

**OUTLINES OF UNIVERSAL HISTORY: IN
THREE PARTS; WITH A COPIOUS INDEX
TO EACH PART, SHOWING THE CORRECT
MODE OF PRONOUNCING EVERY NAME
MENTIONED IN IT. PART I. ANCIENT
HISTORY**

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JOSEPH J. REED

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PART I. ANCIENT HISTORY.

PART II. MEDIÆVAL HISTORY.

PART III. MODERN HISTORY.

BY
JOSEPH J. REED.

PART I. ANCIENT HISTORY.

PHILADELPHIA:
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1862.

P R E F A C E .

THE object of this work is to present to the student of history a succinct but connected narrative of events from the earliest period down to the present time. Several works have been written on Universal History, more or less excellent in their way, but suited rather to the advanced pupil and the man of leisure, than to the beginner, and to the man whose opportunities for reading are limited. Some of them are too voluminous, some are too meagre to be useful, and not one of them, so far as the Author is aware, presents a complete system of cotemporary history. The want of a text-book for schools, which shall be sufficiently comprehensive to embrace all that is essential in the annals of each nation, yet not so elaborate as to consume too much of the time or exhaust the patience of the pupil, and which shall at the same time enable him to ascertain with very little effort what has been going on throughout the world at any given epoch, has long been felt. In the course of his own experience, both as a student and a teacher, the Author has frequently had occasion to lament the non-existence of such a text-book; and the knowledge of the fact that history was not taught systematically in our schools, but that sometimes the pupils contented themselves with reading the history of the United States, and that of England, of Greece, and of Rome, and perhaps that of France, sometimes only one or two of these histories, and that they rarely extended their studies to the annals of other nations, determined him to attempt the compilation of a complete summary of the history of the world.

Whatever merit the plan of the present work possesses is, however, due to the Author's wife (formerly Miss Pamela M. Converse), whose long experience in tuition corresponded with his own as regards the defective mode of teaching history, now so generally practised. The division of the work into centuries, the history of each nation being contained in parallel columns, the pages being so arranged that the heading of the particular century in use shall be always visible, and the system of widening or contracting the column as the nation increased or decreased in importance, are wholly due to her. The Author's own share of the labor has been devoted to the compilation of the details, in the course of which he has found it necessary to

abridge the history of every country—a task which has occupied him six years. How far he has succeeded in presenting an accurate and useful, as well as readable, narrative, must be left for the public to decide. In a work in which such a mass of details has been condensed, he can hardly hope to have avoided mistakes; but his object has throughout been to produce a reliable text-book, and for this purpose he has consulted the best ancient and modern authorities. Wherever a point in history is obscure or doubtful, the reader is referred to standard authors, whom he may consult if desirous of further information; and, generally, the Author has named the authorities on which he himself relied. The work is intended not only for the use of schools, but for that of the very numerous class of grown-up persons who have not had opportunities in their youth for prosecuting studies of this kind, but feel the importance of an acquaintance with the world's history, and yet are deterred from seeking it by the idea that to gain even a slight knowledge of it, there is a necessity for consulting a large number of books, many of which, perhaps, are not accessible to them. It is hoped that these "Outlines of Universal History" will supply what is wanted.

The present volume comprises that portion of the world's annals styled ANCIENT HISTORY. It commences with the very earliest traditions of those Asiatic nations which sprang directly from the cradle of our race, and it terminates with the close of the 5th century of the Christian Era. The reason why this last-named period is chosen for drawing the line between Ancient History and that which follows, is, that it was the time when the old civilizations of the heathen world had died out, and their places had become filled by an infusion of new races and new ideas, derived, to a certain extent, from barbarian sources, but mainly from Christianity, which, after undergoing the severest trials and sufferings, had at last risen triumphant over paganism, and was then the dominant influence in Europe. The second volume will comprise Mediæval History, or that of the Middle Ages, a period of one thousand years, which may be called the great transition period between the childhood and the manhood of mankind. In it the great nations of the present day were

