



A Concise Companion to History

By Ulinka Rublack

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What is our relationship with the past? A quiet revolution has transformed the ways in which History provides us with answers. Indeed, not so long ago the very question might have seemed odd. But in recent decades the solid moorings to which History was seemingly tethered have proved less secure than earlier supposed. That realization has produced some discomfiture, but also many more opportunities for approaching worlds with which we have lost connection.

No single book can hope to reflect all the ways in which History has 'changed with the times' nor can, or should, a volume with numerous contributors speak with one voice. Yet the *Companion* does range widely, addressing key themes and structures from new areas of enquiry as well as providing fresh treatment of established fields; and it does mark a significant departure in a genre still shaped by stories that are predominantly Western. It reflects a practice of history that seeks global connections and pioneers a sustained dialogue between historians specializing in the history of particular continents. It does not, in the sharply ridiculing phrase of one historian, compare the Ashanti empire to the British empire. But the scholars writing in this book build on the much greater awareness that 'Western' achievements and claims to modernity were often not as unique as once portrayed, and that the history of interconnections and multi-centric developments of different civilisations is crucial for a proper critical understanding of the past.

Escorted by some of the world's leading historians, readers of the *Companion* will find pages an indispensable guide to what history is today.

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Review

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About the Author

Ulinka Rublack teaches early modern European history at Cambridge University and is a Fellow of St John's College. One of the most original historians of her generation, she is widely known for her books *Reformation Europe* and *The Crimes of Women in Early Modern Germany* (the latter published by Oxford University Press) and, more recently, *Dressing Up: Cultural Identity in Renaissance Europe*, which is also published by Oxford University Press.

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