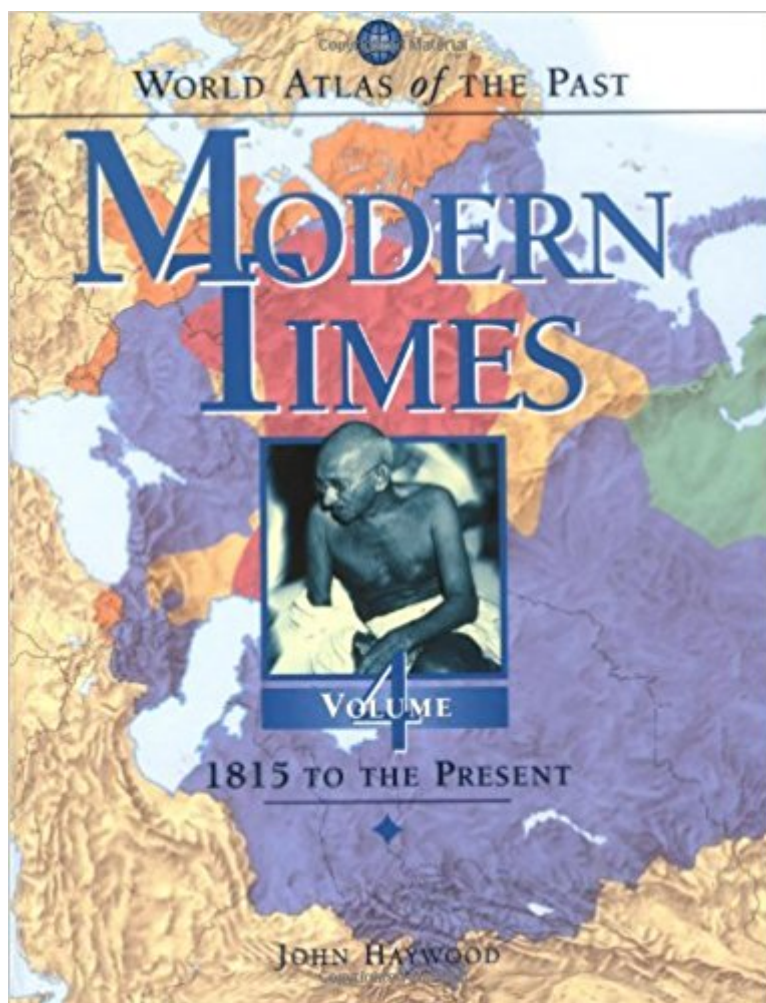


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World Atlas Of The Past: Modern Times Volume 4: 1815 To The Present



Synopsis

This volume in the World Atlas of the Past series combines 34 newly rendered full-color maps with exquisite art and photographs and engrossing narrative to trace the history of civilization in the Modern Age, from 1815 to the present. This state-of-the-art book boasts extensive coverage of the countries of Africa, the Americas, Asia, and Europe, which makes it a perfect fit with the global studies and world history curriculum. Each section features a full-page regional map showing such historical events as global migration, wars, and the shift of imperial boundaries, and a highlight map that illustrates a particular aspect of politics or culture. These clear and easy-to-understand maps show how cities have developed, flourished, and declined, how geographical centers have changed, and how countries and continents have interacted over time. The accompanying text captures the key historical facts of the period, while sidebars focus on art and artifacts to bring each period to life. A chronology within each section provides ready reference. The volume includes a glossary of terms, suggestions for further reading, and an index.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

The 4-volume World Atlas of the Past has also 256 pages (64 per volume), but only 52 double-spread maps (13 per volume); each accompanied by a spread of text with an irrelevant big landscape photo. Atlas of World History ("AWH") also by John Haywood comprises 6 parts titled Historical Atlas of... with a 4-page introduction & 28 double-spread maps each (152 maps/180 spreads/360 pages in total), acknowledgments & index. After the 1st publishing in 1997 by Sharpe,

as a 3-volume set (ISBN 1563248549), AWH was reprinted not only in full in one 384-page volume by Weidenfeld as Cassell's Atlas (ISBN 030435757X), which can be seen inside at UK, but also abbreviated in 1 shorter volume with only 121 double-spread maps in color on 256 pages by Barnes & Noble (ISBN: 0760706875) & MetroBooks (ISBN: 1586630997), as well as in full in separate 1-/2-part & 96-/192-page volumes including encyclopedic dictionaries on 16 spreads numbered 29 to 44 (32 pages) per part. O'Brien's (Oxford/Philips) Atlas (ISBN 0195215672 can be seen inside) would seem superior to AWH, if not for the disqualifying incompetence of rendering Poland reformed & not Catholic; so O'Brien cannot be trusted. AWH has far fewer maps than Hammond's reprint of acclaimed Times Atlas of World History. AWH uses a uniform map style throughout and conveys each theme in a single map, while Times tends to use a greater variety of smaller maps. For example, where AWH has one map representing the Byzantine Empire from 610 to 1204, Times has five. This simpler approach may make the AWH more accessible for younger readers. AWH is suitable for collections aimed at junior-high-school students and up.

The "Atlas of Past Times" found a permanent place on my coffee table. This book is absolutely loaded with illustrative maps, photos, and text. John Haywood has done to the pictorial record of world history what Kenneth C. Davis did for American history in his "Don't Know Much About History." Time after time over the years I've heard or read about a particular civilization, war, political upheaval, or religious movement, but was unclear as to the specific timeframe and geographic scope. It's one thing to read about boundaries in text, but Haywood lays it all out in numerous maps. Each map is color-coded and loaded with useful information. The legends are clear and concise. A perfect example of how I found the book useful was in my following the war in Iraq. I didn't want to read six textbooks to gain a better understanding of the region's history. Haywood's book provides a fantastic visual overview: Mesopotamia, the Assyrians, the Babylonians, the Jews, the Arabs, the advance and subdivisions of Islam, the Kurds, the Turks, etc. The area has a long and convoluted history, which the maps really help place within grasp of the common man. The accompanying text is only a cursory--but well written--examination of chronological world history, which is fine; it is titled and pitched as an "Atlas," and therein lies its strength and attraction. I will refer to this book again and again. --Christopher Bonn Jonnes, author of BIG ICE

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