China, 1900-1942*, which won the Fairbank Prize of the AHA and the Levenson Prize of the AAS, USA.

Andreas Eckert is Professor of African history at Humboldt University. Since October 2009, he also directs the International Research Institute on "Work and Human Life Course in Global History," funded by the German Federal Ministry of Science and Research. He has been visiting professor at Indiana University (Bloomington), Harvard University, the University of Michigan, the Maison des Sciences de l'Homme (Paris) and Fellow at the Freiburg Institute of Advanced Study (FRIAS). He has published

widely on the history of Africa in the nineteenth and twentieth centuries, on the history of colonialism, and on the history of global labor.

Curtis Anderson Gayle is an Associate Professor in the Faculty of Integrated Arts and Social Sciences at Japan Women's University, Tokyo. He has published *Marxist History and Postwar Japanese Nationalism* (2002) and *Women's History and Local Community in Postwar Japan* (2011). He is currently working on a manuscript entitled "Re-imagining Globalization: Alternative Japanese views of the World from 1945 to Today."

Gottfried Hagen took his doctorate from Freie Universität Berlin, and has been teaching Turkish Studies at the University of Michigan since 2000. He has published widely on Ottoman intellectual history, asking how Ottomans perceived and interpreted the world, and their place in it in time and space.

Ian Harris is Visiting Professor of Buddhist Studies, King's College London and President of the UK Association of Buddhist Studies. He has also held positions at the Universities of Oxford, Toronto, and British Columbia, the National University of Singapore, and Dongguk University, Seoul. His most recent books are *Cambodian Buddhism: History and Practice* (2005), *Buddhism in a Dark Age: Cambodian Monks under the Khmer Rouge* (2012), and an edited volume entitled *Buddhism, Power and Politics in Southeast Asia* (2007).

Freyja Cox Jensen currently holds the position of Lecturer in Early Modern British History at the University of Exeter, and was previously a Junior Research Fellow at Christ Church, Oxford. She specializes in the reception of the classics in early modern Britain and Europe; her first

monograph, *Reading the Roman Republic in Early Modern England*, was published in 2012.

Thomas Keirstead teaches Japanese history and historiography in the Department of East Asian Studies at the University of Toronto. Trained as a medievalist, he has also written on early modern and modern conceptions of the past as it appears in a variety of genres, including film, anime, and historical fiction.

Tarif Khalidi was educated at University College, Oxford, and the University of Chicago. He is currently Shaykh Zayid Professor of Arabic & Islamic Studies, American University of Beirut, and was formerly Sir Thomas Adams's Professor of Arabic and Fellow of King's College, Cambridge. His recent publications include: *Arabic Historical Thought in the Classical Period* (1994), *The Muslim Jesus* (2001), *The Qur'an, A New Translation* (2008), and *Images of Muhammad* (2009).

Karen Ordahl Kupperman, PhD Cantab, is Silver Professor of History Emerita at New York University. She is the author of *The Jamestown Project* (2007) and *The Atlantic in World History* (2012). Among her awards are the AHA Prize in Atlantic History and the AHA's Beveridge Prize.

Michael Lang is an Associate Professor of History at the University of Maine, where he teaches intellectual history, historiography, and international affairs. His research focuses on modern European conceptions of global order.

Ethan L. Menchinger is a PhD candidate in Near Eastern Studies at the University of Michigan. His research and publications focus on the early modern Ottoman Empire, with special interest in historical writing, knowledge transmission, and intellectual life. He also translates.

Viren Murthy teaches transnational Asian History at the University of Wisconsin-Madison and researches Chinese and Japanese intellectual history. He is the author of *The Political Philosophy of Zhang Taiyan: The Resistance of Consciousness* (2011) and is currently working on a project tentatively entitled: *Imagining Asia: Takeuchi Yoshimi and the Conundrums of Asian Modernity*.

