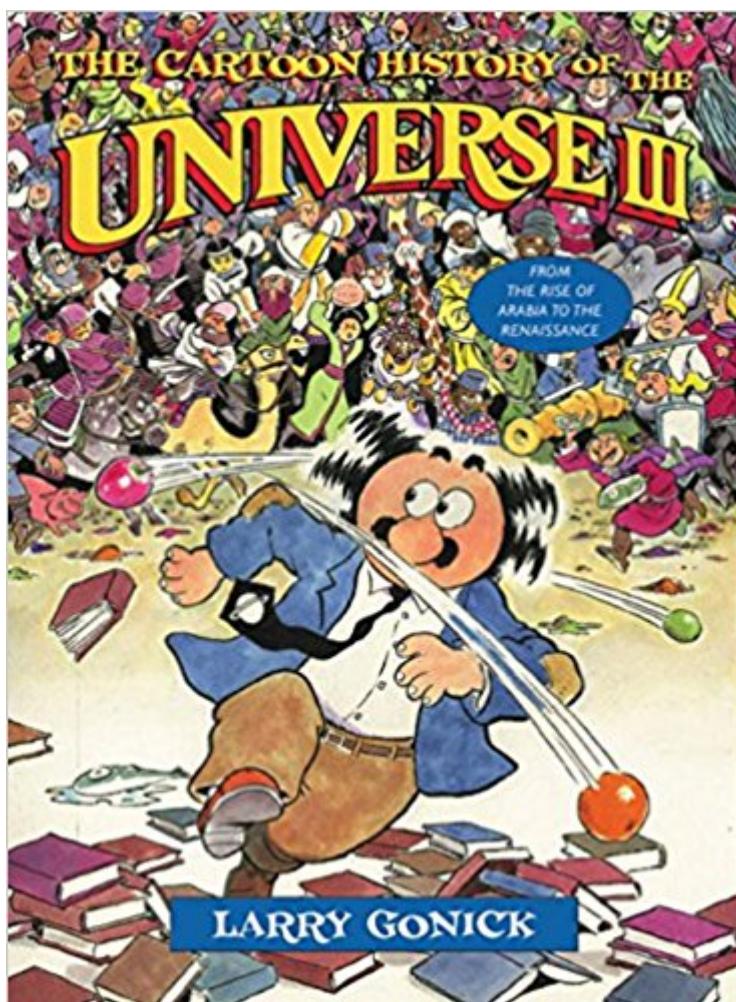


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The Cartoon History Of The Universe III: From The Rise Of Arabia To The Renaissance (Cartoon History Of The Modern World)



Synopsis

An irreverent survey in comics spanning world history from the birth of Islam to the Byzantine Empire to the Italian Renaissance. Larry Gonick's celebrated series *The Cartoon History of the Universe* is a unique fusion of world history and the comics medium, a work of serious scholarship and a masterpiece of popular literature. Praised by Jonathan Spence in the *New York Times Book Review* as "a curious hybrid, at once flippant and scholarly, witty and politically correct, zany and traditionalist," Gonick's clever illustrations deliver important information with a deceptively light tone, teaching us about the people and events that have shaped our world. This long-awaited new volume covers the Middle Ages around the globe, including the multicultural Middle East, West Africa and the cross-Saharan trade, Central Asia and the Byzantine Empire, the European Dark Ages and the Crusades, the Mongol conquests, the Black Death, the Ottoman Empire, the Italian Renaissance, and the rise of Spain, leading up to Columbus's departure for the new world. Gonick offers an historical survey that is at once multicultural, humanistic, skeptical, and laugh-out-loud funny.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

