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### The Kingfisher History Encyclopedia

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Not Listed. *The Kingfisher History Encyclopedia*. Kingfisher, 2004. ISBN 0753457849. \$24.95.  
492 pp.

Reviewer: AnnMarie Hamar

Reading Level: Intermediate

Rating: Outstanding

Genre: Nonfiction;

Subject: World History--Reference; Books--Reviews;

This engrossing reference work is an updated and revised edition of the Kingfisher History Encyclopedia originally published in 1999. The book begins with a two-page introduction entitled, "What is History?" The text is then divided into ten sections, all in chronological order from the Ancient World, ca. 40,000 B.C., to the Modern World, 1950 to the present. Other section titles include the Middle Ages, the Renaissance, Revolution and Independence, and the World at War. A time line at the top of each double-page spread indicates, in red, where in world history the current chapter's events occurred. Each section covers a variety of topics from architecture to warfare, containing text boxes that list important dates. A particularly appealing aspect is that information on Chinese, Indian and Middle Eastern dynasties, historical periods that many young readers might not be very familiar with, are included. On each page are color and black-and-white photographs, maps, and ink and watercolor paintings, adding life to the text. The text is concise and direct, providing just enough information to encourage further reading and research. At the end of the text are chronologies listing kings and queens, presidents and prime ministers of most of the world's major countries. This encyclopedia was created by a production team of five editors with contributions submitted by twelve writers and two artists. The photographs of artwork come from such collections as the Bridgeman Art Library and Britain's Imperial War Museum. The Kingfisher History Encyclopedia should pique the interest of young readers and encourage them to read more on their own. It will make an outstanding addition to a reference library.