

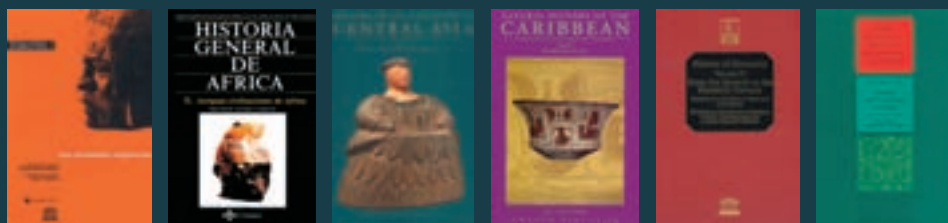
The UNESCO General and Regional Histories



Six collections

Seminal works of intellectual heritage

A tool for dialogue, between past and future, between here and there



United Nations
Educational, Scientific and
Cultural Organization

UNESCO
Publishing

- 👉 History of Humanity
- 👉 General History of Africa
- 👉 History of Civilizations of Central Asia
- 👉 General History of Latin America
- 👉 General History of the Caribbean
- 👉 The Different Aspects of Islamic Culture



The General and Regional Histories

👉 **Beginnings:**

- A determination, in the wake of the Second World War, to strengthen cooperation among nations in the cause of peace
- An overriding need to reassess the history of humanity and the world's various regions
- A desire to share knowledge and build tools for understanding among peoples

👉 **The aim of the projects:**

Garner knowledge of other cultures, gain insight into cultural misunderstanding and the causes of wars and build “the defences of peace in the minds of men”.

👉 **A unique approach:**

- A decentralized and pluralist view of history that challenges the prevailing interpretations
- The collective work of specialists in many disciplines
- International teams representing all regions of the world
- Acknowledgement of divergent viewpoints

👉 **The rigorous methodology:**

International scientific committees, entrusted with designing and writing the Histories, and responsible for the intellectual and scientific quality of the collections.

👉 **An impressive achievement:**

Monumental, almost utopian undertakings, which challenged their authors to rise above ideological controversies; the encyclopaedic content is accessible to all types of readership.

👉 **A mission more topical than ever:**

To reduce lack of mutual understanding among peoples in the grip of a process of rapid globalization.

👉 **Future perspectives:**

A framework for future developments (research, education, etc.).

History of Humanity



- 👉 *The aim:* to “disarm” history by emphasizing the scientific and cultural development and highlighting the contributions of all peoples to the general progress of humanity
- 👉 *The ambition:* to write a history of humanity that reflects the pluralism of visions, stresses interaction among cultures and highlights the shared values produced
- 👉 *A guiding principle:* to preserve a measure of independence from political influences
- 👉 *A mammoth task:* multiple disciplines, hundreds of contributors, different viewpoints, diverse and disparate sources

- Restoring equal dignity of cultures
- Introducing an innovative approach
- Building bridges between cultures and promoting mutual respect
- Constituting a body of knowledge available to all types of readership





7 volumes (English, French, Italian, Portuguese, Russian and Spanish)

-  **Prehistory and the beginnings of civilizations** (Editor: S.J. De Laet; Co-editors: A.H. Dani, J.L. Lorenzo and R.B. Nunoo)
-  **From the Third Millennium to the Seventh Century BC** (Editors: A.H. Dani and J.P. Mohen; Co-editors: J.L. Lorenzo, C.A. Diop, V.M. Masson, T. Obenga, M.B. Sakellariou, B.K. Thapar, Xia Nai and Zhang Changshou)
-  **From the Seventh Century BC to the Seventh Century AD** (Editors: E. Condurachi, J. Herrmann and E. Zürcher; Co-editors: J. Harmatta, J. Litvak King, R. Lonis, T. Obenga, R. Thapar and Zhou Yiliang)
-  **From the Seventh to the Sixteenth Century** (Editors: M.A. Al-Bakhit, L. Bazin, S.M. Cissoko and A.A. Kamel; Co-editors: M. S. Asimov, P. Gendrop, A. Gieysztor, I. Habib, Y. Karayannopoulos, J. Litvak King and P. Schmidt)
-  **From the Sixteenth to the Eighteenth Century** (Editors: P. Burke and H. Inalcik; Co-editors: I. Habib, J. Ki-Zerbo, T. Kusamitsu, C. Martinez Shaw, E. Tchernjak and E. Trabulsee)
-  **The Nineteenth Century** (Editors: P. Mathias and N. Todorov; Co-editors: G. Carrera Damas, A.O. Chibariyan, Shu-Li Ji and I.D. Thiam)
-  **The Twentieth Century** (Editors: S. Gopal and S.L. Tikhvinsky; Co-editors: I.A. Abu- Lughod, G. Weinberg, I.D. Thiam and W. Tao)



