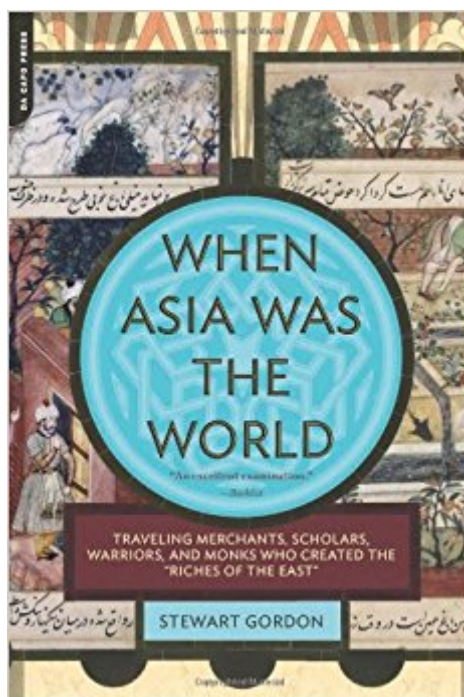


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# When Asia Was The World: Traveling Merchants, Scholars, Warriors, And Monks Who Created The ""Riches Of The East""



## Synopsis

While European civilization stagnated in the 'Dark Ages,' Asia flourished as the wellspring of science, philosophy, and religion. Linked together by a web of spiritual, commercial, and intellectual connections, the distant regions of Asia's vast civilization, from Arabia to China, hummed with trade, international diplomacy, and the exchange of ideas. Stewart Gordon has fashioned a compelling and unique look at Asia from AD 700 to 1500; a time when Asia was the world's by relating the personal journeys of Asia's many travelers.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

Gordon, a Senior Research Scholar at the University of Michigan, recalls Thomas Cahill's "Hinges of History" series in this accessible history-in-portraits. Covering "the thousand years from 500 to 1500, when Asia was an astonishing, connected, and creative place," Gordon bases each chapter on the actual memoir of someone who lived, worked and traveled there. Each story has its own unique appeal, the most compelling of which is probably Abraham bin Yiju's: a Jewish spice trader living in southwestern India around 1140 CE, his life proves dramatic and transient, and his letters poignant, as in this plea for news of relatives caught up in the Crusades: "No letter... detailing who died and who remained alive, has arrived. By God, write exact details and send your letters with reliable people to soothe my mind." It's a rare joy-and a slight shock-to find such rich evidence of lives lived 1,000 years ago; given the way time erases personal history, however, it makes sense that each man's story feels incomplete. Gordon lacks the vision and distinctive voice of a Cahill, but history buffs will find this book more than worthwhile. Copyright © Reed Business Information, a

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"Choice," 11/08"A unique and wonderful book...The chapters tell vivid stories full of fascinating details...Grounded in sophisticated network theory, Gordon's stories therefore convey a big picture that is interesting, memorable...Brilliant, brief, and beautifully written, this is an instant, teachable classic in world history. Summing Up: Essential." --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

Good product, price, and service. ThanksReally gave a good insight into the real world powers of the time. In school we were mainly focused on Europe...Thanks for enlightening book.

I am a history teacher at the high school level. I really enjoyed this book both as a tool to better educate myself, and as a source of excerpts to utilize in class with my students. I have used various excerpts with my students to examine the variety and complexity of trade and social connections throughout parts of the Asian world historically. It is very good for this purpose, and I would highly recommend it to anyone with an interest in history, or anyone that is a history teacher.

excellent coverage of a history not covered in our schools. well written.

I stumbled on this book by accident and then could not stop reading - till I came to the last page. Spending much time in Asia i was fascinated by the history Gordon covered - going back 2500 years. We all learn too little about the 'middle east' - Asia when undergoing our basic education. The scholars and traders were truly learned and adventurous. This is a book to be read by all.

Made it to me when I needed it.

It was the exact book as the one what I was looking for and it was in a very good condition! The stories are very interesting. I got the book for my class "Asia the World" ( so it was supposed to be boring) but after I read the first three pages, I ended up reading the whole book, the same day!

There are a few books that I love and after reading this work I posted it in my best-books list!

It's humbling to be reminded that when my ancestors were burning witches and shunning books, there was a corner of the world that was exploring, expanding and open to learning. I found the book, and the characters in the various chapters absolutely fascinating.

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