

Preface

Dramatic events in the contemporary world—wars, revolutions, political upheavals, terrorist attacks, catastrophic natural disasters, economic crises, and the endless stream of daily news—often obscure the long-developing historical processes that have created the societies in which we live and the current problems with which we have to cope. The mass media pay little attention to the broader historical patterns and contexts that shape the deeper meaning of swiftly moving public events and private lives. This new edition of this book, which has been retitled *A History of Europe in the Modern World*, may therefore be seen as the newest version of an ongoing search for historical perspectives on the complex, often bewildering, events of our own era. The book's new title, which adds the words "Europe in" to the concise phrase that has entitled every previous edition, acknowledges the fact that even a long book cannot adequately describe historical events in the entire "modern world." At the same time, however, this slight change in a familiar title reflects other revisions in a new edition that focuses more specifically on the history of Europe, while also emphasizing that modern European history has always evolved through interactions and exchanges with the wider world.

It is impossible to understand European history without placing it "in the modern world," just as it is impossible to understand the modern world without knowing the history of Europe. This book thus carries the guiding assumption that events and ideas in modern European societies have often influenced people in every part of the world, but that Europeans have also been constantly influenced by their encounters with other peoples and cultures. More generally, the themes of this book build on the presupposition that contemporary events and conflicts are deeply connected to the diverse cultures, institutions, social systems, economic exchanges, power struggles, empires, and ideas of earlier eras in human history. Nobody can truly understand present times, in short, without studying the past; and in modern times the history of Europe has often entered (for better or for worse) into the history of almost the whole world.

The multiple levels of human history and cross-cultural exchanges have created modern societies that both resemble and differ from the "modernity" that has evolved in Europe since about the fifteenth century. This book thus describes the main features of this dynamic modern history by examining specific nations and landmark events, such as great revolutions, economic transitions, and changing cultural beliefs; but it also emphasizes broad historical and social trends that have developed beneath the most prominent events, gradually creating what we now call "the modern world." Although the following narrative explores the rise of nation-states and the conflicts that have reshaped modern societies over the last several centuries, it links such public events to the wider historical influence of the global economy, the development of science, technology, and new forms of knowledge, the rise of industry, the significance of religious and philosophical beliefs, the origin and diffusion of new political ideas, the changing mores of family and social life, the evolving views of human rights, and the complex relations between European cultures and other cultures around the world.

The term *modern*, as it is used in this book, refers to a phase of human history that began about five or six centuries ago and steadily transformed both the material conditions

of human societies and the meaning of individual identities or selfhood. “Modern” ways of life have developed in diverse historical contexts, and they are now evolving more rapidly and in more places than ever before. This book affirms that every culture and historical era have made important contributions to the collective history of human beings, but it focuses primarily on developments in Europe, even as it traces the growing European involvements with other peoples, economies, and political systems far beyond the relatively small continent of Europe itself. The narrative stresses the influence of European societies on the emergence of “modern” institutions and social practices, yet it also notes the worldwide exchanges that have contributed to the increasingly global culture of the contemporary era. Europeans were never the only influential “actors” in the global creation of modernity, but they were often present wherever the transitions to modernity were taking place. These historical transitions generated violence and oppression and political conflicts as well as social, cultural, and economic progress; and it is the combined effects of these modern developments on all human lives (and the natural environment) that provide the essential rationale for historical studies and for this new edition of *A History of Europe in the Modern World*.

ORGANIZATION OF THE BOOK: CHANGES AND CONTINUITIES

As in the past, the book is organized in chapters that carry the narrative across specific chronological eras, moving steadily toward the present. Yet the clearly defined and numbered sections within each chapter often deal with themes, events, or issues that do not develop in simple chronological order. Each chapter focuses on a specific time frame but also on themes and problems of continuing historical importance. The chronological organization gives readers a broad historical framework and provides opportunities for further analysis and discussion of specific historical themes or problems—discussions that can draw, for example, on the Suggestions for Further Reading and other materials that can be found on the companion Online Learning Center Web site (www.mhhe.com/palmerhistory11e), which includes an Interactive Glossary.

