

## Brief Summary of the Issue

Last year, *World History Connected* celebrated its twentieth anniversary with three outstanding issues dedicated to World History Standards (20.1), a double forum on The American West in World History and Teaching History in Contentious Times (20.2), and Why Teach World History (20.3). We celebrated the successes and the impact of the journal with a panel comprised of the Editorial Team along with members from the Editorial Board and frequent contributors at the annual World History Association Conference in Pittsburgh in 2023.

After fifteen years of dedicated service as the Editor, Marc Jason Gilbert has stepped down to serve a developing academic, political, and cultural exchange program linking Hawaii to the Indian State of Goa, both states now part of a new world region, the Indo-Pacific. His commitment to the vision of the journal continues on, however, as he will be back as a Guest Editor of an upcoming Forum on The Vietnam War in World History and as a member of the Editorial Board.

I am excited to write my first introduction to this issue of *World History Connected* but I am not new to the journal, having served as Book Review Editor from 2004 to 2007, under the founding-editorship of Heather Streets-Salter and Tom Laichas. Marc Jason Gilbert and Christine Skwiot invited me back as Book Review Editor in 2021. Since then, *World History Connected* has gone through profound changes including the launch of a new journal design format and establishing the *World History Connected* Book Prize, in addition to weathering the educational uncertainties of a global pandemic, and moving to George Mason University Press. As 2024 begins, I have stepped into the role of Editor and welcome Gina Bennett as the new Book Review Editor for the journal. Please visit the Editorial Team page for more information about us and our expertise in world history.

In the founding issue of *World History Connected*, Heather Streets-Salter articulated our goals – to be a bridge between teachers and scholars in secondary and post-secondary education, to introduce effective teaching methods, and to provide

information on world history research and debates with cutting-edge scholarship relevant to world history curriculum. During his time as Editor, Marc Jason Gilbert introduced special forums dedicated to a common theme, often guest edited by historians and teacher-scholars with expertise in those areas of world history. While the new year brings big changes to the Editorial Team we will continue to publish more of the topical forums, articles, book reviews, interviews, and special features that have made the journal so vital to the field of world history.

As we move forward, *World History Connected* will also offer new content to serve the students, teachers, and scholars who make up our readership innovative and thought-provoking scholarship to meet to the growing demands of world history research and pedagogy. In addition to upcoming forums on Piracy in World History and Central Asia in World History, the journal will also feature forums on emerging topics such as Climate Change in World History, World History in the Age of AI: Ethics, Pedagogy, and the Use of Large Language Models, and Teaching and Learning Through the Ages that includes reflections on teaching world history to active adult learners, special needs students, émigrés, and institutionalized learners.

At the World History Association Conference in Pittsburgh, a number of attendees shared with us their favorite articles and forums from the first twenty years of the journal. This issue includes a number of those articles, both teaching and research oriented, along with a small sampling of works recommended by members of our Advisory Board and Editorial Board. Deciding on the ten works featured here was a challenge as I narrowed it down from dozens of potential choices. The articles appear as they were originally published, with no changes or updates. Readers who would like to contact the authors via email are encouraged to verify the current contact information. I hope that our contributors and readers of the journal will enjoy reflecting back over the extraordinary scholarship featured here and look forward to the next twenty years of *World History Connected*. We welcome the continued support of our contributors and readers and as always, we look forward to your feedback, suggestions, and ideas for future articles and forums.

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