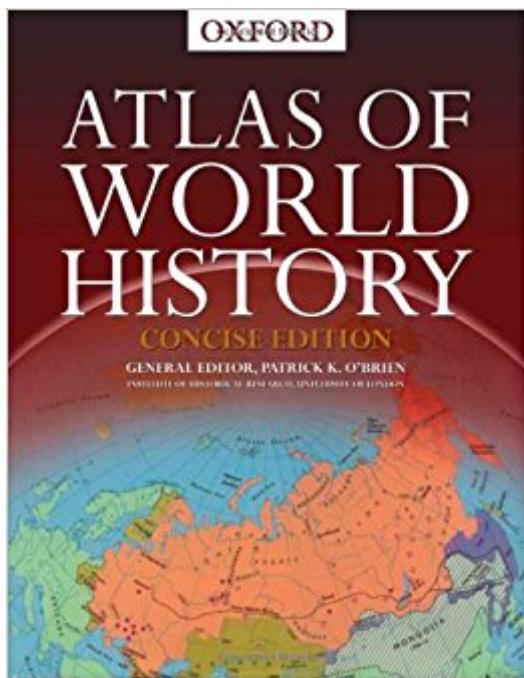


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# Concise Atlas Of World History



## Synopsis

Synthesizing exceptional cartography and impeccable scholarship, the *Atlas of World History* traces 12,000 years of history with 450 full-color maps and over 200,000 words of text. Its outstanding features include:

- \* More than 200 illustrations and tables
- \* Longer essays on worldwide trends, political developments, and military conflicts, highlighting the most significant socioeconomic, cultural, and religious themes for five pivotal historical periods
- \* Devotion to the rich past of Africa, Asia, and the Americas
- \* Cross-references and an 8,000-entry index with alternative name forms permitting movement through regions and time periods with the utmost of ease

The *Atlas of World History* is sure to appeal to a wide audience of history and geography buffs and scholars, as well as students.

## Book Information

Hardcover: 312 pages

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Average Customer Review: 3.9 out of 5 stars See all reviews (11 customer reviews)

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## Customer Reviews

This review pertains to the 312-page Concise Edition of the *Oxford Atlas of World History* with the ISBN 019521921X. The larger original edition has 352 pages and the ISBN 0195215672. The book is a variation of one of the best (and perhaps *\*the\** best) "atlas of world history" tomes. However, this scaled-down version's text is just not as easy on the eyes as that of the full-size book. The map and text content are the same for both books so the concise version is certainly a real value at about half the price. The Concise Edition does omit the glossary but I do not consider that an essential feature of the original book. The larger original version came out in 1999 (and was reprinted in 2002). The Concise Edition is merely a reprint of the 1999 book and I can find no updated data. An advantage of the Concise Edition (besides the lower price) is its physical

handiness; the original is quite close in size to the big Hammond Atlas of World History. Nevertheless, I like to casually browse through atlases so the increased eye-friendliness of the larger type and map detailing in the big version is well-worth its added expense and clumsiness for my purposes. The Concise Edition is indeed legible and would be OK for just occasional reference but not protracted reads, in my opinion. It is really a 5-star book but I rate it at 4 stars because of this truncated size. I am returning my Concise Edition and keeping its big brother. Both editions are still available from [amazon](#) at the time of this writing.

The affordable price tag of this set of maps paired with its applications to both home and school library patrons will earn it a place on many a home bookshelf as well as libraries: *Atlas Of World History, Concise Edition* is the result of over three years of intensive effort by a team of academics and editors, and presents the story of humanity from a physical, cartographic perspective. Five parts correspond with the five eras studied by world historians today, making for a particularly accessible set of maps.

A very adequate Atlas introducing someone to the political world through history. I prefer the Times Concise Historical Atlas at a similar price. Or if price is not a problem The Times Historical Atlas provide a larger version of World History maps. I own all three and am glad I do because each offers a slightly different group of maps. The Times large version's maps are gorgeous and very large and while it's my favorite it can be difficult to handle due to its size.

Bought the book as a required textbook for a "Patterns and Processes of World History" class in college. This may be one of the best bookshelf books ever made, and as it is mostly covering sweeping historic topics (i.e. patterns), it being out of date is not an issue. The maps really help envision history as a process, and it is an alternative perspective on learning history that, unlike varied readings of history, doesn't leave anything out.

As a person with a casual interest in history, I was hoping that a book summarizing everything would exist. This is that book. The development and changes of borders in world history is something that interests me and *Atlas of World History* did not disappoint. Through the pages are the stories of the rise and fall of great empires. There are more maps than I could have ever wanted. The text itself is interesting, albeit in the expected textbook format. The book is almost always non-biased towards historical events. There are also summaries of larger scale wars such

as the World Wars, the American Civil War, and so on. I imagine that one could spend a lot of time just thumbing through the pages looking at the maps which are all beautifully and clearly illustrated. As far as I can tell, there are very few errors in the book. Some of this comes from the fact that borders were sometimes in a constant state of flux (see Byzantine Empire). Also important to note is that the goal of this book is summarizing. For example, the Roman Empire gets only two pages. In conclusion, if you like history and want a visualization of the borders and people's movement throughout the times but you are not looking for something in-depth, buy this book.

O'Brien's (Oxford/Philips) Atlas (ISBN 0195215672 can be seen inside) would seem superior to *Atlas of World History ("AWH")* by John Haywood, if not for the disqualifying incompetence of rendering Poland reformed & not Catholic; so O'Brien cannot be trusted. Simplistic AWH comprises 6 parts titled Historical Atlas of... with a 4-page introduction & 28 double-spread maps each (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-page spreads 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. 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 a useless big landscape photo. 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.

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