

Brief Summary of the Issue

This summary of *World History Connected*, Volume 19, number 1 (February/March 2022) offers a review of the contents, including its Forum, or topically related articles, on “Maritime Law in World History.” This subject is of growing interest to world historians and all those concerned with world events due to contemporary disputes over access to, and security of, sea navigation in the South China Sea, the Persian Gulf, the Indian Ocean, and the recent rise in global piracy, all of which have international political consequences that often are most easily understood through their legal ramifications. In this issue, these disputes are foregrounded by studies of the nature and role of maritime law from its ancient roots, its development during the growth of medieval transregional trade in Europe and throughout the Islamic world, and precedent-setting modern naval clashes. Each is enlivened by new approaches and rich content of value to researchers and teachers alike. The Forum also includes an article dedicated to the teaching of its subject, while those articles devoted to archival research supply links and copyright-free images that will be of value to teachers at both the secondary and post-secondary levels of instruction, fulfilling this journal’s dual mission to build a community of world historians by connecting and serving the interests of archival researchers, instructors in classrooms, and all those with an interest in this still-growing field.

The following is a brief summary of the contents of articles in the Forum, followed by a review of the two individual articles, the first of which offers a novel way of integrating African voices into the teaching of world history that is especially timely as the issue should appear during Black History Month in the United States. These articles are followed by a list of the issue’s book reviews, a brief introduction to the journal, and the links to books available for review and its guide for submissions.

The Forum: Maritime Law in World History

Last year an effort by the journal to gauge reader interest in a forum on maritime affairs yielded requests for the journal to devote an issue to piracy of the swashbuckling variety. A reader of this issue viewing the thumbnail images drawn from the articles on the

right hand side of this issue's homepage will see the desire to engage the likes of Captains William Kidd and Fanny Campbell have not been forgotten. However, the Forum's introduction and its articles are as focused on matters analytical as they are viscerally piratical. They begin by addressing how the COVID-19 related pandemic has disrupted the logistical supply lines—most of which travels on the sea—which the Forum's Guest Editor, maritime historian Lincoln Paine, notes, "has turned the global public's collective focus to maritime trade to a greater extent than perhaps ever before" and has "demonstrated the essentially maritime basis of globalization." He contends that by addressing "the complex domestic and international legal framework" that lies just beneath the surface of maritime affairs, scholars and students can greatly expand their understanding of the past, as well as the present. Paine and his Forum colleagues achieve this goal through examinations of merchants, pirates, privateers, philosophers, and, above all, lawmakers grappling with changing commercial, political and moral dimensions of seaborne activities from the days of small sailing ships navigating by the sun and stars to the satellite-monitored mega-container ships of today.

The first Forum article, by Hassan Khalilieh, explores the interplay and often synthesis of early Mediterranean and global Islamic maritime legal traditions in terms of customary and codified law. In the process, he engages Islamic legal theory as it applies to the conduct of maritime trade in terms of its impact on the lives of merchants and sailors. One such example addresses the matters of law arising when cargo, passengers, and even some of a ship's crew have to be jettisoned into the sea to save the vessel from destruction. The second article, by Guy Chet, informs us that, at one time, piracy in the Atlantic was not clothed solely in harsh criminal terms as it later was in Britain, when the shift in policy from tolerance towards intolerance was driven by propaganda designed to secure Parliamentary legislation specifically meant to secure the British Royal Navy's growing mastery over the region (an engaging example of the World History Understanding: "change over time.") The third article, by Timothy Steigelman, shows why eighteenth-century laws designed to address privateering are currently being examined for their possible application to contemporary cybercrime and also to rising international competition for the control of space.

Individual Articles

In the first of the two individual articles in this issue, Cacee Hoyer shares her success in teaching World and African history to undergraduate students who have very little knowledge of Africa or world history. Her success flowed from her deciding that "rather providing them with the content and context and showing them how they connect," she flipped that normative approach on its head, and let students make the connections themselves, by encouraging them to annotate documentary evidence keyed to African images and voices, with the result that, "What you end up with are students with a much clearer

understanding of the larger picture.” As to whether her technique is practicable, she explains that her overall approach should be familiar to many instructors, while a peer reviewer of this article remarked that her work offers “a very credible and replicable pedagogical step to address a crucial and timely issue in African Studies.”

