

Brief Summary of the Issue

This issue of *World History Connected* offers exceptionally strong content for those who seek to expand their conception of world history and seek a deeper understanding of the place of Latin America and Latin Americans in world history. Its articles on that subject, as well as others offered in the issue, provide insight into human “agency” operating within world historical processes such as slavery, revolution, cultural survival among indigenous people, and the role of food production in the making of national identity. These articles offer new ways of thinking about world history to all those working in the field, either in archives or in the classroom.

This review of the issue’s contents begins with a very brief discussion of the origins of its Forum’s re-consideration of the role of Latin America in world history. It then provides a short summary of each of the Forum’s five constituent articles that offer cutting-edge research and promote innovative teaching approaches to that subject. This is followed by single-paragraph surveys of the two individual articles, one addresses African agency in Western and West African textbooks when addressing the Atlantic Slave Trade, while the other recovers an eyewitness account of the Russian Revolution as experienced by “an ordinary man” through his family archives (reproduced here, with permission), as a means of enlivening classrooms addressing events “that shook the world.”

This Issue’s Forum and the Emerging “New” Place of Latin America in World History

In the fall of 2019, *World History Connected* began work on this issue designed to further advance the study and teaching of Latin America in World history. It is a subject it had taken up almost ten years before (Vol. 7, no.3). In the introduction to the Forum, “Updating the Role of Latin America in World History,” Guest editors Rick Warner and Nikki Magie make the case that a return to the subject is warranted by a slow but significant growth in the number of scholars of the region and world historians who are seeking to employ world history approaches. Their Forum is well-designed to further that interest and the timing of their effort could not have been better.

As the Forum editors gathered contributing articles for a 2020 issue, the American Historical Association's Conference on Latin America was doing the same. It sponsored a panel at the AHA's 2020 annual meeting entitled, "The New Place of Latin America in World History." The contributions to that panel mirrored those in this Forum, in that each sought to encourage "rethinking Latin America's place in world history" so it can better be seen "as a site of creation, where the ideas, processes, institutions, and cultures of the 'modern' world took shape" and whose people were active "in shaping world history."¹ The AHA panel and this issue's Forum differ, however, in that WHC's dual mission is not only to advance scholarly research, which is clear in each of its contributions, but also to employ that research wherever possible to advance teaching in the field.

This Forum seeks to achieve its dual mission by providing accessible articles demonstrating how to get past common classroom themes when addressing the region, such as "they were there, they were conquered, they gained independence, and then they were economically reconquered and then the Cold War."² Forum articles offer:

- A guide to integrating Latin America into world history courses, with a nod to Advanced Placement World History standards (Monica Bond-Lamberty).
- A case study examining women as actors/agents during the 19th century revolution in Brazil and how to integrate their role in classroom settings through the use of contemporary art (Suzanne Marie Litrel).
- An essay probing the universal nature of the mind set and processes that enabled the erasure of indigenous people of the Americas (as in the influential television program "The Little House on the Prairie," in which there are none) via a study of the near-erasure, but also the survival through their own agency, of an indigenous community in Sonora, Mexico (Andrae M. Marak).
- A study of how Jamaican food, including the production of salt and "Jerk Chicken," was central to the formation of Jamaican identity, as foodways often are throughout the world (Alyssa Sperry).
- An updated Digital Guide to Resources on Latin America and World History that features a shortlist of fundamental resources, identifies online materials provided by major university research and outreach centers, locates a number of useful case studies, and concludes with a large selection of online publications addressing teaching approaches that has been prepared by a team of editors working at *World History Connected* led by its Digital Resource editor, John Maunu.

Those interested will find that all of the Forum's articles are introduced in depth in the Guest Editors' introduction.

Individual articles

The first article, “Missing in Action” by Laura J. Dull, addresses why so many contemporary students think that during the Atlantic Slave Trade, Africans had no agency to the point that they believe that many Africans were so lazy that they were easily snatched up by passing Europeans! This article seeks to explore why such an attitude exists by analyzing the treatment of the Atlantic Slave Trade in Western and African textbooks at all levels of instruction, revealing both the bias that promotes such ideas and also demonstrating the value of using these works as a means to explore their cost, which is the erasure of much of modern African history along with African agency.

