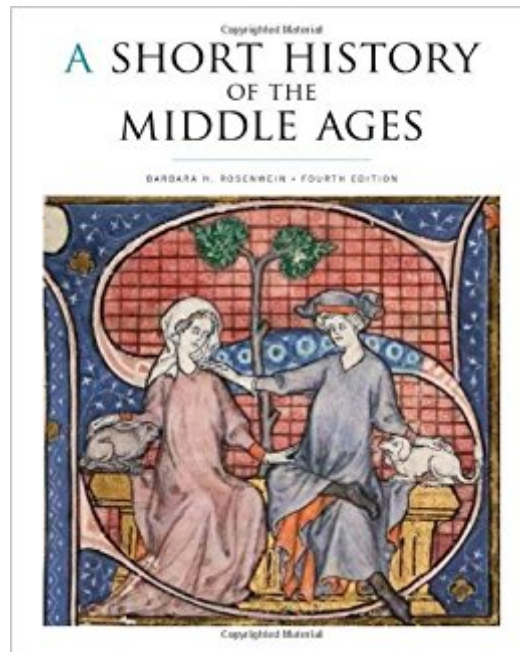


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# A Short History Of The Middle Ages, Fourth Edition



## Synopsis

Barbara H. Rosenwein's bestselling survey text continues to stand out by integrating the history of three medieval civilizations (European, Byzantine, and Islamic) in a lively narrative that is complemented beautifully by 70 full-color plates, 46 maps, and 13 genealogies, many of them new to this edition. The fourth edition begins with an essay entitled "Why the Middle Ages Matter Today," and the book now covers East Central Europe in some depth. This edition includes three "Seeing the Middle Ages" features, each discussing a work of art in depth: An Ivory Diptych of Christ and the Virgin, Saint Luke, Gospel Book of Otto III; and A Shrine Madonna. The sections for further reading have been updated, and ancillary materials, including study questions, can be found on the History Matters website ([www.utphistorymatters.com](http://www.utphistorymatters.com)).

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

The medieval world comes alive in this outstanding volume that engages students with a compelling historical narrative. Rosenwein's expert vision integrates exquisite illustrations and beautiful maps into a text that ably meets the instructor's academic demands. Well-researched and wide-ranging coverage of religious, cultural, regional, political, and social developments explode myths of a closed and colorless medieval world. *A Short History of the Middle Ages* is a real gem that blends utter readability with an impressive mastery of scholarship that will encourage further study. (Janice Liedl, Laurentian University) The latest edition of *A Short History of the Middle Ages* has everything you want in a medieval survey text: the narrative is pithy, the maps are plentiful, and visual culture is

fully integrated into the historical context with numerous, beautiful reproductions. Simplified genealogies are presented alongside the discussion of dynasties, as well as in the appendix, and there are useful summaries of key events at the end of each chapter. It is a rare gem of a book that is sure to satisfy the needs and please the minds of students and instructors. (Barbara E. Logan, University of Wyoming) A Short History of the Middle Ages fully embraces the eastern portions of the European continent and the wider context of the Byzantine and Muslim Mediterranean worlds, making Rosenwein's dynamic account of the fitful emergence of medieval Europe the best on the market. The wonderfully rendered illustrations are deployed as learning tools and are intimately integrated into the book's smart yet accessible narrative. Timelines, maps, genealogies, and the accompanying website enhance learning and teaching. (John J. Contreni, Purdue University)

Barbara H. Rosenwein is Professor in the Department of History at Loyola University Chicago. She is the author of several books, including *Emotional Communities in the Early Middle Ages* (2006), *Negotiating Space: Power, Restraint, and Privileges of Immunity in Early Medieval Europe* (1999), and *Reading the Middle Ages: Sources from Europe, Byzantium, and the Islamic World* (second edition, 2014).

This is a great introduction to medieval history in Europe and the Near East. Rosenwein starts with the fall of the Roman Empire and takes us all the way to the start of the high middle ages. Along the way we get the meat of the dark ages - one of the most interesting periods in my book. This book is very short for such breadth. The pace is incredibly rapid yet the book never feels rushed. The brevity is an asset - the book is easy and quick to read. It actually lives in our bathroom (!) Yet the tone is scholarly and even handed. There some very good content here. Focus is evenly split amongst Byzantine Greek, Islamic Arabia, North Africa & Al Andalus, and Europe. The most powerful insight Rosenwein gives us in that all these disparate cultures are the descendants of ancient Rome - each in their own unique but related ways. There are timelines and family trees with successions of kings. These listings are not comprehensive, but give you a good taste. The book is beautifully illustrated. This isn't the meal - but rather an exquisite appetizer. Recommended.

My knowledge of history isn't the greatest but this book made it quite easy to learn a lot. It was easy to follow along and quite honestly better than any course or any other book out there.

A pleasure to read. I didn't want to put it down. The arrangement of the material was helpful to see

the connections between events and movements. I highly recommend it.

Bought this for a college course I was taking ... this is a great place to purchase textbooks, I saved so much money! Books arrived very quickly and exactly as described. No complaints here!

needed it for class

the maps are great! For a quick intro this book is great! it is easy to read and pretty enjoyable.

I appreciate this book more with each reading. It is good to start off with. As the author writes in the introduction, some people want a short history of the middle ages. After reading the book the first time, I wanted more, and so I read several other books. When I came back to review, I realize that every sentence is important. The author has done an amazing job of outlining the forest without getting tangled up in the trees.

This was a text book for a Medieval Europe course. It was accompanied by Rosenwein's Reading the Middle Ages as well. Both proved to give me a good general picture of the time period and Rosenwein delivers a balanced approach to allow the reader to see what the time period really showcased. This time period was anything but dark and sleepy and the tumultuous events are what made the Renaissance possible.

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