

Migration in World History: Multimedia Teaching Materials in Development at Northeastern

Under a grant from Annenberg/CPB Project, a collaborative group based at Northeastern University is developing multimedia instructional materials in world history. The project, centered at Northeastern's World History Center, is scheduled to result in distribution of one-semester high school or college course, based on a CD-ROM, to be distributed in early 1998. The course, to be entitled "Migration in Modern World History," surveys migration around the globe since 1500.

The first stage of the work is production of a prototype focusing on migration to the Americas, 1600-1800. The prototype develops one of the thirteen topics in the full course, but illustrates most of the media techniques and pedagogical approaches of the full course. If Annenberg/CPB approves the prototype, the project will produce the full CD-ROM.

In its early stages, this project has already led to some innovations. A balanced set of computer screens will enable users to alternate among narrative, evidence and analysis on each topic. Simulations will allow stage-by-stage comparison of migrations from Europe and Africa to the Americas. A linkage of maps and sounds will permit users to listen to the development of music at points around the Atlantic.

Faculty participants in the group include project director Patrick Manning and Gerald Herman at Northeastern, John Saillant at Brown University, Steven Mintz at the University of Houston.

Leading the design work are Ted Sicker and Julia Whitney of WGBH Educational Foundation, while H-Net: Humanities On-Line provides communication services.

Northeastern graduate students in history are conducting most of the research.

NER-WHA President Theodore Von Laue Retires; Steering Committee Elects New Officers

The Steering Committee of the New England Regional World History Association, meeting at Northeastern University on December 2, 1995, with nearly all members present, selected a new set of officers. (See page 4 for a list of Steering Committee members.)

Theodore Von Laue, the founding president of NER-WHA and professor emeritus at Clark University, announced his retirement from office. He received thanks and appreciation from all present for the visible role he played in the establishment of NER-WHA beginning in 1993, especially through articles in the NER-WHA Newsletter and the Bulletin of the World History Association. By acclamation, Von Laue was elevated to the role of President Emeritus.

Selected to succeed Von Laue as NER-WHA president was Patrick Manning, of Northeastern University, a member of the departments of History and African-American Studies who also directs Northeastern's World History Center.

Gerald Herman, elected to continue in office as vice-president of NER-WHA, is also a member of the Northeastern History Department, where he leads the History-Social Studies Schools-Colleges Alliance.

Beimei Long was elected secretary-treasurer of NER-WHA. Ms. Long, who holds an MA in History from Northeastern, also serves as Coordinator of the World History Center and editor of the NER-WHA

Newsletter. The NER-WHA Steering Committee meets again in May 1996 at Northeastern.

World History at NERC, March 13-16

Three sessions on world history will provide a global focus at the twenty-seventh meeting of the Northeast Regional Social Studies Conference (NERC), to be held in Hartford from March 13 to 16,

Social studies educators from the New England states, New York, New Jersey and Pennsylvania attend this yearly event. NER-WHA members David Burzillo, Gerald Herman and Patrick Manning have organized the three sessions listed below.

If you wish to attend these or other sessions of this major annual meeting, contact Beam Long at the NER-WHA office for registration forms. (See page 4 for office phone and address.) After February 28, the registration fee rises to \$75.

World History Sessions at NERC 27:

“History on the Screen: Using Feature Films in American or World History Classes.” Thursday, March 14, 3:15-4:30pm (Holiday Inn, Room 306).

Presenters: Wendy Wilson, Lexington High School, Lexington, MA and Gerald Herman, Northeastern University.

Movie-going is an important social activity for our students and many movies have historical themes. How can we use feature films in our history classrooms? This session looks at ways to incorporate feature films in our history classes using four historical frameworks, particularly as a

way to emphasize critical viewing skills and historical analysis. Sample films and lesson plans will be highlighted.

“Preparation for Teaching High School World History: What is Needed?” Thursday, March 14, 3:15-4:30 pm (Holiday Inn, Room 313).

Presenters: Patrick Manning, Northeastern University; Walter Lambert, Brighton High School, Boston; Steven Seto, Snowden International High School, Boston.

In this session, a high school history teacher, a social studies coordinator and a college history teacher will address the challenge of teaching world history, and the need for improved preparation, both for new and experienced teachers. In

discussion, the audience is invited to offer suggestions on how teachers could be better prepared for world history.

“Teaching World History Today.” Friday, March 15, 10:30am-12:30pm (Holiday Inn, Ballroom B).

Presenters: David Burzillo, The Rivers School, Weston, MA; William McNeill, Professor Emeritus, University of Chicago; Chris Rice, Norwich Free Academy, Norwich, CT; Mark Williams, Loomis-Chafee School, CT; teachers from Brookline High School, Boston.