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formed, and the grand ideas which became the basis of modern progress were promulgated; and a proper acquaintance with its details will prepare the way for the study of Modern History (to which the third volume is devoted), which will be but imperfectly understood without a knowledge of the two preceding divisions. One advantage arising from a comprehensive plan of this kind, is that no one nation's history assumes an undue preponderance over another. The pupil cannot be misled into the notion that there are but three or four nations worth troubling his head about, since, if he pay proper attention to the cotemporaneous history, he will find how much the actions of one country have influenced those of others, and that impulses which actuate man at the present day may have been derived from remote antiquity, or from the most distant nations. As in a family, so among the different peoples of the earth, the turbulent conduct of one member impairs the harmony of the others,—a truth which, in these days of steam and electricity, is sensitively recognized in every Exchange almost every hour. Another advantage, or, rather, peculiarity of the present plan, is that the history of each country is extracted from its own annals, and complete in itself: it is, therefore, independent of any other; hence, there is very frequently the repetition of an event; for instance, two accounts of the battle of Marathon will be found, one in the history of Greece, the other in that of Persia, but in each case it is considered from the national point of view.

The introduction into this work of a history of the Christian Church requires some notice. It may seem out of character to class such a history with that of the nations of the earth; but, in truth, in the early ages of the Church, the Christians were a nation in themselves, as regarded the heathen world, and were assailed as such. The bond of union between them was as strong as that which binds the citizens of any land to each other. And when the triumph of the Church over its religious foes was completed, it had its political foes to contend with, and this fully occupied it during the Middle Ages. In that stormy period it triumphed over emperors and kings, over nations and individuals, and was as distinct a power as France or England. In modern times it has had to contend with schismatics, heretics, reformers, and those who would, if they could, destroy it altogether; and it has had as distinct characteristics as any cotemporaneous nation has. It has, in short, been a POWER throughout the last eighteen centuries, and is, therefore, fully entitled to the place in history which is here assigned to it. Perhaps it will be said that Mohammedanism, Badhism, and other religions, have the same claim; but their case will, it is hoped, be found amply disposed of in the history of the respective countries wherein they prevail. Universality is not their characteristic, as it is of Christianity. In treating the history of the Christian Church, the Author has endeavored to confine himself strictly to the statement of facts supported by the best authorities: he has scrupulously avoided all comment of his own, lest by any chance the

feelings of others might be wounded. This ought rather to enhance than to detract from the value of his narrative.

With regard to the mode in which the work ought to be used, a glance at the arrangement of it will probably suggest the readiest way to the teacher,—or to the student, where there is no teacher. In Ancient History there are a few leading nations to whom the others were in turn subordinate; as, for instance, first Egypt, then Assyria, then Syria, then Greece, and then Rome. The Author suggests that it would be well to study the histories of these leading countries thoroughly, reading each of the cotemporaneous ones in a less particular manner, yet so that the pupil shall be exercised as to the details thereof *century by century*. But as the principal object of the work is to present a general view of the affairs of the world during each century, and, in so doing, to treat the subject in its entirety, and not with special reference to any one leading nation, care must be taken to impress upon the pupil's mind that, in selecting Egypt, Greece, or Italy, or any other country, as the connecting link, he must not lose sight of the independence of each history; that is to say, for example, the history of Persia is to be studied with reference not merely to Greece and Rome, but also to its own intrinsic importance, and its influence upon the world. To assist the teacher, a few questions have been added at the foot of each column, rather, however, as suggestive of the kind of exercise to which the pupil should be subjected, than as exhaustive of the subject. The varying size and number of the columns devoted to each nation, is an indication of the relative importance of that same nation at any given epoch; thus Italy, in its earliest stage, occupies but a narrow column, but when mistress of the world, she fills nine broad columns. So also may be traced the fall and extinction of empires. A copious index has been added, which is intended as a guide to the pronunciation of names, as well as a reference to particulars; but the system of accenting the names has also been adopted in the text,—a dash being placed over the strongly accented syllables.

In conclusion, the Author desires to bear testimony to the very valuable aid he has derived from the Philadelphia Library, and to the uniform kindness and attention he has received from its accomplished librarian, Lloyd P. Smith, Esq., and his assistants, during the years that he has been engaged upon this work. To him and to the secretary, William E. Whitman, Esq., he is indebted for many valuable suggestions and much information, whereby the work has been materially benefited. Without easy and copious access to a great variety of authorities, it could not have been compiled; but all that was required has been most courteously afforded by these gentlemen, to whom the Author here tenders his best thanks.

PHILADELPHIA, August, 1862.

OUTLINES
OF
UNIVERSAL HISTORY.

INTRODUCTION.

History is the record of the actions of mankind, and of the events which have happened in the world. It is the accumulated experience of ages.

