

World History in Brief - WHiB - Version 0.1

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Available on GitHub at:
<https://GitHub.com/nicholaskarlson/WHiB>

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Preface

In the journey of exploring our past and understanding our roots, "World History in Brief - WHiB - Version 0.1" aspires to be more than just another historical account. This book strives to foster collaborative history-making, breaking the traditional mold and inviting readers to be active participants. With this preface, we delve into the essence of this project, its vision, and how it strives to redefine how we view history. Note that this book has very few references. The reader is encourage to use resources available on the Web to fact check. This book's view on "causation" and facts is heavily influenced by Mosteller Tukey [1].

Chapter 1

Introduction to WHiB

Welcoming the World of Historical Investigation with GitHub

World History in Brief, abbreviated as WHiB, isn't merely a passive read. It's an endeavor to reshape how history is written and understood. By presenting an open-source approach to history, we aim to be inclusive and diverse. This introductory chapter will orient you to the ethos of WHiB, helping you comprehend its significance and how it diverges from traditional historical narrations.

Chapter 2

Open-Source Ethos

The Spirit of Shared Knowledge and Collaboration

History, like software, is better when it's open. Drawing inspiration from the open-source software movement, this section elucidates how a collaborative, transparent, and shared approach can enhance our understanding of history. Here, we unravel the philosophy behind open-source and how it beautifully marries with the study of our past.

Chapter 3

Introduction to GitHub

The Hub for Modern Collaboration

At the heart of our collaborative historical endeavor lies GitHub, a platform traditionally associated with code but now repurposed for our narrative. This section provides a primer on GitHub, laying the foundation for those unfamiliar and offering insights into its transformative potential for collective history writing.

Chapter 4

Encouragement to Fork

Invitation to Dive Deep and Make It Your Own

WHiB isn't a static entity. It thrives on evolution, adaptation, and diversification, much like history itself. We encourage readers to "fork" - a term you'll soon become intimately familiar with - and create their own versions of this book. Delve into this section to understand the essence of "forking" and how it can be the starting point of your unique historical journey.

Chapter 5

Introduction to GitHub

Discovering the Power of Collaborative Tools

Diving deeper into the world of GitHub, this chapter provides a comprehensive overview. Beyond its technicalities, we explore how GitHub emerged as a revolutionary platform for collaboration and how it can be leveraged for historical research and narrative building.

Chapter 6

Forking Process

The Heart of Collaboration on GitHub

The beauty of open-source lies in its democratization of content creation. In this section, we demystify the process of "forking" on GitHub, guiding you step-by-step on how to take WHiB and create a version uniquely yours.

Chapter 7

Editing and Customizing

Tailoring Repositories to Suit Your Needs

Building upon the forking process, this segment delves into the next steps. How can you edit and customize your version of WHiB? What tools and techniques are available at your disposal? Embark on this informative journey as we guide you through the intricacies of editing on GitHub.

Chapter 8

Engaging with the Community

Joining the Global Conversation

GitHub is not just a platform; it's a thriving community. Engaging with fellow historians, enthusiasts, and curious minds can amplify the depth and breadth of your historical perspective. This section provides insights into community engagement, from discussions and debates to collaborative content creation.

Chapter 9

Crafting Your Own Historical Narrative

Blending Past Stories with Modern Technology

Your perspective matters. History isn't just about past events but how we interpret and present them. This section empowers you with the tools and knowledge to craft your unique narrative, ensuring that history is not just read, but lived and experienced.

Chapter 10

Troubleshooting Common GitHub Pitfalls

Finding Your Way Out of Hiccups

Every platform has its learning curve, and GitHub is no exception. This segment aims to ease your journey by addressing common challenges users face on GitHub. From resolving merge conflicts to understanding pull requests, we've got you covered.

Chapter 11

Dawn of Hominins

The Early Steps in Human Evolution

Tracing our lineage back to the very beginning, this chapter dives into the world of hominins. Before *Homo sapiens* dominated the landscape, several hominin species walked the Earth. Embark on a journey millions of years back in time as we explore our most ancient ancestors.

