



Sexuality in World History (Themes in World History)

Peter N. Stearns

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'Expansive and accessible, Peter Stearns' *Sexuality in World History* offers a much needed introduction to histories of sexuality from a global perspective.' – *Mary Spongberg- Head of Department of Modern History, Macquarie University, USA*

This book examines sexuality in the past, and explores how it helps explain sexuality in the present. The subject of sexuality is often a controversial one, and exploring it through a world history perspective emphasises the extent to which societies, including our own, are still reacting to historical change through contemporary sexual behaviours, values, and debates.

The study uses a clear chronological structure to focus on major patterns and changes in sexuality – both sexual culture and sexual behaviours – in the main periods of world history, with comparison and discussion across cultures and societies. Topics covered include:

- issues involved in studying the history of sexuality
- the sexual implications of the transition from hunting and gathering economies to agricultural economies
- sexuality in Classical societies
- the post-Classical period and the spread of the world religions
- sex in an age of trade and colonies
- changes in sexual behaviours and sexual attitudes between 1750 and 1950
- sex in contemporary world history.

The book is a vital contribution to the study of world history, and is the perfect companion for all students of the history of sexuality.

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