When it narrates the actions of men and nations in all countries and times, it is called *Universal History*, or the *History of the World*.

When it relates those of any one nation, it is called by the name of that nation; as, the *History of Greece*, the *History of Rome*. This is *National History*.

When it relates the foundation of the Christian religion it is called *Sacred History*, which includes also the early history of mankind, and of the Jewish nation, and is contained in the Old and New Testaments. Those nations which do not believe in Christianity, such as the Hindoos, the Chinese, the Turks, have also what they call *Sacred History*; but in this work, whenever that term is employed, it will refer solely to the Bible.

When it relates to those events and actions which have influenced mankind generally, and not any one nation in particular, it takes its name from the subject; as, the *History of the Church*, or *Ecclesiastical History*—the *History of Commerce*—the *History of Inventions*—the *History of Civilization*.

When it relates to one particular person, it is called *Biography*, or the *Life of that person*; as, the *Life of Cæsar*, the *Life of Washington*.

History, in its more extended sense, treats of the causes of the rise and fall of nations, of their habits, manners, religion, policy, and forms of government. It investigates the effects of these on the human race, and traces the progress and the decay of civilization. This branch is more properly styled the *Philosophy of History*. From these materials the student will discover what are the evils which bring on the downfall of a nation, and what are the measures best adapted to promote its happiness and prosperity.

History is also divided into *Ancient* and *Modern*. This is a purely arbitrary division, but is found to be convenient. *Ancient History* comprehends all those events which happened between the creation of Man and the destruction of the Roman Empire in the year of the Christian Era 476. *Modern History* commences from this last-named period, and comes down to the present time. It is usually divided into two periods; the first of which, comprising about 1000 years, is called *Medieval History*, or the *History of the Middle Ages*; the second is more properly called *Modern History*.

Chronology treats of the date of the occurrence of each event, and is absolutely necessary to a proper understanding of history.

The chronology of the first ages of the world is very uncertain: the best writers disagree as to the dates of many of the principal events. The system of Archbishop Usher has been that most generally followed, but modern researches have thrown great doubts on the accuracy of many of his dates, especially on those relating to the most early history and the creation of man.

The scope of this work is elementary only, and designed merely to show the general course of history, without going into details; the student, therefore, who desires to obtain more complete information, must himself search the best authorities in order to satisfy his mind on the many doubtful and contested points which occur both in history and chronology.

The course of civilization may be thus stated:

Starting from India and China, it spread into Bactria and Persia, and thence over Southern Arabia to Ethiopia and Egypt. In China, it attained to its height about 2000 years ago, since which period it has been stationary, so that that country presents to us the remarkable spectacle of a primitive people with a primitive language. It then travelled westward to Assyria, Persia, and Egypt, and thence to Greece, where it received a development which has had a permanent influence on the world; for we find that the study of the writings and actions of the poets, philosophers, and statesmen of that country, usually form part of the education of the youth of modern times. The prosperity of Greece was but short-lived. Under Alexander the Great, B. C. 336, it attained its greatest height, but soon after fell before a power which rose up still further west, and was destined to become the subjugator of the then known world. This power was Rome. The civilization of the Romans combined the elegance of Greece with a most extended political and military organization; the arts and sciences were successfully cultivated by the Romans, as is shown in their vast public works—their roads, aqueducts, bridges, temples, &c. When this form of civilization was at its height, and all the world was at peace under the weight of the Roman yoke, the fulness of time had come for the appearance on earth of Him whose teachings were to supersede the ancient faith, and to become the basis of modern civilization. One of the most interesting subjects to which the student of history can turn his attention, is the progress of the Christian religion. He will find that it flourished in spite of persecution and contempt; that although at first forced to hide itself in caves and secret places, its disciples gradually became the powerful of the earth; that it lost its purity as it increased in worldly power; and that there sprang up within it innumerable divisions, which remain to this day, and have caused some of the most sanguinary wars recorded in history.

From the ruins of the ancient civilization arose the modern, which, developing itself in Italy, spread over Western Europe, and was carried over from that continent to America, by the Spaniards, Portuguese, French, and English, in the fifteenth and following centuries. It is fast traversing the mighty continent of North America, where vast fields of development are awaiting it; and it will probably then cross the Pacific, and revisit the old world of the East, under a higher and a nobler form.

