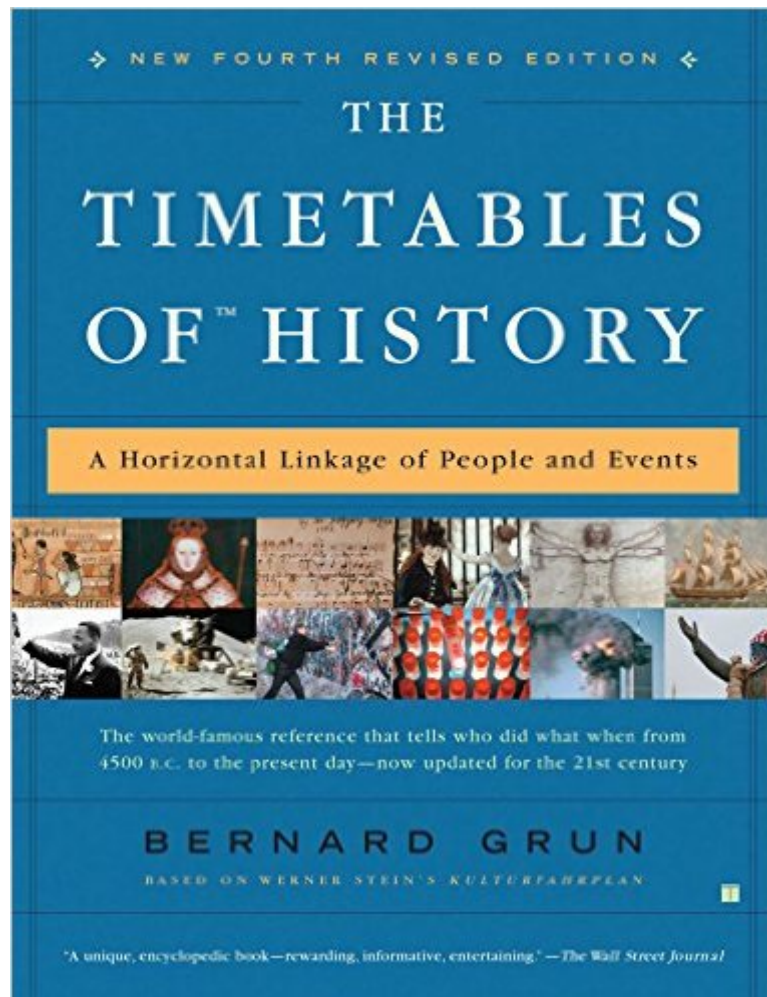


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The Timetables Of History: A Horizontal Linkage Of People And Events



Synopsis

The new fourth revised edition A vast and absorbing resource, the fourth edition of *The Timetables of History* spans millennia of human history. Unlike any other reference volume, this book gives a sweeping overview of the making of the contemporary world by mapping out at a glance what was happening simultaneously, from the dawn of history to the present day. With nearly 100 pages of new material, including:

- Recent breakthroughs in science and technology
- New achievements in the visual arts and music
- Milestones in religion, philosophy, and learning
- The rise and fall of nations and the emergence of historical figures
- Landmarks in the drama of daily life around the world

Book Information

Series: *Timetables of History*

Paperback: 848 pages

Publisher: Touchstone; 4 Revised edition (September 13, 2005)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0743270037

ISBN-13: 978-0743270038

Product Dimensions: 8.5 x 1.7 x 11 inches

Shipping Weight: 4.4 pounds (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.2 out of 5 stars [See all reviews](#) (84 customer reviews)

Best Sellers Rank: #59,484 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #35 in [Books > Reference > Encyclopedias & Subject Guides > History](#) #43 in [Books > History > Historical Study & Educational Resources > Reference](#) #804 in [Books > Textbooks > Humanities > History](#)

