

About the Author



Corinne Lathrop Gilb spent her childhood on ranches and farms in Alberta, Canada and in eastern Washington. She developed an interest in world travel at an early age. Because her grandparents taught her that her earliest known paternal ancestor had gone to England with William the Conqueror in 1066 and that her earliest American paternal ancestor was one of the group of Puritans at Cambridge University in the late 16th century who later founded Massachusetts Bay Colony (he became pastor of the church that backed the sailing of the Mayflower to America in 1620), her sense of selfhood became closely linked to an interest in history. She grew up to become a professional historian.

After obtaining a master's degree from the University of California at Berkeley and attending law school there for three years, she completed her interdisciplinary Ph.D. in the History of American Civilization at Radcliffe-Harvard. Her early academic career, divided between research institutes at the University of California, Berkeley and teaching in the Bay Area, introduced her to a wider range of academic disciplines and perspectives. These she sought to combine into a holistic view of history. Interested in public policy, she was frequently invited to give public lectures and she became a consultant to the California legislature. Her book, *Hidden Hierarchies: The Professions and Government*, published by Harper and Row in 1966, was still selling on Amazon.com and barnesandnoble.com in 2003. Her other publications are referenced throughout this present book.

After a trip around the world in 1963 and research in Europe in 1968 financed by a Guggenheim Fellowship, she began teaching history at Wayne State University in Detroit, intrigued by the juxtaposition of the global auto industry and a vocal black community. Because her husband was an executive at Simpson Company, headquartered in San Leandro, California, and because she commuted between Berkeley and Detroit, she intended to stay in Detroit only a few years. Nevertheless, she soon became deeply involved in the life of the university and the city and became director of the city's planning department in the city's difficult years between 1979 and 1985. When time permitted, she continued her world traveling. For example, in 1989 she was at the PacRim conference in Hong Kong which accompanied the formation of the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation Community.

While she was a visiting scholar at the Hoover Institute at Stanford University in the fall of 1993, she was part of a delegation of California lawyers and judges who consulted with high officials in Vietnam about Vietnamese commercial law in advance of the restoration of u.s.-Vietnamese diplomatic relations. Attracted by the vitality of Silicon Valley in the 1990s, she and her husband bought a home in Atherton (just north of Menlo Park and Stanford). She began working closely with the Silicon Valley Global Trading Center (later called the Silicon Valley Defense/Space Consortium) and served at the annual meetings of Non-Governmental Organizations at the United Nations as a representative of the International Organization for the Unification of Terminological Neologisms (headquartered in Poland and dedicated to making newly-coined scientific and technological words uniform around the world to facilitate participation in the global scientific community). She also continued her regimen of research, writing, travel, and public speaking.