The second article, “The Extraordinary Life of an Ordinary Person: Jan Kozłowski and the Russian Revolution,” by Tom Taylor, calls attention to recent advances in micro-historical approaches, such as the study of world history through biography. It offers an opportunity to study the Russian Revolution through the experiences of a man of low social status based on family archival materials, a copy of which is reproduced in the article’s appendices, along with directions on how to use them as a means of drawing students deeper into the study of world history. The article provides concise background for each stage of Jan Kozłowski’s epic flight from communist and non-communist factions across the length and breadth of Russia as well as group and individual active learning exercises that deliver “you are there” experience of the Russian Revolution. This is because this ordinary man and his immediate family were so imbedded in the major events of the Russian Revolution, such as the Russian Civil War and the place of American intervention in that conflict, that these subjects can be viewed from one of the most intimate of personal perspectives: that of people, without political affiliation or social rank, trying to survive for one more day: a circumstance to be found throughout world history.

In many ways, the word “intimate” may serve as a touchstone for this issue, as more than one article owes much to the authors’ personal or family experience and/or their encounter with students that led to the field work that lies at the core of each work.

Book Reviews

As will be seen, book reviews range from a study of oceans independent of land to an accessible survey of women in world history

Books available for Review

<https://worldhistoryconnected.press.uillinois.edu/18.1/pdfs/Books.pdf>

Information about World History Connected and Submission guidelines

For those unfamiliar with *World History Connected* (ISSN 1931-8642), it is an open-sourced (free), double-blind peer reviewed e-journal publication of the University of Illinois Press (<https://worldhistoryconnected.press.uiillinois.edu/>) and an affiliated publication of the World History Association that annually reaches 1.85 million readers (those who read more than two articles) and attracts 6 million visits to its website. It is published 3 times a year (in late February, early June, and late October). Recent issues of the journal have explored the Atlantic in world history, film in world history, topics in pre-modern world history and, most recently, topics in Southeast Asia and world history. Future issues, always tentative due to COVID-19 (which acted to delay the October 2019 issue until January 2020), will feature Forums that address the Environment and Ecology (the deadline for submissions is March 1, 2021), Empires and World History (deadlines changed to July 1, 2021). South Asia, Maritime topics, such as the Indian Ocean, active learning (games, simulations) teaching the current turn in Decolonization studies and authoritarianism in global and historical perspective have deadlines as yet to be determined. Scheduling is an art rather than a science, so those wishing to submit articles for consideration on these subjects or any subject should express that interest as soon as possible. The journal perennially seeks submission of Forum ideas and also Guest Editors who might wish to curate a “Forum” on a topic of interest to the field. Forum guest editors have included past Presidents of the American Historical Association and the World History Association, such as Patrick Manning, Laura Mitchell, and also the incoming President Jonathan Reynolds. Book review essays and reviews, as well as manuscript reviewers, are also welcome.

Manuscripts should be submitted electronically to the Editor at mgilbert@hpu.edu. Correspondence relating to books to be reviewed and those interested in reviewing books for the journal issue, should be addressed to christine.skwiot@mma.edu. Due to cost, books for review cannot be supplied to reviewers outside the United States. All submissions are subject to double-blind peer reviewer. *World History Connected* reserves the right to decline to publish any submission.

All submissions must follow the style sheet on the left-hand side of the journal’s webpage at <https://worldhistoryconnected.press.uiillinois.edu/> It should be conveyed with the subject line “WHC Submission and the author (s) last name.” Submissions should also be prepared double spaced, with one-inch margins and subheads at the left-hand margins, with endnotes, a short biography (250 words) such as those that appear on all published WHC articles, a mailing address, and phone number. Length of submitted articles should be more than 3,000 words, with an upper limitation that is appropriate (usually not more than 10,000 words).

NOTES

¹ Abstract, “The New Place of Latin America in World History,” The American Historical Association the 134th Annual Meeting, Chicago, January 4, 2020, Session 138, Conference of Latin American History, 22, Chair, James Sanders, Utah State University. Panelists: Cristián Castro, Universidad Diego Portales; Marixa Lasso, Ministerio de Cultura-Panamá; Bianca Premo, Florida International University; and Christy Thornton, Johns Hopkins University. The papers presented are not accessible online nor have as yet been published, but it is possible to connect with the authors via their institutions. For the text of the abstract, go to <https://aha.confex.com/aha/2020/webprogram/Session19585.html>.

² See the article by Monica Bond-Lamberty, “Too Despacito: Reflections on Teaching Latin America in the Global Context,” in this issue.