Next in importance to Christianity are those inventions and discoveries

QUESTIONS.—What is History?—Under what divisions may it be classed?—What is Universal History?—What is National History?—What is Sacred History?—What other kinds of Sacred History are there?—What name does History take, when it refers to any particular subject?—What is it called when it relates to one particular person?—What is it in its more extended sense?—What other division of History is there?—What does Ancient

History include?—What does Modern History include?—What is Medieval History?—What does Chronology treat of?—Is the chronology of the first ages of the world certain?—Do the best writers agree as to the dates of principal events?—What is the design of this work?—State the course of civilization.—What were the obstacles which the Christian religion had to overcome?

INTRODUCTION.

which have contributed so powerfully to the progress of civilization in modern times.

The invention of printing, in the fifteenth century, became the means of diffusing knowledge amongst all classes of men, at a comparatively small cost and with little trouble; whereas, prior to that invention, there were no such things as books, but every author's works, even the Scriptures, were in manuscript, and had to be copied by hand.

The invention of gunpowder, coming into general use about the same period, placed the weak on a level with the strong, and put an end to the empire of brute force. Before that time men passed their lives in athletic exercises, to the almost entire neglect of their minds, physical strength being the principal thing required for wielding the battle-axe and spear; but when gunpowder came into use, it was found that weak men, with the modern weapons, were a match for the stoutest knights in armor; consequently, those mail-clad warriors were forced to lay aside their ferocious occupation, and turn to the arts of peace.

The discovery of the mariner's compass enabled the sailor to find out in what direction his ship was moving, and gave him courage to go out of sight of land, instead of keeping close to the shore, as was the case in ancient times.

The discovery of America, and of a passage from Europe to India round the Cape of Good Hope, vastly extended the fields of enterprise, and enlightened mankind as to the true form of the globe.

The invention of the telescope; the discoveries made by Kepler, Galileo, and Newton, in Astronomy and the physical sciences; those made in later times in Chemistry, Geology, and the other sciences; and, in the most recent (our own) times, the application of steam and electricity to locomotion and international communication, have entirely changed the face of society.

These inventions and discoveries constitute the most important events in modern history. The ancients knew little of the sciences; their arts related principally to architecture, sculpture, and the manufacture of articles for domestic use. They attained to only a very moderate degree of excellence in navigation, agriculture, and the means of locomotion and international communication. Their history consists for the most part of wars waged upon their neighbors, usually according to the will of kings, who led their subjects to

slaughter, pretty much as the farmer sends his cattle to the market. The history of these kings is in fact that of their subjects, and many nations have little history beside a record of the names of their rulers. This is the case with China, India, Persia, Assyria, Egypt, and Babylon, in ancient times, and with all Oriental nations in modern times. In the middle ages but little progress was made in the arts and sciences; history is then busy with recording wars and cruelty of the most ferocious kind. The ancient civilization had been crushed out by races of barbarians which poured into Europe out of Central Asia, as one wave follows another; but from their invasions the ground-work of modern civilization is derived.

The student will also notice the prominent part which War plays in the history of mankind. It would not be exaggerating to say that four-fifths of the record of man's career are occupied by it. It appears to have hitherto formed part of the Divine plan of the government of the world. Its uses appear to have been principally the keeping the population of the earth within the limits of the means of subsistence; the compulsory propagation of ideas, habits, and languages, amongst nations which would otherwise, possibly, have become stagnant; the punishment of various races, and the extermination of those which had become so thoroughly wicked and depraved, that their longer continuance on earth would have been a curse to the others. It appears also to be a part of the Divine plan that nations shall be subdued or expelled by a more energetic race when they have, for any length of time, occupied their land without making it yield a certain amount of benefit to themselves or their neighbors. War has sometimes been the means of effecting the amalgamation of different races of men, and thereby producing out of them a nation of greater energy and intelligence; and it is an ordeal which every nation has had to go through when it has sought to rid itself of foreign or domestic tyranny, though unhappily such effort has not always been attended with success.

With these introductory remarks, we proceed to the consideration of that portion of the world's history which is styled Ancient, commencing with that period called "the Ante-Historical," because it relates to events which occurred before authentic records were preserved, and because it rests mainly upon tradition.

What inventions and discoveries are next in importance to Christianity?—What is said of the invention of printing?—What of gunpowder?—What of the mariner's compass?—

What was the state of art and science among the ancients?—What does their history chiefly consist of?—What is said of war?