

A History Of World Societies Volume 2

John P Mckay

A Comprehensive Look at **A History of World Societies Volume 2** by John P. McKay a **history of world societies volume 2 john p mckay** stands as a cornerstone text for anyone interested in understanding the complex tapestry of global history from roughly 1500 to the present. This volume, authored by John P. McKay and his collaborators, offers readers a detailed yet accessible narrative that traces the political, economic, social, and cultural developments that have shaped the modern world. Whether you're a history student, educator, or simply a curious reader, this book provides a rich foundation to explore how societies across continents have interacted and evolved over centuries.

Why **A History of World Societies Volume 2 Is a Vital Resource**

When diving into world history, it's easy to get overwhelmed by the sheer scope of events, figures, and movements. What makes **A History of World Societies Volume 2** particularly valuable is its balanced approach that avoids Eurocentric bias and instead emphasizes global interconnectedness. John P. McKay, along with his co-authors, meticulously weaves stories from Europe, Asia, Africa, and the Americas, highlighting the interactions and exchanges that define world societies.

Comprehensive Coverage of the Early Modern Era to Contemporary Times

This volume picks up where the first left off, covering the early modern period starting around 1500—a pivotal moment marked by the rise of European exploration and colonization, the expansion of trade networks, and the dawn of new political ideologies. It continues through the Industrial Revolution, imperialism, world wars, and the dramatic social transformations of the 20th century. By spanning such a broad time frame, readers gain a deep understanding of how events in one part of the world influenced developments elsewhere.

Inclusion of Diverse Perspectives

One of the standout features of the book is its attention to voices and experiences often marginalized in traditional history textbooks. For example, it delves into the impact of colonialism not only from the perspective of European powers but also from those

colonized, including indigenous peoples and enslaved communities. This holistic portrayal helps readers appreciate the complexities of historical change and the enduring legacies of past actions.

Understanding the Structure and Content of the Book

The structure of **A History of World Societies Volume 2** is designed to facilitate both classroom learning and independent study. Its clear chronological organization, paired with thematic explorations, allows readers to follow the flow of history while also examining specific topics in depth.

Chronological Framework with Thematic Insights

The book divides history into manageable chapters, each focusing on a particular era or region, but within those chapters, it explores themes such as the development of political institutions, economic systems, cultural movements, and social hierarchies. This method helps readers see patterns and connections across time and space, making the historical narrative more coherent and engaging.

Use of Primary Sources and Visual Aids

To enrich understanding, McKay incorporates numerous primary source excerpts, maps, charts, and images. These elements bring history to life, offering direct glimpses into the thoughts, beliefs, and daily experiences of people from different periods. For students, this is especially helpful in developing critical thinking skills by analyzing original documents alongside the textbook narrative.

How **A History of World Societies Volume 2 Supports Learning and Teaching**

Whether you're preparing for exams, writing essays, or simply aiming to broaden your knowledge, this volume offers tools and features that enhance the learning experience.

Clear and Engaging Writing Style

John P. McKay's writing strikes a balance between scholarly rigor and readability. The prose is clear and conversational, making complex topics accessible without oversimplifying. This invites readers to stay engaged and encourages curiosity about historical processes.

Pedagogical Features and Study Aids

The book includes helpful summaries at the end of chapters, review questions, and

suggested readings. These features reinforce comprehension and enable readers to test their knowledge or explore further. Additionally, many editions come with online resources or companion websites offering quizzes, timelines, and interactive maps.

Versatility Across Educational Levels

While primarily used in college-level courses on world history, **A History of World Societies Volume 2** is also suitable for advanced high school classes or anyone interested in a thorough introduction to global history. Its comprehensive scope and engaging approach make it adaptable for different learning contexts.

Insights into John P. McKay's Approach to World History

John P. McKay, a respected historian specializing in modern European history, brings a distinctive voice to the text. His academic expertise and dedication to balanced storytelling shine through in the book's content and structure.

Emphasis on Connectivity and Interaction

Rather than presenting history as isolated national stories, McKay emphasizes the interconnectedness of societies. From the Columbian Exchange to the spread of industrialization and global conflicts, the book illustrates how events and ideas crossed borders, influencing diverse peoples.

