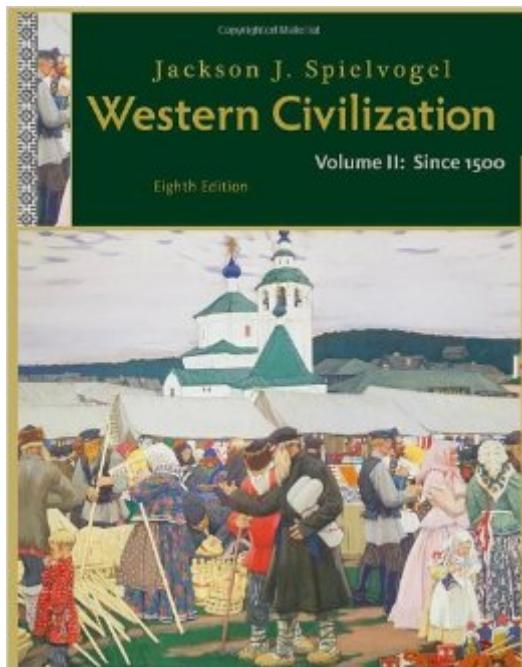


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# Western Civilization: Volume II: Since 1500



## **Synopsis**

Best-selling book WESTERN CIVILIZATION has helped over one million users learn about the present by exploring the past. Jackson Spielvogel's engaging, chronological narrative weaves the political, economic, social, religious, intellectual, cultural, and military aspects of history into a gripping story that is as memorable as it is instructive. The clear narrative of a single gifted author makes it easy to follow the story of Western civilization.

## **Book Information**

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## **Customer Reviews**

I purchased my first copy of this text several years from a college bookstore, not for a class, but because I picked it up, began browsing, and couldn't bear to put it down. Although textbooks are not usually written for pleasure reading, I've found Spielvogel's book to be truly well-written and efficiently designed. Maps, chronologies (timelines), and numerous illustrations and sidebars make the text inviting and accessible. One of my favorite features is the inclusion of excerpts from original source documents. It's fascinating to read the writings of a medieval merchant of Paris on the subject of marriage, or excerpts from the court record of the trial of Joan of Arc. It provides a vivid, memorable glimpse of life in a different place and time. I used this textbook to prepare for the Western Civilization CLEP, and I passed with no difficulty at all, earning 6 credits toward my bachelor's degree. Western Civ is a huge topic, and Dr. Spielvogel has done a terrific job of making it not only accessible, but enjoyable. I recommend this book!

This book is an excellent resource for preparing for the Western Civ. CLEP exam. There is a

website for the book that has review games and excercises (including my favorite flashcards) for each chapter. My daughter used this book in her freshman year of high school and enjoyed it a lot. She passed the exam with a 67! I recommend using REA's guides as well for the CLEP.

I actually love this book. First, I used it to prepare for the Western Civ 1 CLEP (I will be using it for Western Civ 2 CLEP, as well). I read once through with a hi-liter and then I did three practice tests from petersons.com. I passed the CLEP with a 70 (out of 80). Second, I found it to be very interesting!!! This author did such a good job of presenting a timeline, so that I could organize the ideas easily in my head. This is obviously necessary if you are to keep your facts straight. He did a better job than the history books I have read previously (high school mainly). He also took great care to regularly present the status of women, slaves and minorities (or oppressed majorities) throughout the book and even included very interesting blurbs of ancient writings to illustrate many of these things. I learned more about the status of WOMEN in the history of Western Civ, than I ever have in any other book before. And it was all there organized for me. I am a military history/studies major, and I have already used this book once to familiarize myself with the Punic Wars, for a project. It really helped me get a basic grip on it, and provided quite a bit of what I needed to know. I really like this book. ;)

Professor Emeritus Spielvogel has a unique teaching style that makes history interesting and captivating. This style is mirrored in this book. The text is enhanced by many diagrams, maps and charts. An annotated suggested reading list at the end of each chapter provides its readers with a strong base from which one can begin further research. "Western Civilization" is a very flexible book; it can be used on either the High School or College level and can easily be divided into different themes. If your purposes lead you to non-western areas of history, then try Spielvogel's "World History", co-author by Professor Emeritus William J. Duiker.

This book is one of the best 30 dollars that I have ever spent. It is full of chapter outlines, timelines, multiple choice, matching, and fill-in-the-blank review questions. Also has chronology tests and primary source analysis questions. The book follows Spielvogel's Western Civilization, and complements it perfectly. Many of the questions that I have seen on the tests at school are very similar to those in this book. This is THE BEST review tool for AP Euro history!

I used this text in my AP European History course. It is a great book. What I like about this book

especially is that it is very readable. I remember being amazed at how quickly I could read the text, and without having to struggle too much with it. I switched teachers for AP Euro halfway in the year. My first semester teacher had us read *The Western Heritage* by Kagan, and although Kagan is a relatively well-known scholar, the text was very difficult to comprehend, and it had too much information that I honestly didn't care about. *Western Civilization* is a great book for AP European History, or an equivalent college-level course in modern European history, because it is both readable and focuses on the information that's important for the exam. Of course, it's not possible to cover all of Western civilization in one book, but it's a great survey of modern European history. I didn't read the chapters on ancient Europe. I only read from the Renaissance on. So for those who are taking a college-level course in modern European history, I can't recommend this book more.

I bought this book based off of another person's review that this book was great for the CLEP exam. It is a great purchase, because it covers both tests. It was written in a very understandable way and the companion website was awesome. I really enjoyed this book and learned a lot about history. I passed both CLEP tests with the help of [speedyprep.com](http://speedyprep.com), but knowing the material is most helpful.

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