

Histomap of World History

Not a map really, but a 6-foot-high chart showing in one glance 4,000 years of human history on a global scale. Thirty years ago I saw this on the wall of someone's dorm room and it flipped me out then, and every time I've seen it since. Its beauty is how Mr. Sparks divvies up world power (somewhat crudely) into its main factions graphed in each increment of fifty years since 2000 B.C.E. Different civilizations are color-coded so one can easily trace the flow and ebb of culture over the centuries.

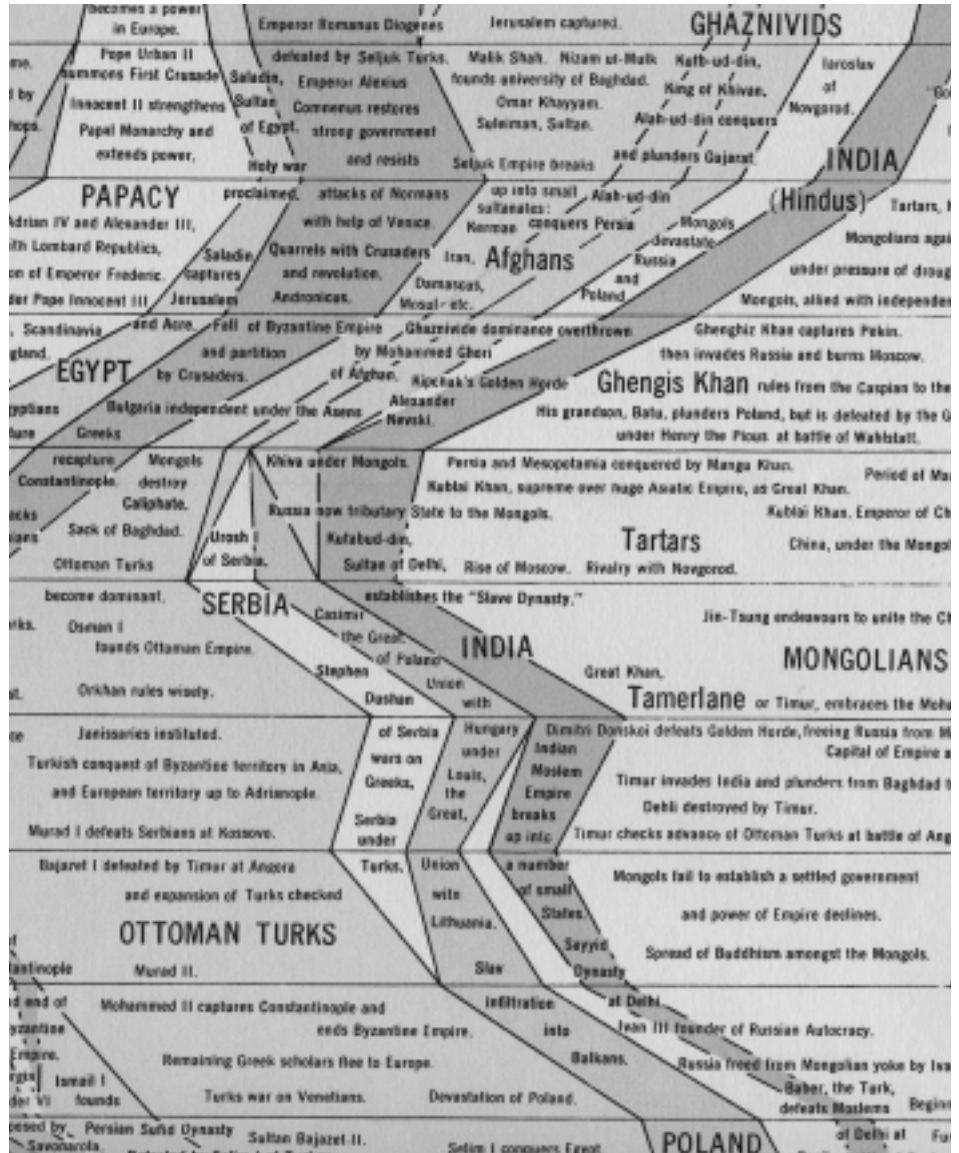
It has three uses for me: whenever I am reading about some historical event I can instantly see what else was going on in the world at that time (for instance, what was happening in France during the Ming Dynasty). I also get a very intuitive sense of the rises and falls of civilizations, a pattern that no other chart or book has been able to give me. And hanging on the wall, it never fails to elicit gaps of shock when visitors recognize our modern place in the chart. At seven bucks, it's a bargain education.

—KK



Rand McNally Histomap of World History

John B. Sparks 1952, 48 x 12 inches \$7
Rand McNally



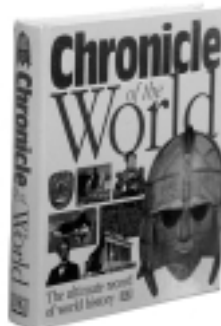
Chronicle of the World

A timeline of history, delivered in headlines. USA Today-style front-page stories and color photos debrief each year since 1000 (or each decade in the first millennium). Rather than being corny, this brevity and intimacy quickly gives context.

—KK

Chronicle of the World

Derrick Mercer, editor
1996, 1,175 pages
DK Publishing
Currently out of print



Massacre follows fall of Baghdad



Baghdad follows the fall of Baghdad... Massacre follows fall of Baghdad... Ex-meen leads ragged army on rampage... Fisherman's son founds new sect...

