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The World's Department Store

Globalization Through Objects from the 18th Century to Today

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From the banjo to the smartphone, by way of the flag and the telescope, Pierre Singaravélou and Sylvain Venayre take us on a remarkable stroll across three centuries through the "world's department store."

From hammocks to shampoo, from surfing to the piano, everyday objects reveal a hidden global history. Edited by Pierre Singaravélou and Sylvain Venayre, nearly ninety historians explore three centuries of circulation, power, and cultural exchange through objects that are sometimes ordinary and sometimes unsettling. From flip-flops to yellow vests, from sex toys to plastic bottles, this scholarly yet playful journey offers a fresh perspective on globalization – its violence, its dreams, and its limits. A captivating dive into the world's great department store.