Chapter 12

Early Human History Key Discoveries

Landmark Finds that Shaped Our Understanding

The story of hominins is told through fragments - bones, tools, and fossilized footprints. Each discovery adds a piece to the puzzle of our past. This section highlights the groundbreaking discoveries that have reshaped our understanding of early human history.

Chapter 13

Evolutionary Path

Tracing the Journey of Early Humanoids

From the first bipedal steps to the emergence of complex cognitive functions, the evolutionary path of hominins is a tale of adaptation, survival, and innovation. Dive into the intricacies of our evolutionary journey and discover the milestones that have defined us.

Chapter 14

Hominin Homo Erectus

The Emergence of a New Kind of Hominin

Hominin Homo Erectus stands as a sentinel in the story of human evolution, marking significant strides in our developmental journey. As we delve into this chapter, we'll explore the emergence of this species, its distinct characteristics, and how it set the stage for subsequent human evolution.

Chapter 15

Hominin Migrations and Discoveries

Walking the Earth and Leaving Marks

The wanderlust of Homo Erectus took them far and wide, making them the first of our ancestors to truly explore the world. Unearth the fascinating evidence of their migrations, the lands they conquered, and the traces they left behind for us to discover.

Chapter 16

Importance in Evolution

The Crucial Role of Hominin Homo Erectus in Our Past

The evolutionary significance of the Hominin, Homo Erectus, cannot be understated. Here, we'll dissect their critical role in the grand tapestry of human evolution, from their survival strategies to their cognitive leaps, painting a vivid picture of their transformative influence.

Chapter 17

The Neanderthals

Our Closest Extinct Relatives

Often misunderstood and shrouded in myth, the Neanderthals were much more than just 'cave people'. Journey with us as we dive deep into the world of these close relatives, understanding their culture, beliefs, and the world they inhabited.

Chapter 18

Neanderthal Coexistence with Homo Sapiens

Sharing the World with Modern Humans

The narrative of Neanderthals and Homo sapiens isn't just about difference, but also about intersections. Unravel the entwined destinies of these two species, exploring periods of coexistence, mutual learning, and shared history.

Chapter 19

Neanderthal Extinction Theories

Exploring the Reasons Behind Neanderthal Disappearance

The disappearance of Neanderthals remains one of history's enduring mysteries. Venture into the realm of scientific speculation and solid theories as we piece together the puzzle of their extinction.

Chapter 20

Emergence of Homo Sapiens

The Rise of Modern Humans

Enter the epoch of us - Homo sapiens. Charting our own rise, this chapter offers a mirror to our earliest reflections, our triumphs, challenges, and the evolutionary quirks that make us uniquely human.

Chapter 21

Global Migration of Homo Sapiens

Spreading Across the Continents

The innate desire to explore has always been a hallmark of our species. Track the grand migrations of early Homo sapiens as they ventured out of Africa, colonizing every conceivable habitat, from icy tundras to arid deserts.

Chapter 22

Cognitive Revolution

The Leap in Thought and Culture

A spark in the human mind led to a firestorm of innovation. Dive into the cognitive revolution that endowed Homo sapiens with unprecedented abilities of abstract thought, planning, and complex communication.

Chapter 23

Art, Culture, and Social Structures

The Rich Tapestry of Early Homo Sapiens Life

Beyond mere survival, Homo sapiens sought meaning, expression, and connection. Explore the blossoming of early art, the birth of diverse cultures, and the intricate social structures that became the bedrock of human societies.

Chapter 24

Defining Civilization

What Makes a Society Advanced?

What makes a group of people a 'civilization'? Delve into the core attributes that define a civilization, from urban centers and written language to complex socio-political structures.

Chapter 25

First Civilizations

The Dawn of Structured Societies

The dawn of civilization marked a pivotal shift in the human story. From nomadic tribes to settled societies, witness the birth of our first great civilizations and the profound legacies they left behind.