Although the history of political systems, state power, revolutions, and international conflicts remains important, some details of national political history have been reduced in this new edition, and whole sections on China, Japan, Africa, and the Americas have been removed. These changes provide a sharper analytical focus on Europe, shorten the text, and align the book more closely with contemporary survey courses. This book goes beyond a “textbook summary” of information by providing analytical themes to engage both nonacademic readers and students who seek broad perspectives on more specific kinds of historical scholarship. The narrative therefore explains major events and also draws on the work of recent social, cultural, and intellectual historians who have contributed important new insights to modern historical studies. There are discussions of the evolving roles of women in various historical contexts; descriptions of cultural movements and intellectual debates from the early modern to the contemporary period; and new analysis of the political, economic, and cultural interactions that took place in European empires and in the anticolonial movements that ultimately brought about the dissolution of imperial systems. Chapters on the breakup of European empires, however, have been shortened and consolidated to emphasize the interactions between Europeans and other peoples around the world.

Another important new feature in this edition appears in a series of brief excerpts from the writings of historians who have helped to shape the modern interpretations of notable historical events. Historical knowledge is never simply fixed or final, because historians constantly find new sources to analyze; or they develop new perspectives to explain long-known persons and conflicts; or they draw new comparisons between events and problems in different cultures and historical eras. This new edition thus includes an introduction to exemplary “Historical Interpretations and Debates,” thereby giving readers concise summaries and comparisons of diverse perspectives on past cultures and events. The excerpts that express key themes in these debates come from a wide range of works, including both “classic” historical studies and recent reinterpretations. The purpose of the excerpts is to introduce readers to influential debates about key issues and to show how historians develop or revise their analytical themes. Well-informed historical thinking requires both knowledge about past events and the critical evaluation of divergent historical interpretations. The themes of the various debates therefore provide an additional “entry” into the multiple spheres of historical thought and into the constant expansion and revision of historical knowledge.

This book describes major events such as the religious wars of earlier centuries, the Scientific Revolution, the French and Russian Revolutions, the Industrial Revolution, the development of European imperialism, the twentieth-century world wars and globalizing economy, the spread of democracy and the challenges it has faced, the collapse of European-dominated empires, the continuing search for an international order, and the emergence of the European Union. All of these broad developments are analyzed with references to specific examples or people, and there are transnational comparisons in the discussion of every historical era.

The visual components have been revised to include new images and illustrations, especially in the later chapters on contemporary European history. Like other kinds of sources, the images and artwork from past cultures provide important historical information. Knowing how to “read” and critically evaluate illustrations, paintings, and photographs is essential for analytical thought and for cross-cultural comparisons. The brief captions that accompany the illustrations thus connect the visual themes to the book’s historical narrative and interpretations. Other key features of the new edition include new, easier-to-read maps, which are presented in new colors. The maps and charts show the changing boundaries, populations, and economies of different regions or nations as they have changed across the centuries; and each chapter includes a chronological timeline that summarizes the most notable events. The revised entries in the comprehensive Suggestions for Further Reading, long a valued feature of this book, provide up-to-date listings of useful Web sites as well as the titles of significant new scholarly publications on specific national histories and the themes of transnational historical research. For this edition, the Suggestions for Further Reading can be found on the *Online Learning Center* at www.mhhe.com/palmerhistory11e.

The changes in *A History of Europe in the Modern World* have been introduced to make this new edition more accessible and to tighten its analytical focus, but not to weaken the prose style, content, or analytical qualities that have long appealed to both teachers and students of European history. Readers will therefore find that the book reaffirms a strong belief in the value of historical knowledge and historical perspectives for anyone who wishes to live a well-informed and engaged life in the changing modern world. It achieves its purpose whenever it gives readers new insights into the meanings of European

or modern history and whenever it helps readers gain new perspectives on their own lives, cultures, and social experiences.

SUPPLEMENTS FOR THE INSTRUCTOR

Instructor's Manual/Test Bank The first half of this unique manual offers a chapter-by-chapter guide to some of the best documentaries, educational and feature films, videos, and audio recordings to enhance classroom discussion. Brief overviews help instructors select the films best suited to each course topic. The manual also provides instructors with chapter objectives and points for discussion for each chapter, followed by a test bank containing multiple-choice, essay, and identification test questions.

