

بسم الله الرحمن الرحيم

A Story of Two Civilizations: History of Islam & the West

1 - 1422 H

622 - 2000 CE

Civilisations History Course
London College of Islamic Studies

Welcome!

You are about to embark on a transformative journey....

Introductory information:

VENUE:

Online Zoom Classroom

Classes will be live streamed on ZOOM. Invite links will be sent out to students so they can join the class online and interact via questions/comments. The lesson will also be recorded.

If you have any questions at all please email us at admin@lci.org.uk.

It is encouraged that you join our whatsapp group for live updates/info - if you haven't been added please email your number to admin@lci.org.uk

Follow us [@lci.org.uk](https://www.lci.org.uk) on all platforms for updates and gems of knowledge!



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Course aims

To gain an understanding of the history of the Islamic and Western civilizations, and how they interrelate, from the early Middle Ages up to the end of the 20th century. The course will focus on a broad sweep of the major historical personalities and events of the time period beginning with the birth of the Prophet Muhammad (peace be upon him and mercy) in 622 CE right up to the end of the 20th century CE.

The passage of ages, empires and dynasties during this time will be studied in relation to the world situation as a whole, and with particular regard to three inter-related aspects: political-military, intellectual and economic developments.

If we do not know where we came from, we do not know who we are. It is hoped that this course will help connect us to our forefathers because, after all, it is their story that we are telling. It is impossible to understand where we are today without knowing how we got here. It is hoped that developing an understanding of the history of these two civilizations will empower students and equip them with the requisite knowledge and tools to understand the world we live in today.

Course structure

26 lessons of 2 hours duration.

52 hours total teaching time.

Students will be given essential reading and optional further reading before each lesson. Essential reading will either be from the core course texts (which students can purchase at a reasonable price) or from other sources (electronic copies to be made available).

Each lesson is accompanied by a full set of student handouts and followed by an online quiz.

Lessons will be lecture-based (powerpoint) but with time for discussions and Q&A (due to amount of material to be covered in some of the lessons, discussion time may be limited, but questions are encouraged).

Students that successfully complete the course (75% attendance + completing online quizzes) will be issued with a self-accredited Diploma issued by London College of Islamic Studies.

Core course texts

Lost Islamic history (**LIH**), Firas Alkhateeb

Shortest History of Europe (**SHE**) , J Hirst

You are expected to purchase these two core course texts as many of the essential readings for the course will come from these texts. These two books have been chosen for being short, readable, and relatively cheap to purchase, not because I consider them the best reading on the subject.

For those who prefer to read deeper into the subject, the first recommendations would be (i) Marshall Hodgson's 3-volume series, *The Venture of Islam*, and (ii) Norman Davies, *History of Europe*, (iii) books by Hugh Kennedy on early Islamic history. Other readings below.

The essential reading for each class should be completed before the class in order to gain the most benefit. Some of the essential readings may be hard going. Don't worry about that. Some are quite academic and dense. If you find them too difficult, don't worry, do your best and perhaps skim through to get whatever gist of it you can. You will still benefit from the lesson itself *insha Allah*. Other readings will be more straight-forward. Some of the essential readings will **not** be from the two core course texts. They will be from other books or articles; and e-copies will be made available to the students before the class *insha Allah*.

There is a list of recommended reading which accompanies each class for those who wish to read deeper into the topics discussed during the class. These readings are optional.

Note: throughout the course, I will be using dating according to the Gregorian calendar rather than the Islamic Hijri calendar. This is only to keep things as simple and clear as possible. Of course, in an ideal world, we would use the Hijri calendar as a matter of routine, but the regrettable fact is that most of us use the Gregorian in our day to day lives and are vastly more familiar with it.

Students who benefit most from this course will be those who do the essential reading before the class, review their notes and complete the quiz after the class.

