



# On Paper: The Everything of Its Two-Thousand-Year History (Ala Notable Books for Adults)

*Nicholas A. Basbanes*

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**A Best Book of the Year:** *Mother Jones, Bloomberg News, National Post, Kirkus Reviews*

A consideration of all things paper—its invention that revolutionized human civilization; its thousand-fold uses (and misuses), proliferation, and sweeping influence on society; its makers, shapers, collectors, and pulpers—written by the admired cultural historian and author of the trilogy on all things book-related: *A Gentle Madness; Patience and Fortitude* (“How could any intelligent, literate person not just love this book?”—Simon Winchester); and *A Splendor of Letters* (“Elegant, wry, and humane”—André Bernard, *New York Observer*).

Nicholas Basbanes writes about paper, from its invention in China two thousand years ago to its ideal means, recording the thoughts of Islamic scholars and mathematicians that made the Middle East a center of intellectual energy; from Europe, by way of Spain in the twelfth century and Italy in the thirteenth at the time of the Renaissance, to North America and the rest of the inhabited world.

Basbanes writes about the ways in which paper has been used to record history, make laws, conduct business, and establish identities . . . He makes clear that without paper, modern hygienic practice would be unimaginable; that as currency, people will do almost anything to possess it . . . that the Industrial Revolution would never have happened without paper on which to draw designs and blueprints.

We see paper’s crucial role in the unfolding of historical events, political scandals, and sensational trials: how the American Revolution which took shape with the Battle of Lexington and Concord, began with the Stamp Act of 1765 . . . the Dreyfus Affair and the forged memorandum known as “the bordereau” . . . America’s entry into World War I with the Zimmerman Telegram . . . the Alger Hiss spy case and Whittaker Chambers’s testimony involving the notorious Pumpkin Papers . . . Daniel Ellsberg’s release of the Pentagon Papers in 1971 and the scandal of Watergate.

Basbanes writes of his travels to get to the source of the story—to China, along the Burma Road, and to Japan, whose handmade paper, washi, is as much an expression of the human spirit as it is of craftsmanship . . . to Landover, Maryland, home of the National Security Agency and its one hundred million ultra secret documents, pulped by cryptologists and sent to be recycled as pizza boxes and egg cartons . . . to the Crane Paper mill of Dalton, Massachusetts, a seventh-generation family-owned enterprise, the exclusive supplier of paper for American currency since 1879 . . . and to the Kimberly-Clark mill in New Milford, Connecticut, manufacturer daily of one million boxes of Kleenex tissue and as many rolls of Scott kitchen towels.

Entertaining, illuminating, irresistible, a book that masterfully guides us through paper’s inseparability from human culture . . .

*From the Hardcover edition.*

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#### **Spencer Fuentes:**

People live in this new time of lifestyle always attempt to and must have the extra time or they will get lots of stress from both day to day life and work. So , whenever we ask do people have spare time, we will say absolutely yes. People is human not a robot. Then we ask again, what kind of activity are there when the spare time coming to a person of course your answer will certainly unlimited right. Then do you try this one, reading textbooks. It can be your alternative in spending your spare time, often the book you have read is On Paper: The Everything of Its Two-Thousand-Year History (Ala Notable Books for Adults).

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Playing with family in a park, coming to see the coastal world or hanging out with friends is thing that usually you have done when you have spare time, after that why you don't try matter that really opposite from that. Just one activity that make you not experience tired but still relaxing, trilling like on roller coaster you are ride on and with addition associated with. Even you love On Paper: The Everything of Its Two-Thousand-Year History (Ala Notable Books for Adults), you are able to enjoy both. It is great combination right, you still need to miss it? What kind of hang-out type is it? Oh seriously its mind hangout folks. What? Still don't have it, oh come on its identified as reading friends.

#### **Ruth Coleman:**

In this time globalization it is important to someone to find information. The information will make someone to understand the condition of the world. The condition of the world makes the information much easier to share. You can find a lot of sources to get information example: internet, magazine, book, and soon. You can view that now, a lot of publisher in which print many kinds of book. Typically the book that recommended to you is On Paper: The Everything of Its Two-Thousand-Year History (Ala Notable Books for Adults) this guide consist a lot of the information of the condition of this world now. That book was represented how do the world has grown up. The terminology styles that writer use for explain it is easy to understand. The writer made some exploration when he makes this book. That's why this book acceptable all of you.

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