The second article, by Robert Shaffer, addresses how world history textbooks ignore or elide histories that might appear less than vital to a world history survey, but which nonetheless play a significant role in large-scale events. For some world historians this pattern can be seen in how few textbooks address the Japanese invasion of Manchuria in 1931 and outbreak of the Sino-Japanese War in 1937, and that even fewer regard those events as the true origins of the Second World War. Shaffer finds a parallel in the failure of world history textbooks to address the Spanish Civil War as a precursor to the Second World War, which also was a pivotal moment in the world history of socialism. With few exceptions, such as Craig Lockard’s *Societies, Networks, and Transitions: A Global History* and Peter Stearns et al, *World Civilizations: The Global Experience*, even those textbooks that do mention that conflict often include so little information that it is “confusing to many students in secondary and introductory college-level survey courses.” Shaffer documents these failings and their consequences and then turns to descriptions of specific resources available “that can be employed to compensate in classroom use for these deficits in many of our textbooks.”

Book Reviews

- Clif Stratton, *Power Politics: Carbon Energy in Historical Perspective*. New York: Oxford University Press, 2021
- João José Reis, Flávio dos Santos Gomes, and Marcus J.M. Carvalho, translated by Sabrina Gledhill. *The Story of Rufino: Slavery, Freedom, and Islam in the Black Atlantic*. New York: Oxford University Press, 2020.
- Andrew Phillips and J. C. Sharman, *Outsourcing Empire: How Company-States Made the Modern World*. Princeton and Oxford: Princeton University Press, 2020.
- Cameron Gibelyou and Douglas Northrop, *Big Ideas: A Guide to the History of Everything*. New York: Oxford University Press, 2020.
- Stefan J. Link. *Forging Global Fordism: Nazi Germany, Soviet Russia, and the Contest over the Industrial Order*. Princeton and Oxford: Princeton University Press, 2020.

About the Journal and Guide for Submissions

Throughout its eighteen-year history *World History Connected* (ISSN 1931-8642) has been devoted to research and the scholarship of teaching history. Its title reflects the journal’s

commitment to assisting both scholars and practitioners to invigorate and expand the reach of research and the teaching of world history and global studies. Its editor, guest editors and editorial staff include past (and now in-coming) presidents of the World History Association and award-winning history educators at all levels of instruction.

The journal's publisher, the University of Illinois Press, estimates that it currently serves 1.85 million discreet readers of at least two articles annually and receives 6 million visitors to its website. The journal welcomes submissions of articles and book reviews on any subject germane to world history including (a) essays on the state of the field; (b) case studies, or topical overviews which cross regional boundaries to examine such issues as gender, technology, demography, social structure, or political legitimacy; and (c) the evaluation of curriculum and innovative instructional methodology. The journal also seeks peer reviewers to analyze recently published titles in the field of world history. The journal is open-sourced (free): its staff and contributors are not compensated for their work, and its publication costs are funded by individual contributions and organizations committed to advancing its goals. It accepts no paid advertising.

Prospective authors should read and incorporate into their submissions, the guidelines provided at <https://worldhistoryconnected.press.uillinois.edu/submissions.html>. All submissions are subject to double-blind peer review. *World History Connected* reserves the right to decline to publish any submission. Individual articles should be sent to the Editor, Marc Jason Gilbert at mgilbert@hpu.edu. Forum articles (articles on a topical issue) can be sent via email to the Editor or to the Guest Editor (s) of that Forum identified in the Call for Papers for that Forum. Forthcoming Forums include South Asia in World History, Oral History and World History, World History Standards, and The American West in World History (for which active CFPs have been announced or pending).

Submission requirements include double-spacing in MS Word, with endnotes (*Chicago Manual of Style*, 17th edition), no title page, and a short biography (150 words) similar to that found at the end of the body of all *WHC* articles. Submitted articles should be more than 3,000 words, with the upper limit of 10,000 words, and include full contact information. At minimum, prospective authors should address the requirements in the "check list" provided in the submission guidelines. Those submissions that do not, may be returned to the author or authors with a reminder to do so. Book review correspondence should be directed to Cynthia Ross, at Cynthia.Ross@tamuc.edu. As scheduling is an art rather than a science, submissions of articles and possible Forum ideas should be submitted as early as possible.