TERM 1 INTRODUCTION & OVERVIEW		1	Introduction
		2	The writing of history
		3	Overview of the period 622 - 2000
TERM 2 AGE OF THE FORERUNNERS (SALAF)		4	The Advent of Islam
		5	Rashidun Period (632-661) 1 Abu Bakr
		6	Rashidun period 2 Umar
		7	Rashidun period 3 Uthman
		8	Rashidun period 4 Ali
TERM 3 THE ISLAMIC AGE		9	High Caliphate period 1 (661-1066) Umayyads & Abbasids
		10	High Caliphate period 2 Harun Rashid and Baghdad
		11	High Caliphate period 3 Barbarian kingdoms & Vikings
		12	High Caliphate period 4 Bayt ul Hikma and intellectual fluorescence in Muslim world
		13	Middle period 1 (1066-1500) Normans, Crusaders & the Turks
		14	Middle period 2 intellectual & cultural trends in the Muslim world
		15	Middle period 3 The Mongol expansion
		16	Middle period 4 some notable personalities of the Middle period
		17	The Gunpowder Empires (1500-1707) Europe and the Ottomans
		18	The Gunpowder Empires 2 The Mughal Empire
TERM 4 THE EUROPEAN AGE		19	Intellectual trends in the European Age 18 th -20 th c.
		20	The European Enlightenment (18th cent.)

		21	18 th -19 th century: Revolutions and European world empires
		22	19 th century (2): "Excuse us please, we're British!"
		23	Economies of the Muslim and western worlds, & the rise of capitalism
		24	20 th century (1): the World Wars
		25	20 th century (2): Cold war and American empire
		26	Final class – review of the period 622-2000

Preparing for the course

Students are strongly encouraged to familiarize themselves with **the world map** if they are not already so. The history course will be covering a large area of the world that came under the Islamic civilization and, later, the European empires. Being familiar with the main layout of the continents and the major countries will be essential for those who wish to derive maximum benefit from the course. By way of example, you should be able to point out the whereabouts of countries such as Arabia, Iran/Persia, India, China, Russia, France and Germany without much hesitation. Also, please familiarize yourselves with ancient place names such as Mesopotamia (Iraq), Anatolia (Turkey), Egypt, Persia (Iraq/Iran). Google Earth is a great resource and you can search for the places mentioned.

It is recommended to obtain a world map and place on your wall at home or, even better, a globe if possible as it gives an undistorted picture of the world. Spend a few minutes looking at this every day. See if you can locate geographical landmarks such as mountain ranges (Himalayas, the Alps, Balkans), deserts (Gobi desert, Sahara desert, Empty Quarter), seas and oceans (the Mediterranean, Black sea and Caspian sea); and great rivers such as the Nile, Euphrates, Tigris, Amr Darya, Danube and Rhine. These will also be important when it comes to understanding the grand course of history that we will be studying.

Detailed syllabus and supplementary readings

LESSON	TITLE	TOPICS	<i>Essential reading</i>	<i>Recommended reading</i>
1	Introduction	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Islamic and European (Western) civilizations Beginnings of human history Geography Ancient Arabian peoples Arabic Language The myth of Europe The Evolution Myth 	Umar Abdullah: Arabia Penguin History of Europe: Ch. 1	Penguin History of Europe: Ch. 2 & 3 Umar Abdullah: Arabians; Arabic
2	The writing of history	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Examine the historian Euro-centrism Reclaiming our history - "Middle Ages" The Apocalyptic Jesus The Islamic Age 622 – 1707 CE Overview of period 622-2000 	Hodgson: Rethinking world history. Ch 2 "In the center of the map"	"Eurocentrism" in Europe by Norman Davies pp. 16-19 "western civilization" in Europe by Norman Davies pp. 19-31
3	Overview of the period 622 - 2000	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> High Caliphate period 622-1066 Prophetic and Rashidun periods High Caliphate period 	Hodgson: Rethinking world history. Introduction	