Chapter 26

Sumerians, Egyptians, Indus Valley

Pioneers of Civilization

Embark on a journey through time, visiting the cradles of early civilizations. From the fertile crescent of the Sumerians and the majestic Nile of the Egyptians to the mysterious cities of the Indus Valley, explore their enduring contributions and mysteries.

Chapter 27

Greek and Roman Epochs

Two Titans of the Ancient World

Two of antiquity's most influential empires come to life in this chapter. Venture into the world of ancient Greece and Rome, uncovering their philosophies, wars, innovations, and the echoes of their civilizations that still resonate today.

Chapter 28

Rise of City-States

The Power of Urban Centers in Antiquity

The ancient Greek world was a tapestry of fiercely independent city-states. Dive into the intricacies of this fragmented landscape, with a special focus on Athens, the cradle of democracy and a beacon of ancient art and thought.

Chapter 29

Philosophy, Arts, and the Greek Spirit

The Flourishing of Thought and Creativity

The Greek spirit was one of inquiry, reflection, and boundless creativity. Explore the luminous minds that shaped Western philosophy, the artists who redefined beauty, and the indomitable spirit that continues to inspire today.

Chapter 30

Roman Republic and Empire

From City-State to World Superpower

From a small settlement on the banks of the Tiber, Rome grew to dominate the known world. Chart the rise and transformation of Rome from a republic to an empire, understanding its politics, society, and the forces that drove its expansion.

Chapter 31

Roman Achievements, Decline, and Legacy

The Enduring Impact of Rome

The sun eventually set on the Roman Empire, but not before it left an indelible mark on history. Delve into the monumental achievements of Rome, the reasons behind its decline, and the enduring legacy it bequeathed to posterity.

Chapter 32

The Medieval Mosaic

The Diverse Middle Ages

The medieval era, often referred to as the Middle Ages, was a period of profound transformation. Amidst a backdrop of chivalry, castles, and cathedrals, humanity grappled with both progress and strife. Delve into the intricacies of this multifaceted era, which bridged the ancient and modern worlds.

Chapter 33

Feudalism and Manorialism

Structures of Medieval Society

Discover the societal and economic structures that underpinned medieval life. Feudalism, with its intricate web of loyalties, and manorialism, shaping the rural life of the era, played pivotal roles in the development of medieval European society.

Chapter 34

Religion, Monasticism, and the Church

Spiritual Forces of the Middle Ages

Religion was the cornerstone of medieval life. Explore the towering influence of the Church, the spiritual allure of monasticism, and the interplay between faith, politics, and daily life during these times.

Chapter 35

Key Dynasties and Kingdoms

Rulers and Realms that Shaped the Medieval World

The medieval world was a chessboard of dynasties and kingdoms, each vying for power and influence. Journey through the corridors of time to meet the iconic rulers, witness legendary battles, and understand the geopolitical shifts of the era.

Chapter 36

Trade, Exploration, and Interactions

The Interconnected Medieval World

Beyond the shadow of castles lay a world of bustling markets, long voyages, and cultural exchanges. Unravel the intricate trade networks, the brave explorations, and the fruitful interactions that colored the medieval world.

Chapter 37

The Renaissance Rebirth

A New Dawn of Thought and Art

A dawn of new ideas, art, and knowledge broke upon Europe, heralding the Renaissance. Delve into this luminous period, where humanity emerged from medieval constraints to embrace innovation, curiosity, and a rejuvenation of culture.

Chapter 38

Renaissance Definition and Origins

Roots of the Renaissance

But what truly defines the Renaissance? Embark on a journey to understand the roots of this movement, its defining ethos, and the societal shifts that ignited this golden age of rediscovery.

Chapter 39

Art, Science, and the Humanities

The Pillars of the Renaissance

The Renaissance witnessed the blossoming of genius. From the masterstrokes of Leonardo and Michelangelo to the revolutionary ideas of Copernicus and Galileo, explore the titans who shaped this era and their indelible contributions.

Chapter 40

Printing Revolution

The Technology that Changed the World

The invention of the printing press was a catalyst that transformed society. Dive into the story of how this revolutionary technology democratized knowledge, reshaped cultures, and ushered in a new age of mass communication.

