



The Story of the World: History for the Classical Child: Volume 3, Early Modern Times - From Elizabeth the First to the Forty-Niners

Susan Wise Bauer , Jim Weiss (Narrator)

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History will never be the same again!

This spirited reading of the first in Susan Wise Bauer's *Story of the World* history series brings to life the stories and records of the peoples of ancient times.

Now more than ever, other countries and customs affect our everyday lives-and our children need to learn about the people who live all around the globe. Susan Wise Bauer has provided a captivating guide to the history of the ancient world. Written in an engaging, straightforward manner, *The Story of the World* weaves world history into a storybook format. This volume covers the major historical events from the years 1600 to 1850'from Elizabeth I to the gold rush in California.

This *Story of the World* audiobook is a collaboration between Jim Weiss, whose voice has been described as "liquid gold" (CNN-TV), and Susan Wise Bauer, whose writing has been described as "timeless and intelligent" (*Publishers Weekly*). It may be used along with the print books (*The Story of the World* Volume 3 Text Book, Activity Book, and Tests; each sold separately), as a supplement to a traditional history curriculum, or independently. Approximately 11 hours on 9 CDs.

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The Story of the World: History for the Classical Child: Volume 3, Early Modern Times - From Elizabeth the First to the Forty-Niners Details

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(Narrator)

From Reader Review The Story of the World: History for the Classical Child: Volume 3, Early Modern Times - From Elizabeth the First to the Forty-Niners for online ebook

Amanda says

My favorite history curriculum for children in grade school. I LOVE the activity book that can be purchased. Fun activities! The stories are interesting and perfect to introduce children to the world that came before them.

Brandon Choi says

Its so boring in my opinion. Ends with a cliffhanger :(

Jo says

I read this a little bit each day over a long period of time. It was good! If you ignore the constant use of exclamation marks. often in inappropriate places! Every second sentence in some places!

But this was a good overview of history around the world, in context, because you're jumping from place to place in roughly chronological order. So you see why France wanted to sell its Louisiana territories because you know what's happening in France and Europe and the Americas. I would recommend it to anyone who felt like they got shortchanged by their history classes. It filled in the gaps that my high school and university studies didn't cover. Read a short chapter each day and you'll get a sense for how things played out.

Also, now I can make jokes about throwing my dog out the window when she pisses me off and call it the "defenestration of pug" and feel smart

Kevin Hughes says

I'm sorry to say this book was a disappointment. I was really pleased with the first two in the series, which present a relatively comprehensive world history narrative that is accessible and appropriate for young children.

Unfortunately, the author chose to write this volume at a higher grade level than the first two, and I understand that the fourth and last volume is more difficult still. That would be forgivable, even understandable -- but in addition to the reading level, the later volumes are a lot more explicit about the evil and violence in human history. Compared to what this series might have been, that choice is heartbreaking.

I really don't get it. This is coming from the very same person who wrote "the book" on classical homeschool education, which includes discussing the advantages of having everyone in the house studying the same historical period. So if your fourth grader is studying modern history, have your first grader do modern history as well, even if he hasn't done ancient history yet. That's fine in theory but with this set of books what

it means is you have to read ahead and censor out violence as you read. Which is tricky at best. (And keep in mind that if you're reading aloud to a first grader, there's probably younger kids listening in.)

There's a lot to like in this book... but it could have been something much better and much more useful. Maybe some day another person with Susan Wise Bauer's skills will actually write a four-volume world history for children and do it right. We can hope.

Amy says

Reading this book was our major accomplishment of the summer. It did so much to expand our worldview and help us see how historical events fit together. We especially enjoyed making a timeline to go along with it. Full review here: <http://www.sunlitpages.com/2015/09/th...>

Becca says

My kids beg for more every day when we finish our lesson from Bauer's *The Story of the World* series. Well-written, engaging, and full of information, I have not found a better overview of history for elementary students.

Amanda says

Not as strong as the earlier volumes and frustratingly non-secular.

Catherine says

This is another excellent volume in the Story of the World Series, but there is one error I would like to point out. In chapter 29 Bauer writes that Napoleon convinced the pope to change the Catechism of the Catholic Church to say that anyone who fails to honor their emperor is headed for eternal damnation. As I understand it, Napoleon convinced a French bishop to add something like that to a French edition of a catechism. Still not good but quite a bit different than an action done by a pope, which would carry with it a universal authority. Napoleon actually had the Popes during his reign imprisoned because they would not do what he wanted. This chapter needs more clarification.

Otherwise, we enjoyed this book, however it is inappropriate for children under eight due to the many violent and tragic events discussed, like slave revolts and the trail of tears.

Katie says

Our family uses a more in-depth history curriculum, but we love SOTW audiobooks to listen to as go-alongs in the car. Great reminders and seriously great listening even if you are not doing it "for school." These

would be great to listen to just for some good road-trip entertainment.

Ebookwormy1 says

Once again, I have to start a review of Susan Wise Bauer's excellent world history for children, in this case, Volume 3: Early Modern Times, by saying I don't agree with all that she has written. Nonetheless, I am happy with our plan to listen to her audio production of these books for preschool. Volume 3 also reinforces my perception that the closer we get to modern times, the more there is to argue about in terms of Bauer's presentation. Obviously, there is a lot more source material for Volumes 3 and 4, and the problems of our day are often encountered in embryonic form in Volume 3 "Early Modern Times."

