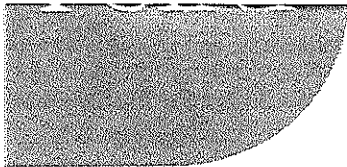


**Slingshot snipers:** Opposition demonstrators use slingshots against security forces in a protest in the town of San Cristobal in Venezuela. It's part of a continuing wave of protests against the government of President Nicolas Maduro. On Wednesday, UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon and Pope Francis called for an end to the violence that has killed at least 13 people and urged politicians to take the lead in calming the nation's worst unrest in a decade. However, the opposition appears intent on forcing Maduro to step down. Photo: Reuters



## A top barrister takes on world history

MY  
TAKE



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Real-life courtrooms have none of the drama you see on television. But when I was a court reporter, there were a few times when it was almost interesting to watch when a barrister showed both intellect and flair.

One of them is Warren Chan Chee-hoi, SC, one of the city's most senior barristers. It turns out he is also a scholar, a distinguished historian no less. He has now published a two-volume bilingual history of the world, from 450BC to 1911.

Though highly idiosyncratic, *All Kinds of Everything* is the kind of book I wish I had when I first went to college as a teenager. It used to be that well-taught youngsters would have gone to university with

significant cultural and linguistic competence. Now, in Hong Kong and elsewhere, many start with a clean slate. It's difficult to absorb subjects in the humanities if you don't know the history behind them. Chan's book would have armed a young person with that knowledge.

At a time when the teaching of Chinese history on the mainland has been profoundly nationalistic and Hong Kong people are worried it is being imported here, Chan offers a general history that is both uniquely Chinese and universal. And when countries in the region are making belligerent territorial claims and counterclaims, their citizens need a historical understanding of their relations to restrain their leaders. This book should help fill a myopic void.

The chapters in both volumes adopt the periodisation of China's

dynastic history. The first volume follows 16 dynastic periods. But interestingly, the second volume on world history has the same table of contents, because Chan charts what happened around the world during each of those Chinese dynasties. In other words, it is written from a Chinese perspective, but with a global view. For example, he pairs the rise and fall of the Umayyad and Abbasid caliphates in Islam with the Tang dynasty.

There are many world history books, but to my knowledge, none was written this way. At a time when historians are as specialised as everyone in other academic fields, you really need to earn your living outside of academia to dare write what in the trade is derisively called "universal history".

Chan's book deserves a wide audience, in China and elsewhere.

I could have sworn I read  
in the New York Times  
that the 'tea party'  
was dead

US SENATOR TED CRUZ ON THE FIFTH  
ANNIVERSARY OF THE TEA PARTY  
MOVEMENT  
> WORLD A15



She's going to have a  
long golfing career,  
hopefully she's going  
to have a lot of great  
years. It doesn't have to  
happen in the first one

LPGA COMMISSIONER MIKE WHAN ON  
LYDIA KO TURNING PRO  
> SPORT C8

WEATHER