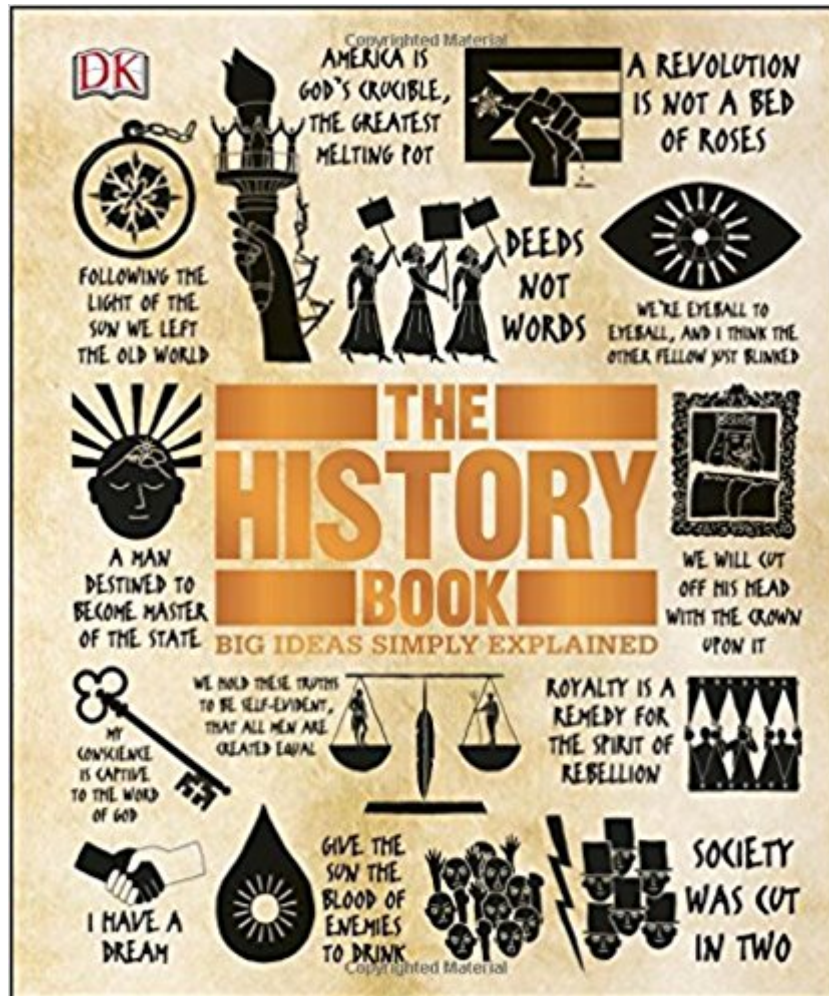


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# The History Book (Big Ideas Simply Explained)



## Synopsis

From the dawn of civilization to the lightning-paced culture of today, take a fascinating journey through the most significant events in history and the big ideas behind each one. Bring history to life as you explore the Law Code of Hammurabi, the Renaissance, the American Revolution, World War II, and much more. As part of DK's award-winning Big Ideas Simply Explained series, The History Book uses infographics and images to explain key ideas and themes. Biographies of key leaders, thinkers, and warriors, from Julius Caesar to Barack Obama, offer insight into their lives and further historical insight into these world-changing episodes. Perfect for an avid student or armchair historian, the clear explanations of ideologies behind events that have shaped our world into what it is today. The History Book makes the past 4,000 years of history accessible and provides enlightenment on the forces that shaped the world as we know it today, for students and history buffs alike.

## Book Information

Series: Big Ideas Simply Explained

Hardcover: 352 pages

Publisher: DK; 1st edition (July 5, 2016)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 1465445102

ISBN-13: 978-1465445100

Product Dimensions: 8 x 1.1 x 9.4 inches

Shipping Weight: 2.6 pounds (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.3 out of 5 stars 47 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #17,183 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #9 in [Books > Reference > Encyclopedias & Subject Guides > History](#) #11 in [Books > History > Historical Study & Educational Resources > Reference](#) #514 in [Books > History > World](#)

## Customer Reviews

[View larger](#) The History Book The ultimate aim of history is human self-knowledge. In the words of the 20th-century historian R G Collingwood: "The value of history is that it teaches us what man has done and thus what man is." We cannot hope to understand our lives without it.

[Cave Paintings at Altamira](#) "Everything was so beautiful, so fresh." [View larger](#)

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[The Big Freeze](#)

"The foundations of today's Europe were forged in the events of the late ice age." [Athenian Democracy](#) The Athenian constitution relied on a careful separation of powers. This was essential to make the practical operation of direct democracy possible. It also ensured that all citizens (men aged 20 and above) could serve and that power could not be abused. [The Outbreak of the Black Death](#) The Black Death kills over a third of Europe's Population.

