

WINDOWS ON THE WORLD BACKGROUND

History

AFRICA

West Africa *Dahomey (modern Benin)* Despotic and militaristic state founded by the Fon people, starting in seventeenth century, around Abomey; expanded north and to the Slave Coast to the south; enriched by slave trade; standing army with a female contingent; forced by British to give up slave trade (1852), though evaded in practice; France seized capital Porto-Novo and control of trade (1863); King Glele (r. 1858–89) drove out French merchants in 1889; Glele's heir, Behanzin (r. 1889–94) resisted the French and was ousted; made French protectorate (1894).

AMERICAS

Latin America *Mexico* A republic (1824); lost Texas (1836); lost war with the United States, 1846–48, and ceded to the United States Upper California, New Mexico, parts of north Mexico; ruled by emperor Maximilian, a puppet of France, 1864–67; the term *Latin America* dates from this era; military dictatorship of Porfirio Díaz (r. 1877–80, 1884–1911); foreigners exploited mineral wealth; rural peons lost communal lands and sank into debt. *Peru* Independence (1824); destabilized by military's attempts to seize power—a recurrent theme in Peru's history; lost War of the Pacific (1879–83) to Chile. Stability, after 1895 social and economic reforms.

Native North America *Plains* The Navaho had moved from Canada to plains (northwest New Mexico, Arizona, and Southeast Utah), 900–1200; farming and herding; no central tribal control; small bands under a headman; adopted rug making and dry-sand painting from Pueblo and Hopi; learned silversmithing from Mexican smiths (1853); agreed to settle on New Mexico reservation in 1865. The Apache had moved to the plains in about 1000; tribal system similar to Navaho; hunting, gathering, raiding; wars with federal troops, 1858–85, led by Victorio, Geronimo, and others; moved to reservations (1913).

ASIA

China *Ch'ing Dynasty* Closed to world, except for Canton, from 1760; break up of China began; after first Opium war, forced to cede Hong Kong to British and open five treaty ports, 1842; lost East Siberia to Russia, 1860; after war, lost

Korea, Taiwan, and Penghu to Japan, 1895; lease of Kiaochow to Germany (1898) led to scramble among Westerners for more concessions.

India *Mogul Dynasty, ended 1858* British acquired Malabar Coast (1792), Kanara (1799), Carnatic (1801), Orissa (1803), and Maratha lands; East India Company's monopoly on trade abolished (1813); annexed Burma, 1826–86; Sind (1843), Punjab (1849), Berar (1853), Nagpur (1854), Oudh (1856). *British Crown, began 1858* By 1887, the parts of India not under direct British rule were protected states, under native rulers, with varying degrees of independence.

Japan *Edo period, ended 1867* Nagasaki, only port open to foreign (Dutch and Chinese) trade, 1641–1868; Dutch acted as an embassy of Western culture. Edo had one million population, one of world's largest cities. *Meiji Restoration, began 1868* Emperor resumed direct rule; quickly assimilated to values of Western civilization; Edo renamed Tokyo; developed as cultural and industrial city.

Culture

AFRICA

West Africa *Dahomey: Warrior Figure (Bocio)* This splendid life-size sculpture by Akati Ekplekendo is made from sheets of iron and represents Gun, the Fon god of iron and war. One of the greatest achievements of modern African art, it has a powerful presence, at once both modern and primitive.

Latin America *Mexico: View of the Valley of Mexico from Hill of Santa Isabel* José María Velasco, working in the Realist style, painted a panoramic view of the Valley of Mexico. By focusing on a distinctive local scene, the artist was responding to the nationalistic spirit that had been reshaping Western culture in the nineteenth century. Velasco also was the teacher of Diego Rivera, who later founded the Muralist School, which put Mexican art on the international map. *Interior Courtyard, School of Mines, Mexico City* The School of Mines was built by Manuel Tolsá in the Neoclassical style with Greek and Roman features (Doric columns on first floor and Ionic columns on second floor), balustrades, and decorative urns. The choice of Neoclassicism brought Mexico into line with the Neoclassical style that was flourishing in Europe in about 1800.

ASIA

China *Ch'ing Dynasty: Young Woman at a Window with Plum Blossoms* Ren Bonian (1840–95), also known as Ren Yi, was one of China's outstanding artists of the nineteenth century. Born in Chekiang, he moved to Shanghai where he was a leading member of the White Lotus Society. He tended to use ink and color and

his style was bold and fluid. In this painting, Ren Bonian worked in a traditional format (hanging scroll) but chose a subject (a young beauty gazing out a window) more in keeping with the subjects of commercial art.

Japan *Edo period: Mt. Fuji* This print, taken from a suite of thirty-six, is typical of Hokusai's series in that it depicts Japan's sacred mountain as a backdrop to ordinary life. He observed Mount Fuji in all weathers and in differing lights. He depicted foreground images drawn from the world he knew, in this instance a fishing scene. Hokusai learned perspective from the Dutch in Nagasaki. Bank of Japan The architect Tatsuno Kingo helped introduce Western style architecture to Japan with buildings such as the Bank of Japan, built in an Italian Renaissance style.