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Middle Period – Age of emirates, sultanates and khanates. • Gunpowder Period – Mughals, Safavids & Ottomans • European Age 	Shortest History of Europe (SHE): Ch.1, classical and medieval	
4	Rashidun Period (632-661) 1 The Apocalypse	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pre-Islamic world; Ancient empires • Pre-Islamic Arabia & Arabic language • The Apocalypse • Biographical sketch of the Prophet (upon him be mercy and peace) 	<p>Holland: In the shadow of the sword. CH Countdown to the Apocalypse</p> <p>Holland: In the shadow of the sword. Short seerah.</p> <p>SHE: interlude 'the classic feeling'</p> <p>SHE: ch4 'forms of government 1' (Greece & Rome)</p> <p>Lost Islamic History (LIH): Ch.1 & 2</p>	<p>Biography of the Prophet: easy read: Tahia Ismail: the life of Muhammad (upon him be peace)</p> <p>Detailed bio: Lings, M: Muhammad (upon him be peace)</p> <p>Holland: In the shadow of the sword. Section II: Jahiliyya. pp. 67-328 (on Arab society before Islam)</p>
5	Rashidun Period 2 Abu Bakr	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Election of Abu Bakr • Inaugural address • Army of Usamah • Virtues of Abu Bakr • Wars of Apostasy • Gathering of the Quran 	<p>1. student notes lesson 8</p> <p>LIH: Ch.3</p> <p>Hugh Kennedy: the prophet and the age of the caliphates; pp. 50-7</p>	Suyuti: The history of the khalifas who took the right way
6	Rashidun period 3 Umar	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A note on sources • Biographical sketch • Virtues of Umar • Major events during his caliphate • Battle of Yarmouk • Battle of Qadisiyyah • Conquest of Jerusalem • Administration of Umar • Appointment of his successor • 	<p>Hugh Kennedy: the prophet and the age of the caliphates; pp. 57-69</p> <p>Walker: Islam & the West: Ch.1 'Sophronius and Umar'</p>	
7	Rashidun period 4 Uthman	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Biographical sketch • Virtues of Uthman • Caliphate of Uthman • Military conquests • Administration • Infrastructure • Rebellion and martyrdom 	Hugh Kennedy: the prophet and the age of the caliphates; pp. 69-75	Sallabi: Biography of Uthman, Ch 7
8	Rashidun period 5 Ali	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Biographical sketch • Virtues of Ali • Caliphate of Ali 	Hugh Kennedy: the prophet and the age of	

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Khawarij Rebellion and martyrdom • The party of Ali • Caliphate of Al-Hasan • Evaluation of Rashidun period 	the caliphates; pp. 75-81	
9	High Caliphate period (622-1066) The Umayyads and Abbasids	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Umayyad Caliphs • Rise of Abbasid power • Sayyid Hussain and Kerbala • The idea of the 'Family of the Prophet' • The Abbasid Caliphs • Successor states and Muslim commonwealth period 10th/11th c. • Turks/ghilman & Bedouin tribes 	LIH: Ch.4 SHE: ch.3 'invasions and conquests'	
10	High Caliphate period Harun Rashid & Baghdad	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Harun al-Rashid • Description and character • Courtly life & culture • Jihad & cultural exchange with Byzantium • The Barmakids – rise and fall • Society and life in Baghdad 	Kennedy: court of the caliphs; Ch. 3 (the golden prince) pp.51-84 'the economic miracle' from Andre Clot: Harun al Rashid	Clot: Harun al-Rashid
11	High Caliphate period 3 Barbarian Kingdoms & Vikings	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Europe during High Caliphate period • Barbarian kingdoms • Conversion of Barbarians to Christianity • Angles & Saxons • Viking Age • Intellectual trends in Muslim world • Economic miracle of Abbasids 	LIH: Ch.5 Hugh Kennedy: Mongols, Huns & Vikings; Ch.6 'The Vikings' SHE: pp. 101-5 Charlemagne	
12	High Caliphate period 4 Bayt ul Hikma and intellectual fluorescence in Muslim world	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Intellectual trends - timelines • Muslim world 661-1066 - intellectual trends • Changes in Europe 	Penguin History of Europe pp. 216-30 Brown, J: Misquoting Muhammad. Ch.2: A map of the Islamic interpretive tradition SHE: Ch.1, classical and medieval	
13	Middle period (1066-1500) 1 Normans, Crusaders & Turks	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Normans & The Crusades; • Nomads/Bedouins • The Turks 	LIH: Ch.6 'Upheaval' Walker, Islam & the West: Ch.2 'Asperity of religious war'	
14	Middle period 2 Intellectual	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • intellectual trends IN MIDDLE PERIOD 	LIH: Ch.8 'the Edge'	Hodgson: Rethinking world history. Ch 9:

	trends in the Middle period	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rise of Sufi tariqas • Unity of Sunni orthodoxy 	SHE: Ch.5 pp.82-87 (feudal and absolute monarchies)	p.171-193 "The unity of later Islamic history"
15	Middle period 3 The Mongolian Expansion	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Genghis & the Mongols • Khanates and conversion to Islam • Expansion of Islam • Sultan Timur 	Hugh Kennedy: Mongols, Huns & Vikings; Ch.x 'The Mongols'	
16	Middle period 4 – some notable personalities of the Middle period			
17	Gunpowder empires 1 European renaissance & Ottoman expansion	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reconquista of Spain and 'discovery' of America • Europe during the 16th & 17th centuries <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ Reformation, Renaissance & Discovery ◦ Scientific revolution ◦ Spanish Gold and Silver ◦ Mercantilism • The 'Turks' and Solomon the Magnificent 	<p>Ferguson: The ascent of money. p.20-43 (Spanish silver and the rise of banking in Europe)</p> <p>SHE: ch.5 pp.82-95 (Eng rev.)</p> <p>Crowley: Constantinople. Pp 95-101 (Ottoman army)</p>	Frankopan: silk roads. Ch. 12 The road of silver
18	Gunpowder empires 2 The Mughals	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Muslim history in India • Legacy of the Mughals • Aurungzeb - misrepresentations 	<p>LIH: Ch.9-'Rebirth'</p> <p>SHE: ch.6 'emperors and popes'</p>	Hodgson: Rethinking world history. Ch 9: p.193-206 "The unity of later Islamic history"
19	Intellectual trends in the European Age	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Overview of intellectual trends 1707-2000 • Intellectual history of Europe 18th c. • Intellectual history of Europe 19th c. • Intellectual history of Europe 20th c. • Intellectual history of Islamic world 18th-20th c. 	<p>Egyptian modernist movements - Brown, J: misquoting Muhammad Ch. 4</p> <p>SHE: shortest history of Europe: Ch.2 Europe Modern</p> <p>Article on relativism</p>	Penguin History of Europe pp 265-71; 386-92
20	18th CENTURY: the European Enlightenment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Overview and major events and figures of 18th century • Intellectual trends of 18th c. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ Liberalism, socialism, and science ◦ Reform movements of Shah Waliullah 	<p>LIH: ch.10: 'decline'</p> <p>SHE: ch.5 pp. 95-100 (Fr rev republic)</p> <p>SHE: ch.8 'the common people' (agric & indus. revs)</p>	Penguin history of Europe pp 265-71; 386-92

		<p>and Ibn Abdul-Wahhab</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Transatlantic slave trade • European rivalries 	SHE: pp.144-147 (what is about Europe?)	
21	18th/19th CENTURY 1 European Empires & revolutions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Political revolutions – American and French revolutions • Napoleonic wars • Global capitalism & European rivalries in 19thc. • Ideas in 19thc. – democracy, nationalism, racism, liberalism/socialism/conservatism 	<p>SHE: pp.148-150</p> <p>Frankopan: silk roads. Ch. 15. The road to crisis.</p> <p>SHE: shortest history of Europe: Ch.2 Europe Modern</p>	
22	19TH CENTURY 2 "Excuse us please - we're British"	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Muslim response in 19thc. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ Ottoman tanzimat ◦ Jamalud-deen Afghani • Pax Britannica– East India Company and the Opium Wars • The White Flood – destruction of native Americans and Australians and settlement of their continents • The Scramble for Africa 	<p>LIH: Ch.11-'old and new ideas'</p> <p>Egyptian modernist movements - Brown, J: misquoting Muhammad Ch. 4</p> <p>SHE: ch.9 'industrialization and revolution'</p>	
23	Medieval economies & the rise of capitalism	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 'law' of scarcity debunked • Concentration of wealth • Economic trends in Islamic and European Ages • Islamic economic principles • The rise and history of capitalism 	<p>SHE: ch.8 'the common people' (agric & indus. revs)</p>	<p>Further reading on neoliberalism: Mirowski, P: Never let a serious crisis go to waste.</p> <p>History of capitalism: Wallerstein world systems series</p> <p>Wallerstein: does capitalism have a future?</p> <p>Hahnel, R: Panic rules, Everything you wanted to know about the global economy</p>
24	20TH CENTURY 1 the World Wars	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Overview of 20thc. in 5 slides • The world in 1900: European world order • WW1 • Interwar years • WW2 • Post WW2 ordering: UN and Bretton Woods • 1945 – 1971:the 50s and 60s American Empire 	<p>SHE: ch.10 'world wars'</p> <p>Frankopan: silk roads. Ch. 18, pp 346-51 Ch 21. The road of cold warfare</p>	Article on relativism

