

## **Diego Olstein. A Brief History of Now**

This project explores a global history of the last 170 years based on the interplay between five main variables: technological innovation, economic globalization, hegemonic world order, political regimes, and socio-economic inequality. The resulting synthetic overview portrays a global trajectory in which world societies experienced two waves of economic globalization (1851-1929 and 1976-onwards) coincidental with two hegemonic world orders (based on British and American hegemonies respectively), and two fundamental technological breakthroughs (the industrial revolution and the information revolution). Both of these waves of globalization, world hegemony, and technological innovation coincided with the proliferation of democratic regimes (the so called first and third waves of democracy) and growing socio-economic inequalities within and between societies whereas the period of economic de-globalization, lack of a single world hegemon, and less fundamentally revolutionizing technology (1929-1976) overlapped with waves of authoritarian and revisionist regimes as well as a shrinking in socio-economic inequalities.

**DIEGO OLSTEIN (AKA DIEGO HOLSTEIN)**, PhD. Hebrew University of Jerusalem, 2003; Professor, Department of History, University of Pittsburgh.

Professor Olstein's fields of research are Medieval Spain and World History. In his first book, *La Era Mozárabe (1085-1315)*, he analyzed the economic conflicts and cultural clashes as well the processes of integration and acculturation that followed the Castilian conquest of Toledo (1085). His second book *Thinking History Globally* organizes the ways for thinking beyond national and regional boundaries into four strategies: comparing, connecting, conceptualizing, and contextualizing. This book defines, explains, and exemplifies twelve transboundaries branches of history (comparative, relational, international, transnational, oceanic, global, world, and big histories, historical sociology, civilizational analysis, world-system approach, and history of globalization). He has published thirty additional publications on Medieval Spain and World History and taught or lectured on these subjects throughout North and Latin America, Europe, Israel, India, China, Korea, Japan, Singapore, and Australia. He is currently working on globalization and hegemony in world history.