Attention to Social and Cultural Dimensions

Beyond politics and economics, McKay dedicates substantial attention to cultural expressions, religious movements, gender roles, and social hierarchies. This holistic perspective enriches the narrative and encourages readers to appreciate history as a multifaceted human experience.

Tips for Getting the Most Out of **A History of World Societies Volume 2**

If you're embarking on reading or studying this text, here are some practical tips to enhance your experience:

1. **Take Notes on Themes:** Focus not only on dates and events but also on recurring themes such as imperialism, revolution, or cultural exchange. This helps build a framework for understanding historical patterns.
2. **Engage with Primary Sources:** Spend time reading and reflecting on the excerpts provided. They offer valuable insights into contemporary perspectives and help

develop critical analysis skills.

3. **Use Visual Aids Actively:** Don't just glance at maps or images; try to interpret what they reveal about geography, trade routes, or social structures.
4. **Review Chapter Summaries:** Summaries and review questions are great tools for reinforcing your comprehension and preparing for exams or discussions.
5. **Connect Past to Present:** Try to relate historical developments to current global issues. This not only deepens understanding but also makes history more relevant and engaging.

Exploring *A History of World Societies Volume 2* by John P. McKay opens doors to a richer appreciation of the world's past, highlighting the dynamic forces that continue to shape societies today. Its thoughtful blend of narrative, analysis, and primary materials invites readers to embark on a journey through centuries of interconnected human stories.

A History of World Societies Volume 2: An Expert Analysis by John P. McKay

John P. McKay's *A History of World Societies Volume 2* stands as a definitive scholarly monument in the study of global social evolution, synthesizing complex historical trajectories across civilizations with unprecedented depth and analytical rigor. This article offers a comprehensive, SEO-optimized deep dive into the core themes, structural innovations, methodological breakthroughs, and enduring relevance of McKay's seminal work. It is engineered to dominate search intent for students, researchers, educators, and policy analysts seeking authoritative, nuanced, and comprehensive understanding of human societal development from antiquity through pre-industrial complexity.

Introduction: The Foundational Vision of Volume 2

McKay's *A History of World Societies Volume 2* is not merely a chronological survey of civilizations; it is a multidimensional exploration of the mechanisms, drivers, and outcomes of societal transformation. Designed with both academic precision and broad accessibility, the volume interrogates how economic systems, political structures, cultural paradigms, and technological innovations co-evolved across Eurasia, Africa, the Americas, and Oceania. McKay's framework moves beyond linear progress narratives, emphasizing contingency, adaptation, and interconnectivity. This article dissects the volume's theoretical underpinnings, empirical foundations, and enduring scholarly contributions, positioning it as a cornerstone resource for anyone mastering the long-term dynamics of world societies.

Core Theoretical Framework and Methodological Innovations

At its core, Volume 2 is anchored in a hybrid theoretical model integrating cultural materialism, world-systems theory, and comparative historical sociology. McKay rejects deterministic models, instead emphasizing adaptive strategies in response to environmental, demographic, and technological pressures. The volume's methodology is distinguished by its multi-scalar analysis—combining micro-level ethnographic insights with macro-level systemic patterns—enabling a granular yet holistic understanding of societal change.

McKay introduces the concept of “societal resonance,” a mechanism describing how cultural practices and institutional forms gain stability and influence through alignment with ecological constraints and social needs. This concept is applied rigorously across case studies, from early agrarian villages to imperial state formations. Furthermore, the volume pioneers the use of cross-cultural typologies that avoid Eurocentric bias, incorporating non-Western epistemologies and agency-driven narratives. These innovations elevate the work beyond traditional periodization frameworks, offering a dynamic, non-teleological lens through which to interpret global history.

Chronological and Civilizational Survey: From Neolithic Foundations to Pre-Industrial Complexity

Volume 2 traces humanity's societal evolution through six major epochs, each defined by transformative innovations and systemic shifts. The Neolithic Revolution is examined not as a singular event but as a mosaic of localized transitions, emphasizing variable timelines and socio-ecological drivers. McKay details the emergence of sedentism, surplus production, and stratified social orders, underscoring regional diversity in agricultural adoption and communal organization.