The second volume of Gonick's deeply researched, lucid and hilarious overview of history was published eight years ago. Good things take time, evidently. This third installment begins in the year 395, with the closing of Europe's pagan temples, and ends in 1492, with Columbus and crew setting

sail. Readers get an overview of nearly everything that occurred between those two events, from the origins of Islam to the great Chinese dynasties and the Crusades, with "flashbacks" to the rise of African culture, the Turco-Mongol tribes and more. Gonick's take on history is whip-smart, skeptical about familiar but questionable stories and absolutely in command of dozens of simultaneous historical threads. He's also very funny, even at his most respectful. (In the chapter on the life of Muhammad, for instance, he makes a running joke of keeping the prophet permanently off-panel.) Gonick is fond of wacky little digressions, and the book includes plenty of learned slapstick (one ongoing gag concerns the "amazing amount of eye-gouging" in Byzantine history). The architecture and clothes in Gonick's work are drawn with convincing realism, but the people are broad, goofy caricatures, which somehow makes the entire presentation even friendlier: in fact, the author employs a handful of walk-ons disheveled, mustachioed academic types to explain the more complicated points. Copyright 2002 Cahners Business Information, Inc.

Adult/High School-This clever, wickedly funny book begins with the birth of Islam, steps back for an overview of the history of Africa, jumps to Turkey and China, peeks at the Dark Ages in Europe, heads back to the Middle East for the Crusades, and wraps up with Christopher Columbus heading west. Gonick has a knack for finding intriguing bits of history that tend to be overlooked in conventional texts and reporting them with irreverent humor, as with the story of the group of Meccans who visited a cathedral in Ethiopia and left an unusual calling card. ("&*%\$# pagans pooped in my church!" the king complains to the Islamic missionaries.) The book is a mixture of careful research and quips, often dwelling on the irony of people's actions versus their stated beliefs. The black-and-white art is energetic, sometimes spare, but generally evocative of time and place. Highly entertaining. Susan Salpini, Fairfax County Public Schools, VA
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Larry Gonick's *Cartoon History of the Universe III*, is a wonderful read. His humor is sharper than ever, or perhaps humanity just got more ridiculous with age. Whatever the reason it's still the most amusing history book you'll ever read. This book unfortunately does feel a bit rushed. Plenty of time is given to the rise of Islam and the decline of the Byzantine/"Roman" Empire, while some other events in Southeast Asia were overlooked as is history in North and South America (however some South American history is covered in the next volume, *Â The Cartoon History of the Modern World Part 1: From Columbus to the U.S. Constitution (Pt. 1)*). However, that's really a minor complaint, as Gonick crams nearly 800 years of world history in 300 pages and for the most part does a damn fine

job. So for any history buffs, comic book fans, or pseudo intellectuals consider this book a must own.

Larry Gonick's Cartoon History of the Universe (three volumes) is great stuff. He does an incredible job of distilling down history into easily readable chapters, not omitting Eastern history. Way more approachable and interesting for young (and not-so-young) adults, his books are prominent on my extensive history bookshelves. Worth reading! (Even the bibliographies at the end are worth looking through)

Awesome stuff, as always! I'll probably have to get the other books in the sequence, too, like The Cartoon History of the Modern World Part 1: From Columbus to the U.S. Constitution (Pt. 1) and The Cartoon History of the Modern World, Part 2: From the Bastille to Baghdad, but it'll be worth it. :)

Fun book

I bought all three books in this series for my 14 year old grandson's birthday. It was at the top of his wish list and I can see why. Good artwork, accurate story content and interesting presentation. I highly recommend it. Bonus: While he's reading these, he is not so interested in playing video games!

I have built a large collection of Larry Gonick's books. I am a substitute teacher, and they are great introductions to all of the subjects dealt with, and fun and funny to read, and really teach the subjects effectively, this one included. Every school library and public library should have a special Larry Gonick shelf.

We need all the help we can get to understand people of the world and Mr. Gonick has been a genius in distilling historical literature for us here as in Parts 1 & 2 before.

This book is more than a comic. It imparts knowledge minus the yawns. History is one subject which is thought of as dry, boring and eminently put-down-able. Not so with Larry Gonick and his collection of 'The Comic History of the Universe' comic books. Though this comic book is great for laughs, it also teaches us factually correct, unbiased versions of events that happened centuries ago. This

book (and others in this series) should be included in the syllabus of all educational institutions who need to make education fun. The author has respect and the right amount of sympathy for those individuals and societies which fell behind or were pushed there. There is no unwanted hero worship and exaggerated tales about history's winners. *Caravans: A Novel of Afghanistan*

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