There is a quote, often attributed to Winston Churchill (though I'm not sure it originated with him), "History is written by the victors." What is interesting to me about the current state of instruction in Western Civilization is that the victors (those of the West) have initiated a systematic mea culpa in Western Civics instruction. This is strange, and seems unprecedented that a culture would censure itself to this degree. I agree we need to look at our history critically, but I don't agree with the tearing down of the foundations of our culture as a form of repentance or even reconciliation. And while we should strive for improvement in all things, I still think America is the best thing going on this planet today.

There are strains of this trend in "Early Modern Times." Perhaps the most vivid example I can recall occurs early in the program. We are given an engaging story about a young South American boy working in a Spanish mine. The impression is the problem of slavery emerged with the Spanish in the Americas. However, the problem of slavery was indeed present long before Spain entered the Americas (though no one will deny the discovery of the new world gave the practice a new open market). In fact, I am currently reading a book called "Slavery: A World History" that describes the conditions of ROMAN mines in SPAIN and documents how Rome, the greatest civilization our planet has ever known (at least in terms of longevity) maintained the largest slave market in the world. Yet slavery in Rome (though there were stories that included slaves as characters) was never mentioned as a significant concern. Of course, space is an issue with this concern and others, but I want to give my children an opportunity to see the big picture, and snapping up slavery with the Spanish (whose unique contribution to the slavery concern were priests and settlers who for the first time questioned the morality of the slave system) seems lacking.

Finally, while Bauer covers the political and societal relationships of the church, she doesn't provide Church History, and this was a disappointment to me and something I am looking for an elementary and beyond program to fill out.

And yet, how much we have learned! Myself included. Going through this history another time has helped me make new connections and develop new understandings. It is also challenging me regarding how little my world can become. In conclusion, this is an excellent history supplement, but I would refrain from using it exclusively.

The Story of the World: Modern Age, Wise Bauer, 2005
<https://www.goodreads.com/review/show...>

Adam Calvert says

Written in the same style and pace of the first two, this is another great installment for The Story of the World series. Jim Weiss does another superb job in reading the text as it was meant to be - a story for children. And yet, adults can enjoy and learn just as much from it. Looking forward to the last book.

Peter Lee says

Really awesome history book ever~! History, from my school days, has been boring subject to me, but this book changed my wrong idea about history as a whole. Reading this book is like listening to the story-telling about very interesting ancient historical events.. I'd like to recommend this book to my little kids while I should move on to the 4th series of this book.

Sarah says

Unfortunately, I've survived to adulthood with an embarrassing lack of historical knowledge. Not even my liberal arts general education university classes taught me history. Now that I'm homeschooling, I needed at least a basic understanding. THIS BOOK HAS BEEN FANTASTIC FOR THAT PURPOSE. I obviously can't assess its accuracy, but my husband and I have thoroughly enjoyed the overview of all of world history and the way Bauer offers perspective and some repetition. We talk about the books frequently, and I'm thrilled that basic pieces of history, tiny little references from daily life, are finally substantive for me.

I really needed an historical framework or overview, and this simple, engaging book has been ideal for that purpose. Now, when I read other specific books, I have a context to fit them into and a way to mentally file the information. I'm excited to share this series with my son when he's ready. Actually, with all the discussion between my husband and me, he's learning and hearing a lot of it already.

Elizabeth says

We had to turn this back to the library before we were finished. I like that it covered various parts of the world but this one seemed to be war after war after war. And the majority over religion. So good to know but maybe not the most entertaining on summer drives.

R. C. says

This is a history of the movement of nations rather than the world-changing ideas of individuals. I suppose I was spoiled for that by Genevieve Foster (who wrote Augustus Caesar's World and others with similar titles) and Poland and Haaren (Famous Men of the Middle Ages). Story of the World titles are very interesting and readable tales of empire building, but I'm afraid the children raised on them will come away thinking the end purpose of humanity according to humanity is to own more land, rule more people, or secure the kingdom for your children. I know some rulers were amoral greedfreaks, but some of them were idealists, and Bauer

doesn't inform our kids either way. I suppose that's in keeping with her neo-classical pedagogy. Can't have those kids making moral evaluations before they're ready! I disagree with this idea.

I don't want to be completely unfair. In previous titles, the author has briefly noted that mythology has an impact on history (in Egypt, for example). In this one, she takes a chapter to establish the idea of "the western world." But taking a moment out of the narrative here and there to say, by the way, this idea had a consequence for all of humankind, is different from looking routinely at the ideas of the individuals who have passed the human world forward. The former says, "How funky these ideas were!" and the latter says, "Your ideas matter."

But I'm going to use this book anyway, not just out of habit (we've used the first two in the series for the past two years) but because it's effective. So far, each year, on the first day I've assigned a chapter from the book, my kid has run off to the bottom bunk with it and emerged two hours later saying, "I accidentally read the whole book." We go through the comprehension questions orally, randomly choosing here and there from various chapters, and sure enough, the kid has seemingly retained every bit. It's not my kid; she can't do that with novels; it's that the author is a master storyteller. It takes some kick-butt English skills to say, "So he decided to start a war to take the land he wanted," over and over and over again in new and interesting ways each time.

To accomplish an understanding of the spirit of an era and the ideas of individuals that caused the gears of history to turn the way they did (and to fill in the rest of our school year, since the textbook is absorbed the first week), I'll toss some historical fiction my kid's way, and a whole bunch of biographies and adaptations of period literature. But as a spine, a foundation upon which to build historical understanding, there isn't anything better for this age group. Nothing covering the whole round world, that is.
