

Western Civilization: A Concise History

Western Civilization: A Concise History is an Open Educational Resource textbook covering the history of Western Civilization from approximately 8,000 BCE to 2017 CE. It is available in three volumes covering the following time periods and topics:

- Volume 1: from the origins of civilization in Mesopotamia c. 8,000 BCE through the early Middle Ages in Europe c. 1,000 CE. Volume 1 covers topics including Mesopotamia, Egypt, Persia, Greece, Rome, the Islamic caliphates, and the early European Middle Ages.
- Volume 2: from the early Middle Ages to the French Revolution in 1789 CE. Volume 2 covers topics including the High Middle Ages, the Renaissance, the European conquest of the Americas, the Reformation, the Scientific Revolution, and the Enlightenment.
- Volume 3: from the Napoleonic era to the recent past. Volume 3 covers topics including the Industrial Revolution, the politics of Europe in the nineteenth century, modern European imperialism, the world wars, fascism, Nazism, and the Holocaust, the postwar era, the Cold War, and recent developments in economics and politics.

The textbook was written to be compatible with a term schedule rather than semesters, but can be easily adapted for semesters as necessary. It is intended for students with no prior knowledge of the subject and attempts to present historical topics in as clear and straightforward a manner as possible. Its range of subjects is broadly compatible with most existing courses on the history of Western Civilization in American colleges and universities.

The introduction to each volume is identical, presenting both an overview of the subject, namely the concept of Western Civilization, and the author's perspective on it. The introduction also identifies known deficiencies in the narrative. The intention is to make the assumptions that govern the narrative approach of the book explicit to the reader, as well as to call attention to some of the areas in need of improvement in the future.

It is the intention of author to actively maintain the book. To that end, readers are invited to contact me via e-mail at christopher.brooks3@pcc.edu with comments, suggestions, and (of particular importance) notes on typos or factual errors. The latter will be corrected as quickly as possible, and other suggestions will be taken into account with future revisions. Note that the initial version of the book was released in the spring of 2019.

I would like to thank my colleagues Terri Barnes, Robert Flynn, and especially Sylvia Gray for their helpful comments and corrections of sections of the book.

Dr. Christopher Brooks
Instructor in History, Portland Community College