The urbanization phase—spanning Mesopotamia, the Indus Valley, Mesoamerica, and the Yellow River basin—is analyzed through institutional evolution, trade networks, and early statecraft. McKay's comparative approach reveals convergent developments in bureaucratic administration and legal cod

****A History of World Societies Volume 2 John P McKay: An In-Depth Review and Analysis**** **a history of world societies volume 2 john p mckay** stands as a significant contribution to the field of world history education. As the second volume in the acclaimed series, this textbook offers a comprehensive examination of global societies from the early modern period through the contemporary era. Authored by John P. McKay alongside co-authors Bennett D. Hill, John Buckler, Patricia Buckley Ebrey, Roger B. Beck, Clare Haru Crowston, Merry E. Wiesner-Hanks, and Joe Perry, this volume is widely used in academic settings for its balanced narrative, scholarly rigor, and accessible prose. In this article, we will delve into the key attributes of *A History of World Societies Volume 2 John P McKay*, evaluate its pedagogical strengths and

weaknesses, and explore why it remains a popular choice among students and educators alike. We will also consider its place within the broader spectrum of world history textbooks and how it addresses evolving trends in historiography.

Comprehensive Coverage of Global History

One of the primary strengths of **A History of World Societies Volume 2* John P McKay* is its expansive scope. The textbook covers a vast timeline, generally starting from around 1500 CE and extending into the 21st century. This period captures the emergence of the early modern world, the age of exploration, the rise of imperialism, revolutions, industrialization, and the complex dynamics of the globalized modern era. Unlike more Eurocentric history textbooks, this volume emphasizes a truly global perspective. It integrates the histories of Africa, Asia, the Americas, and Oceania alongside European and Middle Eastern narratives, offering students a multifaceted understanding of interconnected societies. This approach aligns with contemporary shifts in world history pedagogy that prioritize cross-cultural interactions and global processes rather than isolated national histories.

Balanced Narrative and Thematic Organization

The authors employ a thematic organization that allows for both chronological progression and thematic exploration. Topics such as state-building, economic systems, cultural exchanges, and social transformations recur throughout the chapters, providing coherent threads that help students grasp large-scale historical patterns. This thematic treatment is complemented by detailed case studies and primary source excerpts, which enrich the narrative and encourage critical thinking. For instance, students encounter firsthand accounts from individuals living through major events such as the Atlantic revolutions or the colonial encounters in Southeast Asia. These primary documents serve as invaluable tools for engaging with historical evidence directly.

Pedagogical Features and Accessibility

Designed specifically for undergraduate courses, **A History of World Societies Volume 2* John P McKay* incorporates numerous pedagogical features that enhance learning outcomes. These include:

1. **Maps and Visual Aids:** Carefully curated maps, charts, and images clarify complex developments like trade networks, migration patterns, and military campaigns.
2. **Chapter Summaries and Review Questions:** Each chapter concludes with concise summaries and thought-provoking questions that reinforce key concepts and facilitate classroom discussions.
3. **Glossaries and Timelines:** These tools assist students in mastering essential vocabulary and situating events within a broader temporal context.

The language throughout the book strikes a balance between scholarly precision and readability, making it accessible to students who may be encountering world history for the first time. Furthermore, the inclusion of diverse voices and perspectives helps to challenge dominant narratives and fosters a more inclusive understanding of the past.

Comparisons with Other World History Textbooks

When juxtaposed with other leading textbooks such as **The Earth and Its Peoples** by Richard Bulliet or **Traditions & Encounters** by Jerry Bentley, **A History of World Societies Volume 2 John P McKay** distinguishes itself through its narrative style and emphasis on societies as dynamic entities shaped by internal and external forces. While **The Earth and Its Peoples** often highlights environmental and technological factors, and **Traditions & Encounters** focuses on cross-cultural interactions, McKay's volume meticulously balances social, political, and economic histories. This makes it particularly suited for courses aiming to explore the complexity of societal changes without overemphasizing any single dimension.

Critical Perspectives and Potential Limitations

Despite its many strengths, some critiques have been raised regarding **A History of World Societies Volume 2 John P McKay**. A few educators note that the breadth of content sometimes leads to condensed treatment of certain regions or events, potentially glossing over intricate local histories. For example, while the book covers major African empires and colonial experiences, some argue that it could further deepen its exploration of indigenous perspectives and post-colonial developments. Additionally, the textbook's structure, while generally effective, occasionally presents challenges for students who prefer strictly chronological narratives. The interplay between thematic and temporal organization demands a certain level of engagement and flexibility, which may require supplementary guidance from instructors.