In the first portion of this clinic, the questions “How prevalent is world history in the high school curriculum?” and “What is being taught in world history courses?” are asked. In the second segment, William McNeill reflects on his personal journal from Western Civilization to world history. Then teachers from successful high school world history programs describe their world history courses. This clinic concludes with a discussion period.

World History Teaching Notes: The Journal of World History

The Journal of World History, just entering its seventh year, has rapidly gained wide recognition and has done much to strengthen the field of world history. Under editor Jerry H. Bentley and book review editor Herbert F. Ziegler (both of the University of Hawaii), the characteristic blue covers of the journal appear in subscribers' mailboxes twice each year, with about five articles and ten book reviews in each issue.

Here is a brief summary of the contents of the two issues of volume 6 (1995). The first issue includes an article on silk trade, in which Liu Xinru argues that silk was not only a luxury product but a sacred fabric, and that this religious link had much to do with the spread of sericulture. In a comparative study of Europe and Japan, Stephen Morillo argues that Japanese administrative advance was more important in its military revolution than was gunpowder, and suggests that the same may also have been the case for Europe.

Teaching Resources: A Column for High School Teachers

by David Burzillo

Tibetan Buddhism has been a hot topic in Newspapers and on radio and television in the past few months. Sonam Wangdu, age 4 of Seattle, Washington, left for Nepal to begin his monastic life and education in January. Two years ago he was enthroned as Dshung Rinchope IV, the reincarnation of the Lama Dshung Rinchope III, who had died in 1987

In the United States, Buddhism continues to expand at a rapid pace. On two recent visits to the United States, the 14th Dalai Lama of Tibet has visited the Tibetan Buddhist Learning center in Washington, New Jersey. Diana Cutler, is an associate director of the center, and I recently asked her a few questions.

-“What are the most exciting recent trends in Buddhism or Buddhist studies?”

-“It is very heartening...that a month ago Time/Life showed a one hour special on Tibet at prime time on a Sunday night...Buddhism was one of the largest religions in the world...In 1989 His Holiness the 14th Dalai Lama of Tibet, was awarded the Nobel Prize. Since that time His holiness has become a very popular world spokesman and has had many more opportunities to share

Buddhist ideas with the world community.”

-“What are the most important things that high school world history teachers can teach their students about Buddhism?”

-“The importance of having a mind which is kind-hearted, good natured, and compassionate. Buddhism offers a wide variety of methods to cultivate loving kindness and compassion, which are very important antidotes to encouragement to cultivate these good qualities within themselves and then extend them out towards others.

-“What are some of the books about Buddhism that would be beneficial for high school history teachers to read?”

-“Windsor Publishing has some excellent introductory books.” They include:

1. *The World of Tibetan Buddhism: An Overview of Its Philosophy and Practice*, by Dalai Lama
2. *The Meaning of Life from a Buddhist perspective*, by Dalai Lama
3. *Tibetan Buddhism from the Ground Up: A Practical Approach for Modern Life*, by Alan Wallace
4. *How to Meditate: A Practical Guide*, by Kathleen McDonald

The Journal of World History(con't)

In issue 2, Frances Karttunen and Alfred Crosby explore language change in world history, focusing on the death of languages but also on the birth of creole languages. Dennis Flynn and Arturo Giráldez emphasize the importance of silver in world trade, as seen from Manila. Colin Palmer surveys marriage records of black people, slave and free, in sixteenth-century Mexico, and Edmund Burke, III reviews the world-historical analysis of Marshall Hodgson.

Book reviews range *from Central Asia in World History to Nuclear Proliferation and the Future of Conflict* in issue 1, and from *A Green History of the World* to

The Industrial Revolution in World History in issue 2.

Each article is introduced with a clear abstract of about 150 words. Book reviews average 1000 words in length, long enough to provide good detail and evaluation on each book.

At a \$25 annual rate for individual subscriptions, the Journal of World History is one of the great bargains in academic journals.

Note to the Members

If you know of anyone who would be interested in joining NER-WHA, please let us know and we can send them a newsletter. Also, if you have any questions, comments, or ideas for future articles for the newsletter, please feel free to get in touch. You can reach us at (617-373-4060) Your article submissions are encouraged.

Dear member:

With the development of NER-WHA, we have decided to build a list of e-mail addresses of our members so that we can communicate with each other more efficiently. It will also allow us to hold on-line conferences of the NER-WHA. If you have an e-mail address already, please send it to me (Beimei Long) at

belong@lynx.neu.edu

**NEW ENGLAND REGIONAL
WORLD HISTORY ASSOCIATION
C/O DEPARTMENT OF HISTORY
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Vice-President	Gerald Herman
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Newsletter Editor	Beimei Long

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