

instructors of history will find his work an excellent tool to prepare for their first semester of teaching.

Georgia Highlands College

Bronson Long

Jules R. Benjamin. *A Student's Guide to History*. Tenth ed. Boston: Bedford/St. Martin's, 2007. Pp. 288. Paper, \$23.13; ISBN-13: 978-0-312-44674-1.

Jules Benjamin articulately provides a history student with a new best friend. *A Student's Guide to History* is a nonthreatening, interesting, and useful guide for students to become successful scholars of history. His "cut to the chase" writing style organizes topics in a concise and logical manner, giving examples to elaborate on the topics presented. The chapters are appropriately designed to follow a history course from the beginning of a semester to test taking, formal research, and research paper composition.

A Student's Guide to History's major theme is scholarship and is conveyed throughout five chapters. It identifies history in broad terms, discussing historians' rationalizations and interpretations of history, including a thorough examination of primary and secondary resources. It is a "how to" guide for success in a history course, discussing appropriate note-taking devices, location of main themes in reading assignments, and a comprehensive approach to preparing for different styles of exams. Benjamin emphasizes the significance of writing in a history course and outlines two distinct accomplishments for learning writing skills: "... it demonstrates that your thinking about a subject is logical [and] ... it enables you to convey to your readers in a convincing way exactly what you want them to understand." Utilizing the skills of writing, chapters four and five collaboratively prepare the student to compose a research paper. The chapters concentrate on thesis, themes, collecting resources, interpretation of primary and secondary resources, and plagiarism. Clear writing is the main objective for student success in generating a scholarly research paper. Throughout the text, Benjamin includes references Appendix A and B to assist students with research. Both list useful "indexes, references, collections, periodicals and hundreds of print and electronic resources ... including local and family history."

Benjamin expands the tenth edition to include new material throughout the text. But the most important contribution is his ability to comply with the digital age that "reflects the changing needs of history students." The most useful addition to *A Student's Guide to History* is the in-depth discussions on web-based research and helpful web references for student investigation of a topic. The coverage includes online historical dictionaries, newspapers, public documents, and resources in United States and world history. The exclusive online list is categorized in Appendix A and B. These resources are referenced and explained throughout the text to offer students more insight and clarification of online research.

A Student's Guide to History is a versatile tool for diverse levels of history students. A history instructor can use this book as a supplement in a college course or use it for independent lessons over the writing process. I would also suggest using the text in middle and high schools. Students at the secondary level would benefit from learning the fundamental writing skills taught in the text and I would highly recommend this text in an Advanced Placement United States History course to facilitate with DBQs and Free Response essays. All professors and history teachers should own a copy to complement their instruction. This text is a complete handbook for all students and when applied can make a history student a success.

University of Oklahoma

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Ambrosio Bembo. *The Travels and Journal of Ambrosio Bembo.* Edited by Anthony Welch and translated by Clara Bargellini. Berkeley: University of California Press, 2007. Pp. 470. Paper, \$24.95; ISBN 978-0-520-24939-4.

The Travels and Journal of Ambrosio Bembo is a seventeenth-century travelogue that offers contemporary readers an uncommon glimpse into the culture and civilization of Western Asia and India over three hundred years ago. Born in 1652 to a distinguished Venetian family, Ambrosio Bembo served in the Venetian navy and took part in several wars before completing his term of service. With military life behind him, Bembo left Venice in 1671 at the age of nineteen to follow the route of Pietro della Valle, another celebrated seventeenth-century traveler from Venice. Bembo's nearly four-year journey took him from Italy to Cyprus and across the Ottoman Empire, down the Tigris River to Baghdad and the Persian Gulf, and onto the western coast of India by sea, going as far south as Portuguese Goa. His return journey followed much the same route, apart from veering further east and traveling through seventeenth-century Iran.

Bembo composed an account of his observations from notes and memories after his return and thus the reader can rely only upon the personal veracity and accuracy of the author. Nonetheless, the 2007 edition of Bembo's journal is the first English-language translation and, thanks to the work of translator Clara Bargellini and editor Anthony Welch, is a highly readable, albeit lengthy, primary source book in history. The voluminous footnotes, which appear at the bottom of nearly every page, add considerable information and clarity to the often obscure terms and references used by Bembo.

For teachers of world or Middle Eastern history, the book has considerable value if used wisely and is most definitely worth reading. This reviewer, who teaches world history at the university level, is inclined to believe that the book, owing to its length and specialized subject matter, is likely too advanced for high school history students and possibly even for college freshmen. The use of excerpts from the book, if the