25	20th CENTURY 2 The Cold War and American empire	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1945 – 1971: the 50s and 60s American Empire • Children of Israel • 1945-1971: Muslim world • 1971 – 1991: global capitalism & religious revivals • Collapse of Soviet Union • The 90s: New World Order 	<p>Article: Monbiot, <i>Neoliberalism – the ideology at the root of all our problems</i></p> <p>Frankopan: silk roads. Ch. 24. The road to catastrophe.</p>	<p>neoliberalism article George Monbiot</p> <p>Article: corpwatch, what is neoliberalism?</p>
26	Final class-review of period 622-2000	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Review of the prophetic and Rashidun periods • Review of the High Caliphate period • Review of the Middle period: the Age of emirates, sultanates and khanates • Review of the Gunpowder period • Review of the European Age 		

Further Reading:

The following bibliography contains some books that contain more bias than others. All books should be read critically. Underlined texts are particularly recommended as being less biased against Muslim history in general and less Euro-centric.

Biography of the Prophet:

Easy read: Tahia Ismail: the life of Muhammad (upon him be peace)

Detailed biography: Lings, M: Muhammad (upon him be peace)

Economic history:

Mirowski, P: Never let a serious crisis go to waste. Traces the historical development of the 'neoliberal thought collective' from its origins in the Mont Pelerin society, and shows how neoliberal ideas have been deliberately and successfully planted into the contemporary mindset. Includes a great critique of the academic discipline of economics. A difficult read as uses a lot of economic jargon.

Wallerstein, I: The modern world system series vols I - IV. A brilliant multi-disciplinary study of the rise and maturation of the capitalist world system. Considered a groundbreaking study, Wallerstein's analysis has been hugely influential in the study of modern history.

Wallerstein, I: Does capitalism have a future? *An enlightening series of essays by six leading macro-sociologists giving different perspectives on the future of the capitalist world order.*

History of Ideas:

Brown, J: Misquoting Muhammad (peace be upon him). *A great account of the development of various schools of thought within the Muslim community in the Modern period, including a lot of valuable data from sharia court records of major Muslim countries, and a thorough analysis of some contentious contemporary issues such as the age of Aisha at marriage, women leading the prayer, domestic violence, and punishment for apostasy.*

Brown, J: Canonization of Bukhari and Muslim. A good detailed study of the development of the hadith movement in early Islamic intellectual history, with references to the development of the schools of law also.

Melchert, C: The formation of the Sunni schools of law. Quite a useful study of the early development of the four Sunni schools of law, but contains some inaccuracies.

Timani, H S: Modern Intellectual Readings of the Kharijites. *A summary of old and new research on the history of the first and most destructive sect within Islam.*

Russel, B: History of western philosophy. *A standard textbook introducing to the main figures and trends in Western philosophy. Written by Russel who is considered one of the leading philosophers of the 20th century and was pioneer of the logical positivist school.*

Nasser, S H: A young Muslim's guide to the modern world. *An excellent short introduction to the main trends and figures in Western philosophy, with an Islamic point of view.*

Makdisi, G: The rise of colleges. *Ground-breaking study which proves that the rise of universities in the western world were a direct result of cultural influence of the Muslim world.*

General history:

Hodgson, M: The venture of Islam series vols. I - III. *Considered one of the leading Western authorities on Islamic history. This three volume series of textbooks traces the history of Islam from its inception to the modern period.*

Hodgson, M: Rethinking world history. Essays on Europe, Islam and world history. *Some illuminating essays by the leading western expert on Islamic history on the role of Islam in relation to European civilization; and challenging some of the orientalist preconceptions about Islam.*

Kissinger, H: World order. *Focuses on the contemporary US-dominated world order but includes a useful chapter summarizing the history of international relations in Europe from the Middle Ages to the Modern period.*

