

Recommended by Giancarlo Casale

HISTORICAL STUDIES

S. D. Gotein, *A Mediterranean Society: The Jewish Communities of the Arab World as Portrayed in the Documents of the Cairo Geniza* (University of California Press, 2003)

A Mediterranean Society is a magisterial study of Jewish life in the medieval Islamic world, based on the documents of the celebrated Cairo Geniza—the archive that proved the inspiration for Amitav Ghosh’s *In an Antique Land*. Gotein’s work was first published in five massive volumes; this modern edition offers a concise abridgement of the most important sections of the original.

Janet L. Abu-Lughod, *Before European Hegemony: The World System AD 1250–1350* (Oxford University Press, 1991)

One of the first systematic efforts to create the world of Connected Histories through the study of economic systems in the medieval Indian Ocean, *Before European Hegemony* is a classic that continues to set the standard for more recent research in the field.

Dimitri Gutas, *Greek Thought, Arabic Culture: The Graeco-Arabic Translation Movement in Baghdad and Early Abbasid Society* (Routledge, 1998)

Greek Thought, Arabic Culture is the definitive work on the great translation movement that began in Abbasid Baghdad, written by the world’s foremost expert on the subject. Written in a technical but accessible style, it makes an excellent follow-up to Jim Al-Khalili’s *The House of Wisdom*.

George Saliba, *Islamic Science and the Making of the European Renaissance* (MIT Press, 2011)

Saliba has written a technically challenging but intellectually groundbreaking study of Islamic science, with a particular focus on astronomy and mathematics. The book begins with the translation movement of Abbasid Baghdad, and ends with the translation of Arabic texts into Latin—which provided the mathematical basis for Copernicus’s theory of heliocentrism.

Natalie Zemon Davis, *Trickster Travels: A Sixteenth-Century Muslim between Worlds* (Hill and Wang, 2007)

Trickster Travels is an authoritative historical biography of Leo Africanus, written in a lively and accessible style by one of the world’s leading scholars of “Connected Histories.”

Giancarlo Casale, *The Ottoman Age of Exploration* (Oxford University Press, 2011)

The Ottoman Age of Exploration is the first book about the Age of Exploration written not from the perspective of Europeans in the New World but, rather, that of the Ottomans who sailed the Indian Ocean. It includes the full story behind the *History of the West Indies*, the Ottoman manuscript discussed in the introductory essay on Connected Histories.

NOVELS AND OTHER LITERARY WORKS

Muhsin Mahdi, ed., and Husain Haddawy, trans., *The Arabian Nights* (Norton, 1990)

Readers can explore the streets of Scheherazade's Baghdad and roam the high seas with Sindbad the Sailor in this masterpiece of Arabic literature from the age of Connected Histories.

Rita Hamilton and Janet Perry, trans., *The Poem of the Cid* (Penguin Classics, 1985)

One of the greatest classics of all Spanish literature and the defining literary masterpiece of al-Andalus, *The Poem of the Cid* recounts the half-legendary adventures of the 11th-century warlord and nobleman Rodrigo Díaz de Vivar. For those who know Spanish, the Penguin Classics edition includes both the original text and a facing-page translation in English.

José Saramago, *The History of the Siege of Lisbon* (Mariner Books, 1998)

Set in Lisbon in both the modern day and the eleventh century, this experimental novel from the pen of the Portuguese Nobel laureate explores the complex interrelationship of the past, the writing of history, and personal identity—with shadows of both Amin Maalouf and Amitav Ghosh.

Orhan Pamuk, *The White Castle* (Vintage, 1998)

This introspective novel by the Nobel Prize-winning author Orhan Pamuk tells the story of a Venetian scholar who is taken captive at sea and enters the intellectual world of seventeenth-century Istanbul. As such, it is the perfect literary complement to Amin Maalouf's *Leo Africanus*—with a protagonist who is a sort of Hassan al-Wazzan in reverse.

PRIMARY SOURCES

Leo Africanus, *The History and Description of Africa* (digital resource)

The original seventeenth-century English translation of Leo Africanus's magnum opus is available at no charge from openlibrary.org: <http://archive.org/stream/historyanddescr01porygoog#page/n7/mode/2up>.

Ibn Battutah, *The Travels of Ibn Battutah*, ed. Tim Mackintosh-Smith (Macmillan UK, 2003)

A generation after Marco Polo, a young Moroccan set out for Mecca on the hajj. He did not return home for twenty-nine years, traveling through more than forty countries on the modern map and journeying as far east as China, north into Russia, and south to Tanzania, for a total of more than 75,000 miles. Along the way, he kept a journal meticulously detailing local histories, ethnographies, and even botany. This authoritative edition provides a first-person account of medieval Islam in all its varieties and is one of the oldest travelogues in existence.

Ibn Fadlan, *Ibn Fadlan and the Land of Darkness*, trans. Paul Lunde and Caroline Stone (Penguin Classics, 2009)

Featured in Stuart Gordon's *When Asia Was the World*, this book is a first-person account of the journey of Ibn Fadlan, a tenth-century Muslim missionary and ambassador from Abbasid Baghdad to Russia and the far north.

Ibn Khaldoun, *The Muqaddimah: An Introduction to History*, trans. Franz Rosenthal (Princeton University Press, 2004)

Truly a man born before his time, fourteenth-century scholar Ibn Khaldoun is widely hailed as the greatest Muslim intellectual and social theorist of the premodern period. This book, his masterpiece, could also be considered the world's first work of "Connected History," and is still used as a model by scholars today.

Osama ibn Munqidh, *The Book of Contemplation: Islam and the Crusades*, trans. Paul M. Cobb (Penguin Classics, 2008)

This memoir by a twelfth-century Muslim aristocrat from Palestine offers a completely different perspective on the Crusades—one written by a man who knew many of the crusaders personally and suffered from their incursions, but also had friends among them and even told jokes at their expense.

Babur, *Baburnama*, trans. Wheeler Thackston (Modern Library, 2002)

Credited as "the first autobiography of the Islamic world," this remarkably detailed, honest, and personal account opens a window onto the inner life of Babur, the sixteenth-century conqueror of India and founder of the Mughal Empire.

ARTICLES, PERIODICALS, AND WEB RESOURCES

In the Footsteps of Marco Polo (Denis Belliveau, director, 2008), www.wliw.org/marcopolo/

In this Emmy-nominated PBS documentary, two modern explorers follow in the footsteps of Marco Polo, perhaps the most celebrated traveler in the entire age of Connected Histories.

Sanjay Subrahmanyam, "Connected Histories: Notes towards a Reconfiguration of Early Modern Eurasia," *Modern Asian Studies* 31, no. 3 (1997): 735–62.

"Connected Histories" is a technical but concise article by the world's leading scholar of comparative early modern history. With this article, Subrahmanyam is generally credited with having coined the term "Connected Histories" as it is presently understood. This article is required reading for any serious students of the field.

Damien Stankiewicz, "Anthropology and Fiction: An Interview with Amitav Ghosh," *Cultural Anthropology* 27, no. 3 (2012): 535–41.

This is a recent interview with the author of *In an Antique Land*, in which he discusses his views on history, anthropology, and fiction. It is also available online at <http://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/10.1111/j.1548-1360.2012.01159.x/pdf>.

Journal of World History (periodical)

The official journal of the World History Association and the leading publication in world-historical studies for twenty years, the *Journal of World History* is the first place to go to find the most innovative new research in the field of Connected Histories.

The Indian Ocean in World History, www.indianoceanhistory.org

This free online educational resource shows the history of trade, migration, and interaction in the Indian Ocean region across the centuries, through a series of interactive maps and educational aides.