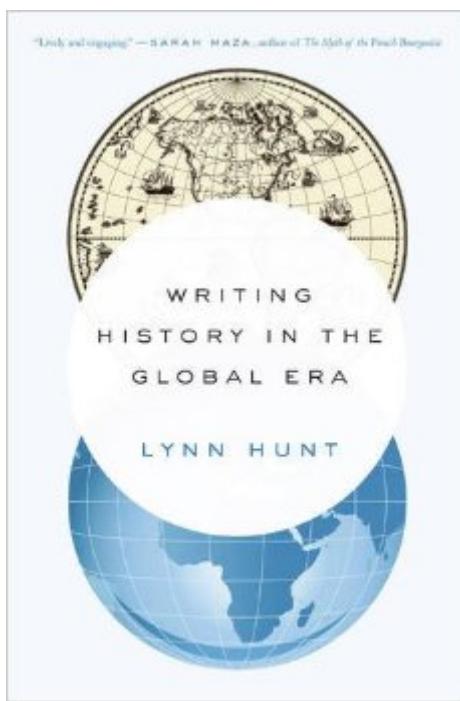


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Writing History In The Global Era



Synopsis

Leading historian Lynn Hunt rethinks why history matters in today's global world and how it should be written. Globalization is emerging as a major economic, cultural, and political force. In *Writing History in the Global Era*, historian Lynn Hunt examines whether globalization can reinvigorate the telling of history. She looks toward scholars from the East and West collaborating in new ways as they share their ideas. She proposes a sweeping reevaluation of individuals' active role and their place in society as the keys to understanding the way people and ideas interact. Hunt also reveals how surprising new perspectives on society and the self offer promising new ways of thinking about the meaning and purpose of history in our time.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Writing History in the Global Era, 2014, by Lynn Hunt, Distinguished Research Professor at UCLA. This is, as she says, "a short book about a big subject," (p. 1). Anyone who reads history will profit from her orientation about this field. I have read history ever since I was a young adult, embarrassed about my ignorance. At age 85 I still find it fascinating. My impression is that historians in the 21st-century are doing a much better job than in the 20th century--better intellectual quality, more thorough studies of sources, and even better notes. What I did not realize was that behind the scenes the paradigms that have shaped history writing and still do. Hunt has filled me in on this aspect of history writing. Hunt is blunt about history writers, as well as readers: "humans look for a logic in their stories that is related to their own goals." (p. 127). She identifies four paradigms

(over-arching accounts of metanarratives of historical developments) along with goals, in the post World War II period: Marxism (eventual withering of the state) modernization (social progress) Annales school (long term social histories) and identity politics (social movements). In the period of 1960 to 1990s criticism of these paradigms arose: cultural studies, post structuralism, post modernism and post colonials. In the 21st-century, globalization themes are pursued in historical narratives, especially in response to Marx and 20th century modernization aging enthusiasts. When you pick up a history study, it is well to know the sequence of events! And to check out your own goals before throwing down a volume in disgust. Why can't history be more scientific? Hunt addresses this issue. The problem: the impossibility of separating analysis and causal explanation from narrative.

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