General History of Africa











- ✎ *The aim: to “decolonize” history and show African ideas, cultures, societies and institutions in all their diversity*
- ✎ *A considerable preparatory work: identification and utilization of diverse sources including oral tradition, discussions on methodology and adoption of innovative approaches, meetings between academics, establishment of networks of historians*
- ✎ *The guiding principle: encourage a vision from within, addressing Africa as a whole*

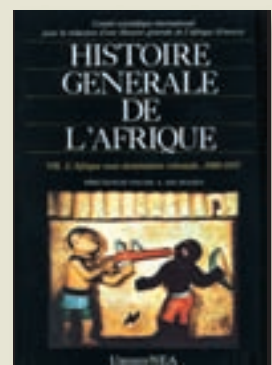
- This work sheds light on the African origins of Egyptian civilization, the formation of the major political and sociocultural entities of the continent, the relation of Africa with the other continents and the presence of African diaspora
- A fresh vision of Africa, transcending colonial divisions, superseding racist perceptions and enabling the understanding of the dynamics of the continent
- A valuable tool for rethinking the teaching of history and reaffirming the ties between Africa on the one hand and the rest of the world on the other.





8 volumes

- 
Methodology and African Prehistory (complete edition: English, French, Arabic, Spanish, Portuguese, Italian, Japanese and Chinese; abridged edition: English, French, Hausa, Kiswahili, Peul) – Editor: J. Ki-Zerbo
- 
Ancient civilizations of Africa (complete edition: English, French, Arabic, Spanish, Portuguese, Italian, Japanese and Chinese; abridged edition: English, French, Hausa, Kiswahili, Peul) – Editor: G. Mokhtar
- 
Africa from the Seventh to the Eleventh Century (complete edition: English, French, Arabic and Spanish; abridged edition: English, French and Kiswahili) – Editors: M.M. El Fasi and I. Hrbek
- 
Africa from the Twelfth to the Sixteenth Century (complete edition: English, French, Arabic, Spanish, Portuguese, Japanese and Chinese; abridged edition: English, French and Kiswahili) – Editor: Djibril T. Niane
- 
Africa from the Sixteenth to the Eighteenth Century (complete edition: English, French and Arabic; abridged edition: English, French and Kiswahili) – Editor: B.A. Ogot
- 
Africa in the Nineteenth Century until the 1880s (complete edition: English, French and Arabic; abridged edition: English, French and Kiswahili) – Editor: J.F.A. Ajayi
- 
Africa under Colonial Domination 1880–1935 (complete edition: English, French, Arabic, Spanish, Portuguese, Japanese and Chinese; abridged edition: English, French and Kiswahili) – Editor: A.A. Boahen
- 
Africa since 1935 (complete edition: English, French and Arabic; abridged edition: English, French and Kiswahili) – Editors: A.A. Mazrui and C. Wondji



