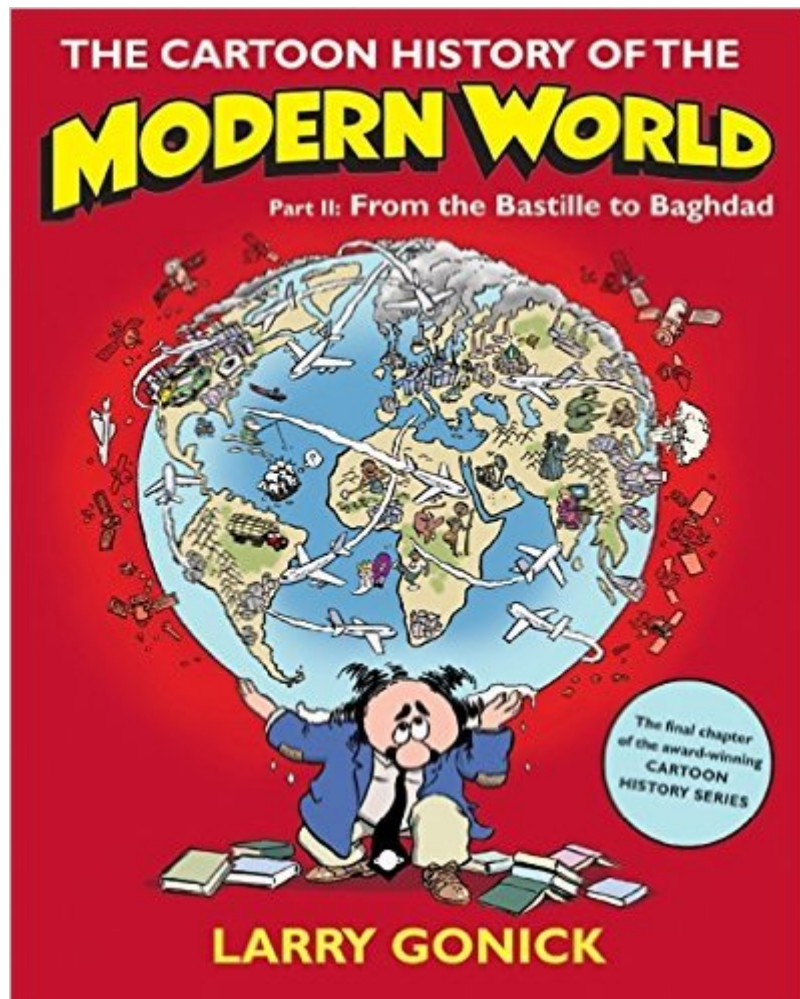


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The Cartoon History Of The Modern World, Part 2: From The Bastille To Baghdad



Synopsis

• From the Bastille to Baghdad, • The Cartoon History of the World Part 2 is the conclusion (for the moment) of Larry Gonick's award-winning and bestselling annals of humankind presented in graphic novel form. Picking up after the American Revolution, where Part 1 left off, Part 2 opens with the Enlightenment and rolls across Napoleon, the fall of the Ottoman Empire, World War I and II, and all the way to our recent imbroglios in Iraq and Afghanistan. The Cartoon History of the Modern World Part 2 is a monumental, one might say historic achievement, at once edifying, irreverent, and wildly entertaining. Terry Jones of Monty Python said of the first volume of this series, "Obviously one of the great books of all time." And modern civilization's most recent act is no less enthralling.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Larry Gonick's "Cartoon History of the Universe" series are my favorite books, or any media, ever. They work as entertainment because Gonick has a great, irreverent sense of humor and an engaging writing style. They (generally) work as art because Gonick is a top-notch cartoonist. And most crucially, they work as history because Gonick conducts careful research and is able to synthesize the bewildering subject that is world history in a coherent, informative way. As such it's easily the best introduction to the subject and did more than anything else to start my lifelong interest in history. It is thus with a heavy heart that I consider this last volume the weakest in the series. The bitter truth, noticeable in the third volume but readily apparent by the fourth, is that the overall quality steadily declines as the series goes on. Gonick's first book, written in installments

back in the '80s, has more youthful vigor, creativity, lush illustrations, detailed explanations, and coherence. These last two volumes, the so-called "Cartoon Histories of the Modern World," are smaller in size and contain fewer pages. Book 1 had 7 volumes (50 pages each); this one has 5. Gonick's style has changed a lot over the years, and frankly, it's just not as good. The smaller pages and panels make for less detail and more cramped, confusing panels (although there are a few cases of wasted space, too). I was nervous years before this that Gonick wouldn't be able to adequately juggle the increasing amount of information that comes with modern history. Book 4 did it decently, but here I think he falters. 5 volumes simply isn't enough to adequately cover all that happened. In general Gonick tries to focus on something in each volume.

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