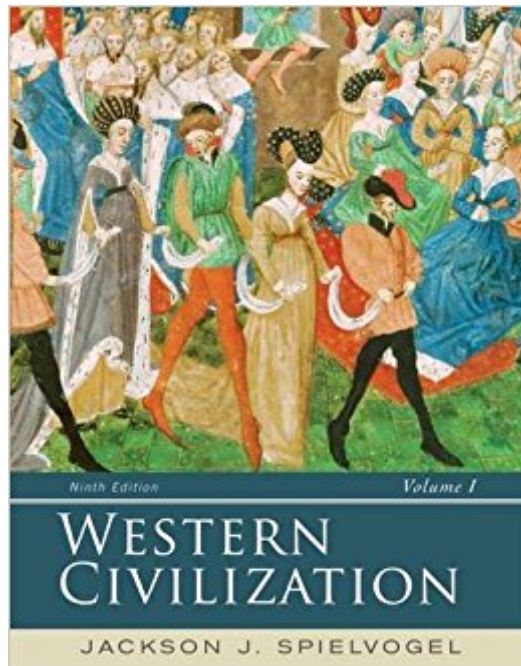


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Western Civilization: Volume I: To 1715



Synopsis

Best-selling WESTERN CIVILIZATION has helped more than one million users learn about the present by exploring the past. Jackson Spielvogel's engaging, chronological narrative weaves the political, economic, social, religious, intellectual, cultural, and military aspects of history into a gripping story that is as memorable as it is instructive. The clear narrative of a single gifted author makes it easy to follow the story of Western civilization.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Required for my Wes Civ class. I read it from cover to cover. Well written and flowed effortlessly from topic to topic. As with any history book, because there is so much information to cover, sometimes it was difficult to keep the time straight, but at the end of each chapter, Mr. Spielvogel, had a great summary and timelines. I actually learned some things from this book. Interesting and kept my interest.

This book is decent, but each chapter is ridiculously long; 25+ pages. Much of the material in each chapter is repeated over and over. Each chapter could be about half the length if it were laid out in a more intuitive way. Redundancy doesn't help people learn any better. The saying "if you hear or read the same thing three times..." is valid but it only applies when you get the same material from three different sources, not reading the same thing in row three times in the same source. This book seriously needs a major overhaul to be a better learning tool; start by removing the redundancy.

This book is easy to read. The section headings and sub-headings make it easy to pinpoint specific events, locations, etc. For the days when I am crunched for time and have to read a specific section for discussions, I find it easily. I don't waste time flipping through pages.

Required book for a college course that is now requiring a new book to be purchased with a one-time-use access code. It seems that publishers are finding new ways to avoid sustainability and circumvent the used book market by making colleges assign these new book bundles. I am glad that some professors allow students to choose whether or not they want to buy the bundle, which includes some extras including study guides, or opt out and buy/rent the used books and save money. At NVCC in Manassas, every class this semester "required" the access code bundles at \$150-278 a book. Multiply that by 6 classes and you get a cost-prohibitive situation for most students. I was glad that find this book as an inexpensive rental, and I'll go the extra mile and scour the book for my answers and make my own study guide. If it costs me a half a grade or more, it may be worth it to be able to afford college.

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