Adaptability and Digital Resources

In the digital age, textbooks must often extend beyond print to include online resources that complement traditional study methods. **A History of World Societies Volume 2 John P McKay** has kept pace with this trend by offering access to digital platforms containing interactive timelines, quizzes, and additional readings. These resources enhance student engagement and provide instructors with versatile teaching tools. Moreover, the textbook's frequent updates ensure that recent scholarship and contemporary global developments—such as the impacts of globalization and recent political shifts—are incorporated. This ongoing revision process helps maintain the book's relevance in an ever-evolving academic landscape.

Why Choose A History of World Societies Volume 2 John P McKay?

Educators seeking a world history textbook that combines depth, breadth, and inclusivity often find *A History of World Societies Volume 2 John P McKay* a compelling choice. Its global perspective, coupled with a balanced approach to political, social, and economic history, offers students a nuanced understanding of world events. For students, this volume serves not only as a repository of factual information but also as a gateway into critical historical inquiry. The integration of primary sources and thematic analysis encourages learners to think beyond memorization and engage with history as a dynamic and contested field.

1. **Strengths:** Comprehensive coverage, global inclusiveness, thematic organization, strong pedagogical features.
2. **Weaknesses:** Occasionally condensed regional coverage, complex narrative structure requiring active engagement.

In comparison to alternative textbooks, McKay's volume scores highly in delivering a well-rounded and accessible narrative that appeals to a diverse student body. Its ability to connect past societies to contemporary global issues further enhances its educational value. In sum, *A History of World Societies Volume 2 John P McKay* exemplifies the evolving nature of world history as a discipline—embracing complexity, encouraging critical thinking, and fostering a global outlook that transcends traditional historiographical boundaries. As world history courses continue to adapt to new scholarly insights and pedagogical demands, this volume remains a relevant and authoritative resource in the classroom.

In the modern educational landscape, downloading **A History Of World Societies Volume 2 John P Mckay** represents more than just a technological convenience—it reflects a meaningful shift in how people seek, absorb, and apply knowledge. Not long ago, access to quality information was limited by physical availability, financial constraints, or geographic location. Today, digital formats have quietly removed many of those barriers, allowing learning to happen in ways that feel more natural, flexible, and personal.

One of the most noticeable changes brought by digital access is ease of use. With just a few clicks, readers can download **A History Of World Societies Volume 2 John P Mckay** and begin exploring its content immediately. There is no waiting period, no dependency on library schedules, and no concern about physical stock. This immediacy supports modern learning habits, where information is often needed quickly—whether for a project deadline, professional task, or personal curiosity.

Convenience plays a central role in why digital books have become so widely adopted. PDF formats allow users to read on laptops, tablets, or smartphones, adapting easily to different environments. Some people read during quiet evenings at home, others during commutes or short breaks throughout the day. Having **A History Of World Societies Volume 2 John P Mckay** available across devices makes learning feel less like a scheduled task and more like an integrated part of everyday life.

Affordability is another reason digital resources continue to grow in popularity. Many downloadable books and academic materials are available for free or at a significantly lower cost than printed editions. For students, independent learners, and professionals alike, this removes a common obstacle to continuous education. Access to **A History Of World Societies Volume 2 John P Mckay** without excessive cost encourages exploration, experimentation, and deeper engagement with new ideas.

Interactivity also sets digital formats apart. PDF versions of **A History Of World Societies Volume 2 John P Mckay** allow readers to highlight important passages, add personal notes, bookmark sections, and search for specific keywords. These features support a more active form of reading. Instead of passively moving from page to page, readers can interact with the material, revisit key concepts, and connect ideas more effectively. This makes learning both efficient and more enjoyable.

The ability to search within a document often becomes invaluable over time. When working with complex topics or extensive content, readers can quickly locate relevant sections without interrupting their flow. This efficiency supports better comprehension and saves time, especially for academic or professional use. Digital access turns **A History Of World Societies Volume 2 John P Mckay** into a practical reference, not just a one-time read.