Klaus Neumann is a trained historian and Professor of History at the Swinburne Institute for Social Research, Swinburne University of Technology, Melbourne, Australia. He is currently working on two projects: one concerned with forced migration, and the other with historical justice. Relevant publications include, among others, *Shifting Memories: The Nazi Past in the New Germany* (2000).

Rosalind O'Hanlon, MA, PhD, is Professor of Indian History and Culture in the Faculty of Oriental Studies, Oxford. Her research interests lie in the social and intellectual history of early modern and colonial India. Her recent publications include *Religious Cultures in Early Modern India: New Perspectives* (2011, edited with David Washbrook) and numerous articles.

Ravi Arvind Palat is Professor of Sociology at the State University of New York at Binghamton and has previously taught Asian Studies at the University of Hawaii at Manoa and Sociology at the University of Auckland. He works in the broadly defined fields of historical sociology and political economy. He is the author of *Capitalist Restructuring and the Pacific Rim* and is currently completing a book titled *Princes, Paddyfields, and Bazaars: Wet-Rice Cultivation and the Emergence of the Indian Ocean World-System, 1250-1650*.

Michael Pearson is Emeritus Professor of History at the University of New South Wales, Sydney, Australia. Among his recent books are *Port Cities and Intruders: The Swahili Coast, India, and Portugal in the Early Modern Era* (1998, paperback edition, 2003); *The Indian Ocean* (2003, paperback 2008); *The World of the Indian Ocean, 1500-1800: Studies in Economic, Social and Cultural History* (2005); he is also co-editor, with Pamila Gupta and Isabel Hofmeyr, of *Eyes Across the Water: Navigating the Indian Ocean* (2010).

Jennifer Pitts is Associate Professor of Political Science at the University of Chicago and author of *A Turn to Empire: The Rise of Imperial Liberalism in Britain and France* (2005). Her current research explores European debates over legal relations with non-European societies during the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries.

Kenneth Pomeranz is University Professor of History at the University of Chicago, and President of the American Historical Association. His publications include *The Great Divergence: China, Europe, and the Making of the Modern World Economy* and *The Making of a Hinterland: State, Society and Economy in Inland North China, 1853-1937*.

Michael Puett is the Walter C. Klein Professor of Chinese History in the Department of East Asian Languages and Civilizations and the Chair of the Committee on the Study of Religion at Harvard University. He is the author of *The Ambivalence of Creation: Debates Concerning Innovation and Artifice in Early China* and *To Become a God: Cosmology, Sacrifice, and Self-Divinization in Early China*, as well as the co-author, with Adam Seligman, Robert Weller, and Bennett Simon, of *Ritual and its Consequences: An Essay on the Limits of Sincerity*.

Amnon Raz-Krakotzkin is a Professor in the Department of Jewish History at Ben-Gurion University of the Negev. Among his publications are *The Censor, the Editor, and the Text: Catholic Censorship and the Shaping of the Jewish Canon in the Sixteenth Century* (2007) and *Exil et souveraineté: judaïsme, sionisme et pensée binationale*. Preface de Carlo Ginzburg (2007).

Andrew Sartori is Associate Professor of History at NYU. He is the author of *Bengal in Global Concept History*, and the co-editor of *Global Intellectual History* and *From the Colonial to the Postcolonial*. He is also an editor of the journal *Critical Historical Studies*.

Jean-Frédéric Schaub teaches at the EHESS (Paris) and CHAM (Lisbon). His books include: Edited with O. Remaud and I. Thireau, *Faire des sciences sociales. Comparer* (2012); *L'Europe a-t-elle une histoire?* (2008); *Oroonoko, prince et esclave* (2008); Ed. with J.C. Garavaglia, *Lois, justice, coutumes. Amériques et Europe latines* (2005); *La France espagnole* (2003); *Portugal na Monarquia Hispânica* (2001); *Le Portugal au temps d'Olivares* (2001); *Les juifs du roi d'Espagne* (1999).