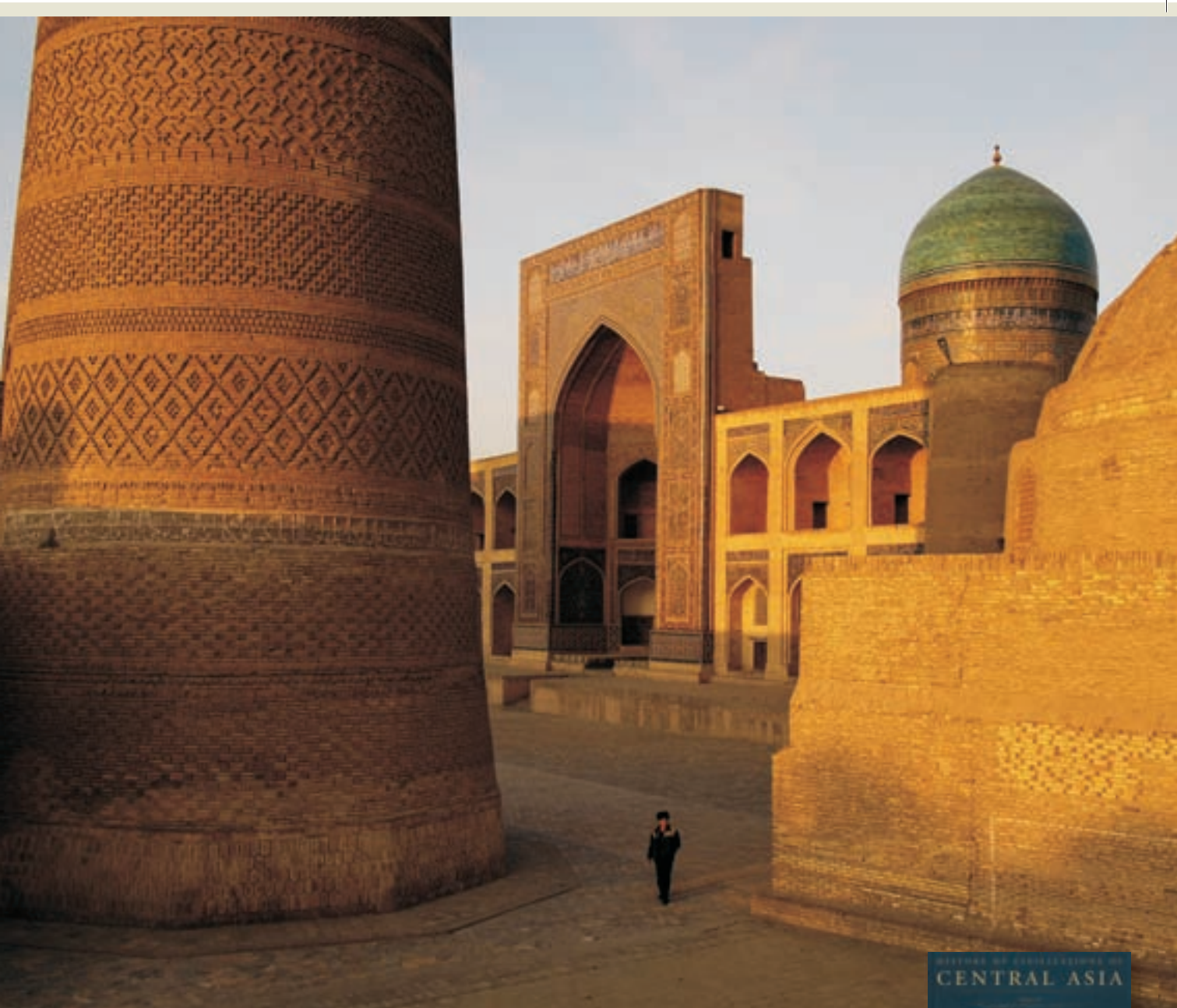
History of Civilisations of Central Asia









- ✎ *A vast territory encompassing eastern Iran, Afghanistan, Pakistan, northern India, western China, Mongolia, the Central Asian Republics (Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Uzbekistan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan) and the south-east of Russia*
- ✎ *The intermingling of East and West, with highly diverse cultures in constant interaction all along the Silk Roads*
- ✎ *A meeting point for all types of trade and exchange, fertile ground for human activity*
- ✎ *Political and social structures emerging from empires and nomad societies going back thousands of years*

- The collapse of the USSR in the early 1990s enabled the independent republics of Central Asia to revisit their history and cultural identities.
- The collection makes a body of interdisciplinary information on these regions available to a worldwide readership.
- An interpretation that will give insight into a major geopolitical area.





