

# Welcome ...

to the web pages of the History of International Relations textbook project. This book provides a brief overview of the history of international relations from an explicitly non-European point of view. Europe certainly matters but, as it turns out, not all that much.

I am hard at work on the book but a couple of chapters are yet to be completed. Links to the chapters that are reasonably ready are below. Check out the "[research blog](#)" too where I post additional material and updates, and [follow the book on Twitter](#). I tweet on things historical and non-European above all.

I am thrilled that the textbook will be published by [Open Book Publishers](#), in open access format, that the text will be free for everyone to read online or to download as pdfs, but also to buy as a regular book.

Happy reading!

Erik

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## Introduction

International relations as the topic usually is taught at the university has next to no historical depth. In an introductory class your teacher might tell you that the basic rules of international politics were established in the aftermath of the Thirty Years War in the seventeenth-century, or you might hear... [Read More](#)

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## [China and East Asia](#)

For much of its history, China was the all-dominant country in East Asia and international relations in this part of the world were more than anything organized by the Chinese and on Chinese terms. China itself was an empire, meaning that the country contained a multitude of different ethnic groups,... [Read More](#)

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## [Muslim caliphates](#)

After the death of the prophet Muhammad in Medina in 632 CE, his followers on the Arabian peninsula expanded quickly in all directions, creating an empire which only one hundred years later came to include not only all of the Middle East and much of Central Asia, but also North... [Read More](#)

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## [Mongol khanates](#)

In the thirteenth- and fourteenth-centuries, the Mongols created the largest contiguous empire the world has ever known. In 1206, Temüjin, an orphan and a former slave, united the many feuding clans which occupied the steppes north of China and declared himself “Genghis Khan,” meaning “fierce ruler.” Once this feat was... [Read More](#)

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