



The Impact of Coincidence in Modern American, British, and Asian History

Twenty-One Unusual Historical Events

By *Bruce A. Elleman*

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In 21 short case studies, this short book examines the distinctive coincidental history of America, Britain, and various Asian countries during the twentieth century. It covers a wide range of historical events, from American expansion into the Pacific to the creation of the Soviet gulags in Siberia to the end of the Vietnam War. Its main goal is to show how watershed historical events can often become layered or overlap each other, sometimes by intent but often merely by happenstance. As Ian Fleming once famously opined about actions in war: "Once is happenstance. Twice is a coincidence. Three times is enemy action."

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Bruce A. Elleman received his BA from UC Berkeley in 1982, his MA in 1984, a master of philosophy degree in 1987, an East Asian Certificate in 1988, and his Ph.D. in 1993 at Columbia University. In addition, he completed a master of sciences degree at the London School of Economics in 1985, and a master of arts in national security and strategic studies (with distinction) at the Naval War College, Newport, Rhode Island, in 2004.

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