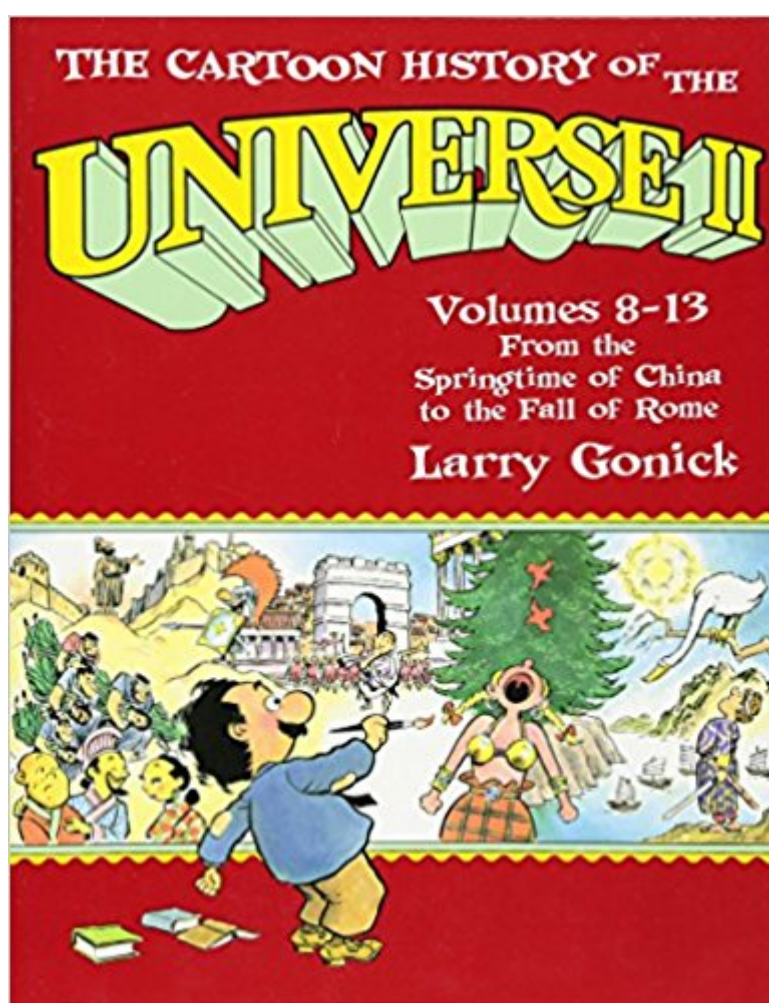


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# The Cartoon History Of The Universe II, Volumes 8-13: From The Springtime Of China To The Fall Of Rome (Pt.2)



## Synopsis

Here's a new installment of the phenomenal *Cartoon History of the Universe* that Publishers Weekly selected as one of the twelve graphic books of all time. Spanning ages and continents from Ancient India to Rome and China in A.D. 600, Volume II is hip, funny, and full of info. B & W illustrations.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

Continuing right where the first book left off, *The Cartoon History of the Universe II* once again combines Gonick's superb cartooning with the lessons of history. Find out what Lynn Johnston, creator of *For Better or Worse*, calls "a gift to those of us who love to laugh and who love to learn." Part II contains volumes 8 to 13, from the Springtime of China to the Fall of Rome (and India, too!).

Gonick has done it again with a diffuse but deep excavation into early civilizations from ancient China to the Germanic tribes. In some ways, Gonick asks a lot of American readership's occidental training by detailing every dynastic hotshot from the Orient. This also being a fertile time for the development of religious cults, Gonick spends much time on Christ (whom he insists on calling "Jeshua ben Joseph"), Confucius, (not, one might note, Lao Tsu or K'ung fu-tsze), Buddha and the like. Gonick's main focus is not to outline the contributions that allowed their teachings to survive the centuries, but rather to humanize them, and some come across as fanatical seekers simply looking for a following, a good meal, a wicked battle, a girlfriend or a shower. The artist's style is versatile and engaging, and his asides, puns and parenthetical references do much to keep the reader's

attention throughout this tome, but that cannot entirely make up for the fact that some of this history is just plain dry. However, aficionados of cartoon blood, backstabbing, sex and history will love this volume, and might find a place for it near their encyclopedias. Copyright 1994 Reed Business Information, Inc.

Among the comic strips for little ones and the graphic books (which are not 'comics' ... nothing comical in or about these) about well muscled super-heroes in tights for young readers in the US, this series is a gem. A class apart in style ... considering the content, especially. Again, in a country where ignorance is celebrated and knowledge is shunned (in general ... exceptions are there, of course), an overview of the vast history of humankind, in a palatable, interesting and humorous form, is a gem unlooked-for. As one critic said (and quoted somewhere on the book cover), it is better than most (all?!) school text books. And considering a comic strip, it has veritable gold mine of references of published history and research papers showing the fantastic effort and the extent of knowledge of the author. I would say it's the best gift that can be given to a school-age boy or girl (and any adult on any day). At a time of unrest and intolerance as the one we live in especially, a book like this that shows the connections and varieties human civilizations on different parts of the globe is a fantastic first step that can help one appreciate the variety and common grounds of humans all over the mother earth.

I'll start this by saying I absolutely love history. The first book (volumes 1-7) was amazing and it really captures the important things through time and explains them in a way that is both memorable and fun. My wife who isn't a big fan of your typical non-fiction history books really enjoyed this as well. Larry Gonick has done a tremendous job making cartoon history relate-able and interesting for even your casual history buff. I plan on completing my journey through history by getting the rest of Gonick's collection.

This was a gift for my 14 year old grandson. It was on his wish list and from all accounts, it was a big hit. Before I wrapped it for him, I took a look and was impressed with the artwork and the accuracy of the content. Highly recommend it and the rest of the series.

This book is consistently funny, and I appreciate the irreverent tone. It seems quite factually correct. My only problem is that it is so heavily focused on the history of the history of the rulers. Page upon page of palace intrigue gets tiresome. While it is interesting in a way that the basic

patterns are the same whether the palace is in Rome, China, India or Greece, after a while I got the feeling I was watching endless reruns of the same soap opera, just with different family names.

My visual artsy kid learns history. Reads and re-reads. Who am I kidding--I love it, too.

A refreshing, witty but equally well-documented and thoughtful account of history - for young and old students or adults alike !

Read it, learn, and gain from its amusement at humankind's unevolved, persistent duplicity and foolishness. As a statement on human vanity, this is more illustrative than Ecclesiastes, and more informative and assimilable than the books that (for some) it circumvents.

This book was really informative and fun to read. Yes I know everyone has a different point of view on history but please people, this book was fun for what it is---an enjoyable read and to get a different view point on history.

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