Chapter 41

USA History and the Industrial Revolution

From Colonies to Industry Leader

As the USA charted its unique path, the world was on the cusp of another profound transformation: the Industrial Revolution. Discover the intertwining narratives of a fledgling nation's quest for identity and the mechanical innovations reshaping the global landscape.

Chapter 42

Industrial Revolution Precursors and Causes

The Catalysts of Industrial Change

What lit the furnace of the Industrial Revolution? Delve into the antecedents that set the stage for this unprecedented era of progress, from socio-economic factors to groundbreaking discoveries.

Chapter 43

Key Innovations and Societal Impacts

The Machines and Ideas that Reshaped Society

Steam engines, mechanized looms, and railways—these weren't just inventions but forces that realigned civilizations. Explore the seminal innovations of the Industrial Revolution and their far-reaching societal consequences.

Chapter 44

Urbanization and Modern Business

New Ways of Living and Doing Business

As factories rose, so did cities. Dive into the story of rapid urbanization, the rise of a new economic order, and the challenges and opportunities that a free market system for business brought to the fore.

Chapter 45

Modern History, 1865 and Beyond

The World in the Recent Past

From the age of empires to the digital era, modern history from 1865 and beyond has been a whirlwind of change. Embark on a journey that traverses wars, revolutions, and innovations, painting a tapestry of the contemporary world and its myriad complexities.

Chapter 46

World Wars and Global Repercussions

The Conflicts that Reshaped the World

The tremors of the World Wars were felt across continents, reshaping boundaries and destinies. Delve deep into the causes, the brutal conflicts, and the lasting repercussions of these global confrontations.

Chapter 47

The Cold War and the Fall of the Soviet Union

New World Orders

The tussle between superpowers and the quest for self-determination marked the latter half of the 20th century. Understand the intrigues of the Cold War and the fall of the Soviet Union that redrew the world map.

Chapter 48

Technological Revolutions

Innovations Driving the Modern Era

The silicon chip, the internet, and the smartphone—modern life is a testament to technological marvels. Explore the innovations that catapulted us into the digital age and their profound influence on every facet of our lives.

Chapter 49

Ancient Chinese History

The Dragon's Ancient Roots

Steeped in millennia of rich traditions and groundbreaking innovations, ancient China stands as a testament to human civilization's brilliance. Embark on a journey back to China's cradle, where dynasties rose and fell, philosophies were born, and cultures thrived.

Chapter 50

Modern Chinese History

From Dynasties to the Modern State

From the last imperial dynasty to the emergence of the People's Republic, modern China has witnessed tumultuous change and astonishing growth. Delve into the events, personalities, and socio-political transformations that have sculpted contemporary China.

Chapter 51

Ancient Indian History

Land of the Vedas and Indus Valley

The Indian subcontinent, with its diverse tapestry of cultures, religions, and languages, boasts a history as old as the Indus Valley Civilization. Discover the empires, philosophies, and artistic achievements that defined ancient India.

Chapter 52

Modern Indian History

From the Raj to the World's Largest Democracy

Chart the trajectory from the Mughal Empire's zenith to the rise of British colonialism and, ultimately, India's tryst with destiny. Explore the challenges, revolutions, and renaissance that have shaped modern India's unique identity.

Appendix A

Basic GitHub Guide

A Quick Start to Your GitHub Journey is next.

Dive into the digital realm of GitHub, the world's leading platform for collaborative projects. This guide will offer you the foundational steps to navigate, contribute to, and benefit from the vast universe of open-source collaboration.

Appendix B

Basic LaTeX Guide

A Quick Start to Your LaTeX Journey is next.

Dive into the digital realm of LaTeX, a major platform for scientific and professional document creation. This guide will offer you the foundational steps to understanding and working with LaTeX to create fabulous documents, such as this book.

Bibliography

- [1] F. Mosteller and J. W. Tukey. *Data Analysis and Regression: A Second Course in Statistics*. Addison-Wesley Pub Co, Reading, MA, 1977.