

A Global History of Humanity

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This edition of A GLOBAL HISTORY OF HUMANITY is a proof version and is not for dissemination beyond reviewers.

The authors are glad to collect and consider suggestions for the book coming from the focus group teachers and the students currently at work in the 12 countries included in the Get Up and Goals project.



The text was produced in the framework of the European project **Get up and goals, Global education time: an international network of learning and active schools for Sustainable Development Goals.**

The project aims to support the implementation of the 17 sustainable development goals established by the 2030 UN Agenda in schools in 12 European countries. It is coordinated by the NGO CISP * (Rome, Italy) and funded by the European Union.

“The book you have in your hands is a complex object that comes out from a long process of thinking, production, organization, networking, and many other actions of some humans who have decided to create this curious object that will accompany you for some time during school. This book is about your history, our history. It is not crowded with king’s names, dates and events you would probably forget after few months. It is not a history of your country, as nations are very young political formations: their history is not able to give account of our past as humans on this planet. This book tells another story, a story about the planet on which you are born and live. It is a story about planet Earth and the humans who have inhabited it, and above all about their fascinating and often troublesome relation. “

Writing a History

- A true history: history as a narration of our past as humans who have forged our life on planet Earth.
- An imagined history: history that brings a story of what might have happened; such a history is an adventurous journey into foreign lands, often unknown and far away.
- A contemporary history: of the past ... and of today.

A history of humans

- We refer to humans as a common condition for our existence on planet Earth, and we embrace the idea to “stay human”. We are all humans, despite differences, and the social and cultural construction that made “peoples”. Any other further hierarchy and distinction is the outcome of historical processes that have also created inequalities.
- But: it is also a history of the unequal relationship between rulers and ruled. It includes decisions of a small part of humanity that have shaped the world as such. And it also narrates the actions of most part of humanity that created new worlds by accepting, refusing or resisting domination.

All these actions and reactions make up history, forge processes of change and transformation, that happened over time and are reconstructed or remembered centuries or millennia later.

A history of human and non-human nature

- A history of humans is a history of nature. Humans have always been part of nature, and they still are. Nature is not given; it is the outcome of the manipulation and conscious intervention of humans since their appearance on planet Earth.
- The shifting relationships of humans with each other and with other forms of life create varying zones of contact, or frontiers. Frontiers connect different spaces of organic and non-organic life.
- Frontiers originate, shift, and disappear. They play a first-rate role in human social change: they build walls as well as bridges; they determine exclusion and inclusion; they enforce new rules but also give space for resistance.

A global history

- Global history is the history of humans making, defining, and reorganizing their worlds. A human world is not an object, it is the outcome of the interaction and struggle between human activity and other forces of nature, that we call the environment.
- Space: non-centric; at the center of this textbook we have placed humans in their relationship with planet Earth and not a specific area where they live in it.
- Time: the textbook looks at the ways in which worlds have been created and imposed through time, by groups, empires, states, or companies; we look at the story of how local transformations were linked and interconnected to broader ones, regional, intercontinental and global.

➔ Scales and Frontiers

The structure of this textbook:

A chronological and thematic approach

Volume 1 spans from 70.000 BCE to 1000 CE; it focuses on the expansion of frontiers, starting from the agricultural one, that created empires and cities.

Volume 2 spans from 1000 CE to 1870 CE; it narrates the story of the connection of different frontiers, and the creation of the first intercontinental trade system.

Volume 3 spans from 1870 CE to the 21st century; it looks at the intensified intervention of an ever-complex system of frontiers on our planet.

Each volume is divided into three chronological chapters.

Each chapter starts with an 'imagine' prelude and an overview of the chapter.

Then there are the four themes in which the book is structured. In this textbook, relevance is given to comparisons, systems, connections and networks. Instead of reading historical transformations as single topics, we have chosen to present issues organized in four themes and to look at the different transformations occurred in the world regarding it.

The four themes are:

- 1) humans change nature
- 2) humans on the move
- 3) social organization and inequality
- 4) worldviews

In this way, we go through the same historical period four times, analyzing four different sets of themes, issues and problems.

Plus:

- Timeline
- Maps
- Educational apparatus

Learning the past to change the present

The educational goal of this textbook is to analyze, criticize, compare, test and broaden our views on the history of humans and the planet they inhabit. It should help you in putting yourselves in other human's life, as it is a fundamental practice of knowledge to understand our world and others' worldviews.

We can consider this book as a compass that orients our reading of this story about human history. We also can use the text as a logbook, that is a notebook of our travels across times that we can rewrite and change at every step.

Themes for the 21st century

- Populations
- Inequalities
- Frontiers
- The commodification of everything
- Work and workers
- Global migrations
- Tomorrow's world views
- Resistances and the common