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[The Early Modern Era](#)

The course of world events always looks different in retrospect from the way that it appears at the time, but the contrast in perspective is rarely as extreme as in the Early Modern Era, which spanned the 15th, 16th, and 17th centuries.

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[Global Population Exceeds 7 Billion in 2011](#)

"This is a day about our entire human family"

"[The Big Ideas Simply Explained books] are beautifully illustrated with shadow-like cartoons that break down even the most difficult concepts so they are easier to grasp. These step-by-step diagrams are an incredibly clever learning device to include, especially for visual learners." â€” Examiner.com "The visual layout promotes browsing with illustrations, pull quotes, and simple mind maps to explain concepts quickly." â€” Library Journal "Accessible guide to the great thinkers." â€” School Library Journal "Clever and engaging." â€” Booklist "Kids are never too young to understand history; it just needs to be presented in the appropriate way. With that in mind, The History Book is a fantastic place to start." â€” GeekDad.com

When you are ambitious enough to write a history book encompassing everything from 200,000 years ago until the present day, you must determine what to include and what to leave out. The author of "The History Book" concentrated on events that had the most impact on the development (or demise) of different civilizations throughout the world. I can't say enough about how the book was composed. Each section of the book lays out a timeline of dates and events covered during that period. Each event is then covered in a sub-section, which bullet points things that happened in history before and after the event being discussed. To achieve greater understanding with a minimum of words, diagrams are provided which detail how the event came to pass (using early humans as an example: "Foraging lifestyles rely on hunting/gathering" led to "Humans develop an intimate knowledge of animal and plant species" led to "Beliefs and practices emphasizing

connectedness and communication start to develop" resulting in "The first examples of art, such as the cave paintings of Altamira, appear"). The book is an easy read, giving just enough information to understand without overloading you with every little fact. Sub-sections are usually no more than a few pages, enabling the reader to be able to set the book down and easily pick it back up at a later time. The author also does a good job staying in the middle and not choosing sides during discussions on religion and political systems. I alternate between my Kindle Fire and Paperwhite. It was impossible to read the timelines on the Paperwhite; even though the Fire is only slightly bigger, it was enough to overcome the fine print, and I found I enjoyed the colored pictures and diagrams on the Fire as opposed to the black-and-white displays on the Paperwhite. Basically, this is a good reference book that will give you an interesting overview on major events in history.

I was a poor student in school, and history was my worst subject. This book has me lapping up what you couldn't have shoved down my throat as a youngster. Sure, I've matured some toward learning (now in my 60s), and the Kindle is way more comfortable and convenient than the heavy, awkward textbooks we had then, but these authors and organizers deserve some big-time credit for this work way beyond that. This is writing that doesn't just impart information; it gives you the sense of almost being there. Five stars all the way!

It would be misleading to state that this book is anything more than an abbreviated overview of history, so I will refrain from hyperbole. DK specializes in beautiful, eye-catching illustrations and publication layout design that is visually stunning and adept at gaining reader interest - whether young or old. The History Book is a splendid visual reference that works best for readers capable of reading at, say, at least the seventh grade (middle school) level and older. Although it is shown to have 352 pages of content, the well-organized and illustrated layout results in a publication that has somewhat less content than most books of such length --- that is not a criticism, though, because the artistic layout is much appreciated by me and, I trust, by most readers. To help you come to grips with what I am trying to explain, I am attaching some screen shots I snapped. Unlike one other DK book I reviewed, this reference has a layout and presentation that works quite well when viewing from my free Kindle app on my desktop computer and on my Mini iPad. I do wish more material had been included, but the material that is provided is good reading and well-prepared. Four stars out of five.

I have only browsed through this but it seems very well done. And contains tons of information I

never learned in school about this nation's history and world history. Even though I haven't read through it thoroughly I feel it was well worth the cost.

The History book gives you a quick look at how civilization has progressed throughout our history. It touches on enough information to keep you interested and does it rather quickly on each time and area it is covering. It clearly points out that as a race we have always been driven to territorial conquests and massive destruction of the human race. The themes have been rather consistent conflicts have been driven by either power, territorial conquests or religion.

I found this book filled in a lot of holes in my history knowledge. A very worthwhile read, was quick to the point and if you want more on a subject well go online for more. Enjoyed it and looked forward to it each day opening my eyes on stuff I really didn't know. I will definitely read more of these from DK

It's an interesting book but very basic coverage of most facts, and takes about a half-gigabyte of space on device.

Very readable history of human civilization. It takes you through our history by picking out crucial moments, putting them into context, outlining the causes and on going effects.

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