6 volumes in English

-  **The dawn of civilization: earliest times to 700 BC** (Editor: A.H. Dani and V.M. Masson)
-  **The development of sedentary and nomadic civilizations: 700 BC to AD 250** (Editor: J. Harmatta; Co-editors: B.N. Puri and G.F. Etemadi)
-  **The cross-roads of civilizations: AD 250 to 750** (Editor: B.A. Litvinsky; Co-editors: Zhang Guang-da and R. Shabani Samghabadi)
-  **The age of achievement AD 750 to the end of the fifteenth century**
(Part I: The historical, social and economic setting; Part II: The achievements)
(Editor: M.S. Asimov and C.E. Bosworth)
-  **Development in contrast: from the sixteenth to the mid-nineteenth century**
(Editors: Chahryar Adle and Irfan Habib)
-  **Towards the contemporary period: from the mid-nineteenth century to the end of the twentieth century** (Editor: Chahryar Adle; Co-editors: Madhavan K. Palat and Anara Tabyshalieva)



General History of Latin America












- One of the world's largest geocultural regions
- Obvious territorial unity
- Cultures derived from interaction between European settlers, the indigenous peoples and enslaved Africans
- Societies undergoing constant change

- A history of the societies and of cultural, social, economic and political currents
- Review of the debate on unity and diversity in Latin America
- Study of the continent's societal mosaic
- A unique position on the international scene through coherent subregional groupings





9 volumes in Spanish

-  **Las sociedades originarias** (Editor: Teresa Rojas Rabiela; Co-editor: John V. Murra)
-  **El primer contacto y la formación de nuevas sociedades** (Editor: Franklin Pease; Co-editor: Frank Moya Pons)
-  **Consolidación del orden colonial** (Editor: Alfredo Castillero Calvo; Co-editor: Allan Kuethe)
-  **Procesos americanos hacia la redefinición colonial** (Editor: Enrique Tandeter; Co-editor: Jorge Hidalgo Lehuedé)
-  **La crisis estructural de las sociedades implantadas** (Editor: Germán Carrera Damas; Co-editors: John V. Lombardi)
-  **La construcción de las naciones latinoamericanas, 1820-1870** (Editor: Josefina Zoraida Vázquez; Co-editors: Co-editor: Manuel Miño Grijalva)
-  **Los proyectos nacionales latinoamericanos: sus instrumentos y articulación, 1870-1930** (Editor: Enrique Ayala Mora; Co-editor: Eduardo Posada Carbó)
-  **América Latina desde 1930** (Editor: Marco Palacios; Co-editor: Gregorio Weinberg)
-  **Teoría y metodología en la Historia de América Latina** (Editor: Estevão de Rezende Martins; Co-editor: Héctor Pérez Brignoli)



General History of the Caribbean



- ✎ *A cultural entity that transcends the geographical unit of the islands*
- ✎ *A fragmented political and historical reality composed of small island states with unique destinies*
- ✎ *An economy shaped by the plantation system and slavery*
- ✎ *Peoples fashioned by constant interaction and the diversity of cultures and languages*

- This work extends beyond the Caribbean insular States and includes some of the South and Central American States that belong to the same historical and cultural sphere.
- The collection challenges common clichés, retraces the history of both indigenous societies and migrants and explains the emergence of new societies from their interaction



- A portrait of the Creole cultural identity of the Caribbean
- This major decentralized publishing project has been managed by the UNESCO Regional Office in the Caribbean at Kingston.





6 volumes in English

-  **Autochthonous Societies** (Editor: Jalil Sued-Badillo)
-  **New Societies: The Caribbean in the Long Sixteenth Century**
(Editor: P.C. Emmert; Co-editor: German Carrera Damas)
-  **Slave Societies of the Caribbean** (Editor: Franklin W. Knight)
-  **The Long Nineteenth Century: Nineteenth-Century Transformations** (Editor: M. Moreno-Fraginals)
-  **The Caribbean in the Twentieth Century**
(Editor: Bridget Brereton; Co-editors: Teresita Martínez-Vergne, René A. Römer and Blanca G. Silvestrini)
-  **Methodology and Historiography of the Caribbean** (Editor: B.W. Higman)



The Different Aspects of Islamic Culture



- ✎ *A glorious past that enabled major contributions to humanity in the fields of the sciences, the arts and philosophy*
- ✎ *An important footprint left on the world*
- ✎ *A great potential in the current international context*

- A portrait of Islamic culture both past and present
- An analysis of its values, salient features and contribution to progress in every field of human activity
- New light on the relevance of the principles of Islamic culture for modern times
- A tool to understand the essential principles of Islamic culture and its contribution to intercultural dialogue





- An indepth work that challenges prejudices and partisan distortions.