Jones, G: A history of the Vikings. *A good introduction to the Viking period.*

Chibnall, M: The Normans. *One of many books out there on the subject. The Normans were a very important ingredient in the mix of European people and rapidly rose to dominate others on the continent. Their descendants remain the most powerful 'ethnic' group in the world today.*

Bloom, J & Blair, S: Islam. A thousand years of faith and power. *A short introduction to the history of Islam up to 1700. The nice thing is that this book is part of a new trend within Western historical studies which recognizes the Islamic civilization as one unified civilization covering all the multiple caliphates/sultanates/kingdoms/dynasties that arose over its 1000 year period of world dominance.*

Previous history text books, until very recently, had completely neglected this reality and ignored the unifying Islamic character of many historical societies, reducing Islamic history to the 'Arab conquests' or something similar. Andrew Marr's 'History of the World' also accords Islamic civilization its correct place in world history, though of course putting undue emphasis on European history.

Walker, C: Islam and the West. *A refreshingly even-handed account of the interactions between Islam and the West through the centuries. Includes a good, honest account of the Crusades.*

Allen, C: *Soldier sahibs. The men who made the North-West Frontier. A detailed personal history of some of the British officers involved in the Punjab/NWFP/Afghanistan politics and military history during the 19th century at the height of the British Raj.*

Kennedy, H: The prophet and the age of the caliphates. *A good short introduction to the Rashidun, Umayyad and Abbasid periods. Also includes a very useful chapter at the end on the 'principal sources for the history of the near east 600 - 1050' which indexes the main historical sources, both Islamic and otherwise, for the study of Islam in this early period; and presents a fair summary of the controversies around the primary Islamic sources.*

Kennedy, H: The court of the caliphs. *This is a really nice book on the lives of the Abbasid caliphs. Kennedy does well to bring their personalities and characters to life, by providing many anecdotes and stories. He presents his material in an even and fair manner and accords the great Abbasid caliphs their rightful place in history. He draws on a wide range of sources available to modern scholarship including the classical Arabic manuals of Tabari and others.*

Kennedy, H: Huns, Mongols and Vikings. *an excellent, illustrated and readable book on the characteristics of nomad/bedouin people, in particular their superiority in military aspects over settled communities, in the pre-gunpowder age. Good, brief accounts of several important groups in history, including the Arabs, Turks, Mongols, Huns, and Vikings; and looks at how their nomadic lifestyles prepared them for conquest.*

Clot, A: Harun al Rashid. *Fair and unbiased Biography of the most famous of Abbasid caliphs representing the height of Abbasid and classical Islamic civilization.*

Clot, A: Suleiman the magnificent. *A fair and unbiased biography of the great Ottoman Sultan who dominated three continents and was the most powerful man of his age. Reveals the extensive and complex relationship between the Ottomans and the kingdoms of Europe.*

Roberts, J M: *Penguin history of Europe. One of few books out there on European history as a whole. a typically biased West-centric worldview of the author is obvious throughout the book. Reveals how the colonial superior mentality is still very much subconsciously present.*

Morgan, D: *The Mongols. A scholarly account of Genghis Khan and his descendants. A good enough introduction to the subject, but Hugh Kennedy's work 'Mongols, Huns and Vikings' is better (though briefer).*

Davies, N: Europe, a History. *An excellent book for those who want a more in-depth study of the subject. Davies succeeds in bringing in recent scholarship which questions previous euro-centric ideas that arose during the age of European empires, and leads to a more balanced treatment overall.*

Frankopan, P: Silk roads, a new history of the world. *An excellent study of world history focussing on the interconnections of trade and culture between the world's civilizations through history. Highly recommended, although section on Islamic era could be expanded. Good section on recent relationships between UK/USA and Muslim world with respect to trade and especially energy reserves during colonial and post-colonial periods.*

Bayly, C A: The birth of the modern world 1780-1914. *A good study of the long 19th century in which European powers, led by Britain, ruled the world and the modern world was born. Bayly manages to combine modern and post-modern perspectives into his narrative of colonialism, the explosion of White settlers in America, Australia and S Africa and the extermination of native populations, and the industrial revolution. He provides an up-to-date review of the current views of historians on the major events and processes of the complex 19th century. Recommended for those who want to read in-depth in this particular area.*



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