

## Food in Global History

### GLOBAL HISTORY SERIES

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### Global History

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Social scientists study food in many different ways. Historians have most often studied the history of specific foods; anthropologists have emphasized the role of food in religious rituals and group identities; sociologists have looked primarily at food as an indicator of social class and a factor in social ties; and nutritionists have focused on changing patterns of consumption and applied medical knowledge to study the effects of diet on public health. Other scholars have studied the economic and political connections surrounding commerce in food. Here these perspectives are brought together in a single volume.

Fifteen specialists currently working in Canada, England, France, Guatemala, Norway, and the United States apply their expert knowledge of food and food consumption in a new context - global history. They build on the latest research, much of it their own, to reflect on the connections across space and time in what people eat and also to identify major, global patterns of change over time and in this global era.

The book begins with a chapter exploring the relationship between food and global history. Part One treats the ecology of food production, the impact of New World foods on India and China, the effects of global tourism, and the interaction between identity, migration, and diet.

Part Two studies the impact of public policy, comparing the countries of the former Soviet bloc with Scandinavia and Western Europe, analyzing the effects of international assistance on West Africa, and assessing changes in childhood nutrition in developing countries.

Part Three investigates nutritional change, the dietary effects of increased wealth, and the 'Mad Cow' crisis in terms of global systems.

Part Four relates global change to the ideologies and practices of the family meal, of food and cultural identity in Japan, and the American counterculture.