6 volumes


 **The Foundations of Islam** (Editors: Z.I. Ansari and I. I. Nawwab)

 **The Individual and Society in Islam**
(Arabic, English and French) – (Editor: A. Bouhdiba;
Co-editor: M. M. Dawalibi)

 **The Spread of Islam Throughout the World**
(Editors: I. el-Hareir and El Haj R. M'Baye)

 **Science and Technology in Islam: Part I: The Exact and Natural Sciences; Part II: Technology and Applied Sciences**
(English) – (Editor: A.Y. al-Hassan; Co-editors: A. Z. Iskandar and Maqbul Ahmad)

 **Culture and Learning in Islam**
(English) – (Editor: E. Ihsanoglu)

 **Islam in the World Today** (Editors: A. Kettani Ali, I. Thiam and Y.A. Talib)



The UNESCO General and Regional Histories

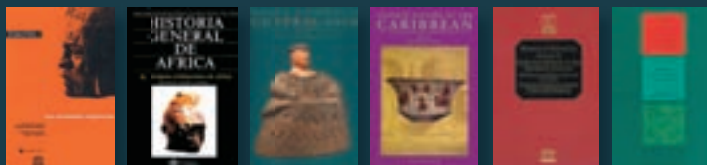
Key Concepts

👉 Principles

- Emphasis on collective contributions to human progress and not on the history of political divisions
- Depiction of general construction of the common heritage of mankind
- Introduction of a regional approach to history
- Emphasis on the interdependence of cultures and the indivisibility of human civilization

👉 Methods

- International cultural cooperation
- Sharing of knowledge
- Universality
- Interdisciplinarity
- Multiplicity of viewpoints
- Enhanced standing of regional historians



👉 Some key figures in this adventure in publishing, that began in 1952:

6 collections, 51 volumes – nearly 40,000 pages – more than 1,600 contributors

Donors

States, individuals and institutions have made it possible to bring the ambitious Histories project to fruition: Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, France, Côte d'Ivoire, the Holy See, International Organization of the Francophonie, World Islamic Call Society (WICS), Farah Diba, Vitae Foundation (Brazil), Antorchas Foundation (Argentina), Andes Foundation (Chile) and Reed Foundation (United States of America)



Photo credits

UNESCO/J. Chevalier. UNESCO/A. Vorontzoff. UNESCO/A. Vorontzoff. UNESCO/Manoocher/Webistan. Al-Biruni. Hércules Florence.
UNESCO/A. Wolf. Our Place/A. Chapple. Our Place/G. Mason. Our Place/G. Steven. Our Place/G. Mason.
UNESCO/G. Gaunt. Our Place/G. Mason. Hunain ibn Ishaq. Our Place/G. Steven.
UNESCO/G. Malempré. UNESCO/H. J. Dohle. UNESCO/T. Dawson. UNESCO/A.WOLF.
UNESCO/Mochiri. UNESCO/E. Kowall. UNESCO/Topkapi Saray Museum, Istanbul. Our Place/A. Chapple.
Kwamikagami. UNESCO/J. Barbieri. Codex Mendoza. Our Place/G. Mason.
F.M. Blanco, G. Stedman, B. C. Columbus, Our Place/G. Steven. Al-Idrisi. AL-Jaziri. Our Place/G. Steven. Our Place/G. Mason. Our Place/G. Steven.



The Our Places World Heritage Photobank is developed in partnership with UNESCO's World Heritage Center and covers more than 250 sites in over 70 countries.



United Nations
Educational, Scientific and
Cultural Organization

Culture
Sector

Contacts

UNESCO, Culture Sector

Division of Cultural Policies and
Intercultural Dialogue
Section of Intercultural Dialogue
Tel. : 33 1 45 68 49 45
Fax : 33 1 45 68 51 57
Histories@unesco.org
www.unesco.org/culture/en/histories/

UNESCO Publishing

Tél. : 33 1 45 68 23 86
Fax : 33 1 45 68 57 39
publishing.promotion@unesco.org
www.unesco.org/publishing

7, place de Fontenoy
75732 Paris Cedex 15 – France