Professor Hanna Schissler is retired and lives in Berlin, Germany. She was head of the research area "Globalization" at the Georg Eckert Institute for International Textbook Research in Braunschweig, Germany. She taught at the Universities of Minnesota, Twin Cities, Vienna, Hannover (Germany), at New York University and Central European University in Budapest.

Bonnie G. Smith is Board of Governors Professor of History at Rutgers University. She is the author and co-author of books in women's and world history and historiography, including *Crossroads and Cultures: A History of the World's*

Peoples, The Oxford Encyclopedia of Women in World History, and The Gender of History.

George Steinmetz is the Charles Tilly Professor of Sociology at the University of Michigan. He published *The Devil's Handwriting: Precoloniality and the German Colonial State in Qingdao, Samoa, and Southwest Africa* (2007), and edited *Sociology and Empire* (2013). Currently he is completing a study of sociologists' involvement in the British and French empires.

Mauricio Tenorio-Trillo is Professor of History, The University of Chicago; *profesor afiliado* División de Historia, CIDE, Mexico City. His recent books include: *Culturas y memoria* (2012) and "*I Speak of the City*": *Mexico City, 1880-1930* (2013).

Romila Thapar has researched and written on early Indian history, specializing in social and cultural history and historiography. Her latest book is *The Past Before Us: Historical Traditions of Early North India* (2013). She is Professor Emerita of History at the Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi.

Lorenzo Veracini is Associate Professor and Australian Research Council Queen Elizabeth II Fellow at the Swinburne Institute for Social Research, Melbourne, Australia. His research focuses on the comparative history of colonial systems and settler colonialism. He has authored *Israel and Settler Society* (2006) and *Settler Colonialism: A Theoretical Overview* (2010). Lorenzo is managing editor of *Settler Colonial Studies*.

Susanne Weigelin-Schwiedrzik (PhD 1982, Ruhr University Bochum) is a Professor of Chinese Studies and Vice Rector for Research and Career Development at the

University of Vienna. She has published on twentieth-century Chinese history and historiography and is currently completing a book on East Asia in the nineteenth and twentieth centuries. She has also published articles on memory issues related to the Great Famine and the Cultural Revolution.

Alexis Wick is Assistant Professor of History at the American University of Beirut. He obtained his PhD from Columbia University. His research deals with the history of the sea and the history of the Ottoman and Arab world.

Thongchai Winichakul is Professor of Southeast Asian History at University of Wisconsin-Madison and author of *Siam Mapped: A History of the Geo-Body of a Nation* (1994).

INTRODUCTION

Over the past 20 years, the idea of the global has become widely and even feverishly acceptable in the humanities and social sciences. As a result of the many different angles and approaches, the concept may have produced more confusion than light. Among our most important tasks in this introduction is to outline how thinking on a global scale might be significant for our understanding of history, and to clarify how the concept of the global is used in relation to historical thought.

The global is a concept that brings together space and time, such that global spatiality implies global history and vice versa. We might first conclude that global is a spatial concept. From a simplistic historical perspective, the world was made up of different areas, which gradually became interconnected to produce the globe as we know it. However, much of the Eurasian world has been interconnected since the emergence of agriculture and cities, with no transition from areas being distinct to areas becoming connected. We are dealing with space as it is already mediated by wider historical processes. Different spaces, of course, continued to produce distinctive historical processes and traditions; indeed, it would not be possible to identify different spaces independently of these processes. The importance of the spatial perspective lies in grasping the *changing nature of connections and distinctive processes* - including assertions of distinctiveness by representatives of the traditions - over time. This kind of global-spatial-temporal perspective poses challenges and opportunities for our understanding of history.

Specifically, we should also note that the global can change what we mean by history, because it constantly

forces us to rethink the scope of history beyond traditional boundaries such as the nation-state. To grasp this problematic, we need to distinguish between two interrelated meanings of history. R.G. Collingwood told us a long time ago that the notion of history embodies two senses of the term. On the one hand, it refers to change in the world through events and processes - or what we might call the "eventing of the world." On the other, history refers to the recording of, or historical inscriptions of, those events and processes. The content and structure of this volume express both of these ideas of history. As we have seen above, to the extent that space is temporal, it already implies a notion of change and process.

