Pacific Histories
Ocean, Land, People
Edited by DAVID ARMITAGE & ALISON BASHFORD

With breathtaking range and sophistication, this volume investigates a subject as vast as the ocean itself—the intertwined stories, transits, peoples, and systems that embody Pacific histories. An extraordinary achievement.’—David Igler, author of The Great Ocean: Pacific Worlds from Captain Cook to the Gold Rush

‘Pacific Histories offers more than a dozen new perspectives from a fertile blend of authors whose diverse viewpoints and consistent insights flow together into what might well be the best introduction to Pacific history to date.’—J.R. McNeill, Georgetown University

This is the first comprehensive volume to bring together the histories of the Pacific Islands, the Pacific Rim and the Pacific Ocean. A distinguished international team of historians provides a multidimensional account of the Pacific, its inhabitants and the lands within and around it—from the first human migrations to the present.

The book covers the Pacific from Russia to Antarctica and from Southeast Asia to Central America, with close attention to the peoples of Oceania. It introduces the Pacific’s multiple pasts, before examining major themes in Pacific history: the connections created by the environment, migration and the economy; religious, legal and scientific ways of knowing; and the identities expressed in ideas and practices of race, gender and politics.


Afterword by Matt K. Matsuda.

DAVID ARMITAGE is the Lloyd C. Blankfein Professor of History at Harvard University.

ALISON BASHFORD is the Vere Harmsworth Professor of Imperial and Naval History at the University of Cambridge.