Instructor Online Learning Center Web Site (www.mhhe.com/palmerhistory11e)

At the home page for this text-specific Web site, instructors will find a downloadable version of the Instructor's Manual. Instructors can also create an interactive course syllabus using McGraw-Hill's PageOut site. Suggestions for Further Reading are also included in the *Online Learning Center* for this edition.

PageOut (www.mhhe.com/pageout) On the PageOut Web site instructors can create their own course Web sites. PageOut requires no prior knowledge of HTML, no long hours of coding, and no design skills on the instructor's part. Instructors need simply to plug the course information into a template and click on one of the 16 designs. The process takes little time and creates a professionally designed Web site. Powerful features include an interactive course syllabus that lets instructors post content and links, an online gradebook, lecture notes, bookmarks, and a discussion board where instructors and students can discuss course-related topics.

Videos A wide range of videos on classic and contemporary topics in history is available through the Films for the Humanities and Sciences collection. Instructors can illustrate and enhance lectures by selecting from a series of videos correlated to the course. Contact your local McGraw-Hill sales representative for further information.

SUPPLEMENTS FOR THE STUDENT

Student Online Learning Center Web Site (www.mhhe.com/palmerhistory11e) At this text-specific Web site, students can link to an Interactive Glossary, an important learning tool for students that complements the terms and topics highlighted in the margins of the textbook. A number of other resources are also available, including Suggestions for Further Reading and useful Web sites.

PowerWeb PowerWeb for World History gives students password-protected, course-specific articles with assessments from current research journals and popular press articles, refereed and selected by World History instructors, and especially useful for materials that go beyond the scope of this book.

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Pinto, Alexandra Schultz, Adina Lonn, and Matthew Busbridge. Erin Guendelsberger and Kala Ramachandran managed editorial details with efficiency and wide-ranging skills; and Mickey Cox brought valuable insights to each phase of the planning for this revised edition. David Tietz helped to collect new illustrations, and Rachel Olsen and Diana Chase assisted in organizing manuscript materials. Equally important, Maximilian Owre, an historian of modern Europe and the associate director of the Program in the Humanities and Human Values at the University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill, contributed his knowledge and careful research to the updated Suggestions for Further Reading and the summaries of useful Web sites, which appear for this edition in the *Online Learning Center* at www.mhhe.com/palmerhistory11e.

This new edition has also benefited from the expert advice of reviewers who offered ideas for revisions and for new features to improve the book. Insightful comments came from Marc Baer, Hope College; Catherine Graney, Bergen Community College; Mary R. O’Neil, University of Washington; David J. Proctor, Tufts University; Leonard N. Rosenband, Utah State University; Barbara Syrrakos, The City College, City University of New York; and Brian Weiser, Metropolitan State University of Denver. None of these individuals are responsible for any of the book’s shortcomings, but all have added to its strengths. Other colleagues, teachers, and family members provided valuable assistance and advice in numerous discussions about the book; and a particular “thank you” goes to Gwynne Pomeroy for her exceptional role in facilitating the work on every aspect of this new edition.

Finally, I deeply regret that the revisions for the latest edition of this book have been developed without the insights of my two deceased colleagues and co-authors, R. R. Palmer and Joel Colton. The distinguished historical works of both Professor Palmer (who died in 2002) and Professor Colton (who died in 2011) have long attracted wide attention on both sides of the Atlantic, partly because of their remarkable knowledge of modern events and partly because of their exceptional ability to write clear, analytical prose about the diverse historical issues that they examined. Their long collaboration on this narrative, which until this edition was always entitled *A History of the Modern World*, became an outstanding example of how intellectual partnerships can enhance historical knowledge, expand historical perspectives, and connect the history of specific conflicts or people with the broadest historical developments of modern times. In revising this new edition of a book that has often been known as simply Palmer-Colton, I have sought always to build on the high quality of their previous work, even as I changed the structure or content of various chapters and also introduced new perspectives, sources, and images. I learned from each of these historians about the nature of intellectual work, academic friendships, and human communities; and my many conversations with Joel Colton in recent years deeply enriched my personal life as well as my understanding of the past. This book thus continues to convey the far-reaching intellect and insights of Professors Palmer and Colton in a narrative that has been updated to include changing themes in modern historical scholarship and changing perspectives on modern European history.

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