The second type of history is, of course, essential because it is our primary means of access to process and time. Much of the content of this volume deals with the second aspect of history, namely how people gave shape to time through narrative around the world. Different parts of the globe at various times possessed different conceptions of the past and of the goals and course of worldly life. Indeed, outside the history profession today, many groups also view the purpose and goals of history quite differently from the profession. But the globe is more than the sum of its parts. The structure of this volume, with its distinctions between premodern and modern, suggests that large historical processes, including the global expansion of capitalism and the establishment of nation-states, change the way in which history was and is narrated. Some of the chapters deal with this theme explicitly. The chapters on world-systems theory, Hegel and Marx, critics of modernity, and empire, for example, look at ways to understand this processual dimension of global history and outline, as it were, the conditions for various specific historical narratives based on historical inscriptions. Part III perhaps deals most reflectively with this dialectic between historical processes and

historical narrative, but the same dialectic is at work in Part II on modern historiography and in Part I, where we discuss how the contributors to this volume view premodern historical thought and representations of the past.

Discussion of Part I: Past Histories

We begin the volume with a discussion of premodern historical thought written by one of the most distinguished historians of the ancient world, Romila Thapar, whose specialty is the ancient history of India or the Indic world. Thapar's essay confronts many of the problems highlighted in the modern expectation of history as a kind of evidentiary database for secular, empirical, evidential, and human-centered histories. It is becoming increasingly accepted that few historical sources, primary or secondary, in the premodern period were written with such objectivism in mind.

Even though there are those who would consider great figures such as Thucydides in ancient Greece or Sima Qian of the Chinese Han dynasty as fundamentally evidential historians, others are persuaded that they understood the past in profoundly different ways than modern historians. According to Zachary Schiffman (2011), the very idea of the past as something different, indeed "dead," and subject, as it were (according to Michel de Certeau 1988), to laboratory analysis does not really appear until the late eighteenth century in Europe. In premodern histories, the past is episodic, and even when causal relationships are seen, they are often deemed to be illustrative of a universal principle that is eternally present. It is the reason why the past can be seen to serve as the moral guide to the present and future. Modern historians, in contrast, evaluate past events in their contemporary spatial and relational context and regard their archival remains in another time as "anachronisms" or sources to interpret the past.

In this context, ancient India has typically been thought of as having been among the most notoriously ahistorical or anti-historical, along with Jewish thought, discussed in this volume by Amnon Raz-Krakotzkin. Thapar seeks to re-evaluate this condition by delving into both general and contextually specific ways in which the past was represented. These ways were obviously not tailor-made to match modern historians' need for objective knowledge. Nor were there professional historians in the modern sense. Rather, the need to record the past was concerned with such varied goals as the practical problems of recording property claims, genealogical claims to legitimate power by kings and lords, and cosmological goals, often dealing with astronomical events and movements, as well as the need for scribal professions and religious elites to affirm or deny the role of mundane events according to their own self-interests.

Thapar explains that people could believe that India did not possess historical consciousness, despite having a vast textual and inscriptional base, for two reasons. First, it was in the interests of the modern British colonizers to show that India was a stagnant Oriental society which remained frozen in time. Second, those in quest of Indian history looked for it in the dominant classical texts, which were concerned with cosmological issues, and not in the places where they might have found it: in the lesser Puranic traditions, temple endowments, guild agreements, land grants and other royal inscriptions, and, most of all, in the writings of Buddhist and Jain communities whose representatives had either disappeared or become localized by the eighteenth century. Rosalind O'Hanlon's essay in this volume, about a later period in South Asian history, points to ways in which contemporary historians have learned how to sift out historical details embedded in, or intertwined with, other genres of writing.