While world history materials date back to prehistoric times, the field itself is relatively young. Indeed, when the first edition of Peter Stearns’s best-selling World History in Documents was published in 1998, world history was poised for explosive growth, with the College Board approving the AP world history curriculum in 2000, and the exam shortly thereafter. At the university level, survey world history courses are increasingly required for history majors, and graduate programs in world history are multiplying in the U.S. and overseas. World events have changed as rapidly as the field of world history itself, making the long-awaited second edition of World History in Documents especially timely. In addition to including a new preface, focusing on current trends in the field, Stearns has updated forty percent of the textbook, paying particular attention to global processes throughout history. The book also covers key events that have altered world history since the publication of the first edition, including terrorism, global consumerism, and environmental issues.

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Customer Reviews
What can I say about a disgruntled young student who does not like history or his professor and takes that out on a really excellent book? Stearns has done a wonderful job in this volume of gathering some very good and interesting primary sources in world history. I particularly liked the documents about women’s lives in various eras. The selections are thoughtful, the organization is effective, and it’s not overwhelming as it’s only a single volume. Very nice job, indeed, and worth considering as a supplementary reader for any world history course.
Seems like it will be a good book to use. Some of the history is really early and definitely explores less taught sections of the world. I haven't used it yet this year, it seems as though it would be more appropriate for a higher level class (collaborative would be challenge and college prep would probably work!) has some questions in it and I'm looking forward to using it next year!

This book is a great resource for teaching primary documents! Its a comparative reader with over 400 pages and even comes with questions for each document. What really sold me is the name, edited by Peter Stearns, author of World Civilizations. This book is most useful for teaching AP World History.

I've been using this book as a source for good primary readings to go with my AP World history course, the questions and comparisons are thought provoking, and require students to think about topics in new ways.

This compendium of documents edited by Peter Stearns offers more the the usual materials one finds in most primary source compilations. They are long enough to allow students to really dive into the text but not so long as to be tedious.

Nicely done counterpoints between historical places and times. I was familiar with the earlier edition and hoped that this would be even better. It was.

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