Customer Reviews

Timetables of History is an encyclopedic style text that organizes information on a year by year basis. Each item is organized into one of seven categories: 1) History and Politics, 2) Literature and Theatre, 3) Religion, Philosophy and Learning, 4) Visual Arts, 5) Music, 6) Science, Technology and Growth and 7) Daily Life. Starting from 5000 BC and continuing to 1991, each area is shown in a parallel fashion so that you know which items were occurring at the same time in history. For example, in the year 1838 in politics, Osceola, the Indian leader died and Queen Victoria was coronated, in Literature Charles Dickens' *Oliver Twist* and *Nicholas Nickleby* were top sellers, in Visual Arts the London National Gallery was opened, in Science John Muir was born and in Daily Life the first traveling post office was opened. If you have ever tried to fix an event in history in terms

of what else was happening at the same time then this book is extremely useful. If you are into genealogy then it can help understand what was going on in the lives of your ancestors. If you are into science you can follow which scientists were contemporaries and what items were influencing them. If you have any interest in history and want to get an overall picture of what was happening around the world at a particular time then this book can be a useful addition to your studies. A recommended resource for those who are interested in such things I value it for its ability to let me know what was going on during the time of my ancestors for my genealogy hobby.

If this book has a vice, it is simply you might forget what you came to find, as your eye catches some fascinating confluence of events hitherto missing from your understanding of the past. I have frequently been distracted for long periods wandering the endlessly intriguing pages of this indispensable reference. Have a child who is bored by history, and asking why does it matter? Are you puzzled by a historical event that is often quoted as important but seems irrelevant to you? Are you a writer? Editor? Teacher? A reader who loves to understand the setting and times of a novel or novelist or other writer? This book is for all of you. Like any comprehensive work, there are omissions; gaps and small shortcomings. But if you only have three reference books, they should be a dictionary, a thesaurus and *The Timetables of History*.

This is one of those books that is just great to browse through to get a perspective on a particular period in history and the sequence of important events during that time. The timeline goes from earliest history, 5,000 B.C., up to modern times. One nice feature is that it displays parallel timelines for several different topics, not just history and politics, but also Literature and Theater; Visual Arts; Music; Religion, Philosophy, and Learning; Science, Technology, and Growth; and Daily Life. This makes it useful and convenient for getting a broader picture of the overall cultural context in addition to the usual events such as which king was ruling, which wars were being fought, and so on. One interesting use for this book would be along with one of those big historical atlases of the world, such as the ones from Hammond, National Geographic, Oxford, Time, and so on. Some of them include their own timelines, but usually they're not as detailed as the ones in this book. The combination of the two resources would make for an even more effective learning tool. If you're interested in buying one of these, out of the big 5 or 6 offerings out there, I like the *Historical Atlas of the World*, by John Haywood. It's not the biggest, or most complete, or the fanciest graphically, but it's one of the best written, visually appealing, and easiest to use. Also, I think it does the best of job of integrating the graphics and maps with the textual presentation. It's also the most reasonably

priced and is anywhere from 40% to 80% cheaper than some of the others. If you like timelines, another thing I noticed is that there are now several good websites devoted to this subject. You could also check some of these out if you're interested. I still find it's easier and more convenient to just have a book like this rather than having to download a lot of web pages (unless perhaps you have faster network connection than I do). Overall, a very well done and very useful book on historical chronology, and at a very reasonable price. The price is less than many of the standard histories out there, despite its being a pretty big and thick book itself.

Although it takes a few minutes to orient oneself with the structure of this timeline reference book, the huge amount of information it contains is readily accessible. Beginning in the 5000 BC and going to contemporary times, the timeline contains a year by year (or age by age, for the earliest entries) list of major occurrences in history/politics, literature/theater, visual arts, music, science and technology, and "daily life." Obviously, not all years contain entries across the board, and several years have packed grids. As the years get closer to the present, huge lists of events can take an entire page for a single year. Although heavily biased toward European and North American culture, the entries are not exclusively western. While helpful in determining the events in a specific time frame, this volume is strictly a timeline without reference to specific trends and without analysis. I highly recommend this book to anyone putting together a collection of easy-to-access reference books.

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