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'Encounters' examines the forces that shape and narrate encounters between societies, from the ancient to the early modern period. The canvas on which these interactions will be examined stretches from the North Atlantic to Asia with particular focus on encounters between societies with divergent social, political, and economic characteristics. Examining this asymmetrical interaction, from Roman imperialism in Europe to the Spanish conquest of the New World, provides an opportunity to illuminate the manner in which the actuality of the encounters, and the manner in which they are represented in the historical record, reinforce hegemonic narratives of control and dominance.