Of course, access to digital content works best when supported by trustworthy platforms. Well-known resources such as Project Gutenberg, Open Library, Free-Ebooks.net, and the Internet Archive provide legal access to a wide range of books and documents. For academic needs, platforms like JSTOR and Academia.edu offer peer-reviewed articles and research papers that add depth and credibility. Using these sources ensures that downloading **A History Of World Societies Volume 2 John P Mckay** remains both ethical and secure.

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Digital resources also make it easier to approach topics from multiple perspectives. Readers can compare ideas across different books, articles, and disciplines without leaving their devices. Engaging with **A History Of World Societies Volume 2 John P Mckay** alongside related materials helps develop critical thinking and a more balanced understanding of complex subjects. This habit of comparison strengthens analytical skills and encourages thoughtful reflection.

Curiosity often grows when access feels effortless. When information is readily available, learners are more inclined to ask questions, explore unfamiliar topics, and follow intellectual interests wherever they lead. Digital access to **A History Of World Societies Volume 2 John P Mckay** supports this natural curiosity, making learning feel less intimidating and more inviting.

For students, downloadable books provide practical advantages that support academic success. Offline access allows uninterrupted study, while annotation tools help organize thoughts and prepare for exams or assignments. For professionals, having **A History Of World Societies Volume 2 John P Mckay** readily available means quick reference, skill development, and informed decision-making without unnecessary delays.

Digital organization further enhances the experience. Files can be categorized, stored securely, and retrieved instantly when needed. Compared to managing physical books, digital libraries offer clarity and efficiency, helping learners focus on content rather than logistics.

Accessibility is another meaningful benefit. Many PDF readers support adjustable text sizes, text-to-speech functions, and screen reader compatibility. These features help ensure that **A History Of World Societies Volume 2 John P Mckay** can be accessed by readers with different needs, supporting more inclusive learning experiences.

Environmental considerations also play a role. Digital books reduce the need for printing, shipping, and physical storage. While technology itself has an environmental footprint, the shift toward digital resources represents a more efficient way to distribute knowledge on a large scale.

Perhaps most importantly, digital access connects learners globally. Downloading ***A History Of World Societies Volume 2 John P McKay*** allows people from different cultures, backgrounds, and locations to engage with the same ideas. This shared access encourages dialogue, collaboration, and mutual understanding, strengthening the global learning community.

In conclusion, the digital availability of ***A History Of World Societies Volume 2 John P McKay*** empowers learners in a way that feels practical, human, and forward-looking. Through convenience, affordability, interactivity, and ethical access, digital books support meaningful learning experiences. When used responsibly through trusted platforms, ***A History Of World Societies Volume 2 John P McKay*** becomes more than just a downloadable file—it becomes a companion for continuous growth, curiosity, and intellectual development.

A History of World Societies Volume 2: Unraveling the Fabric of Global Civilization Through John P. McKay's Lens

In the annals of scholarly publication, few works have exerted a foundational influence on the understanding of human societies across time and space as John P. McKay's *A History of World Societies Volume 2*. Published in the early 2000s, this two-volume magnum opus emerged at a pivotal moment—when postcolonial critique had reshaped academic discourse, globalization accelerated, and digital archives began to democratize access to primary sources. McKay's synthesis transcends conventional periodization, weaving a narrative that traces the deep structural continuities and ruptures shaping civilizations from pre-industrial agrarian cores to the emergent multipolar order of the 21st century. His work is not merely a chronological recounting of empires and revolutions; it is a deep anatomical study of societal evolution, grounded in political economy, cultural anthropology, and technological transformation. At its core, Volume 2 reframes world history not as a linear progression toward Western modernity, but as a complex, interwoven tapestry of adaptation, resistance, and innovation. McKay meticulously unpacks the origins of state formation in Mesopotamia, the Nile Valley, the Indus Basin, and Mesoamerica—not as isolated cradles of civilization, but as dynamic systems responding to environmental constraints, resource distribution, and social stratification. His analysis of early urbanism reveals how temple economies and bureaucratic centralization in Sumer were not just administrative innovations, but socio-religious constructs that legitimized power through cosmological order. McKay's treatment of irrigation-based agriculture as both a material and ideological foundation underscores a recurring theme: control over water and land as the ultimate determinants of societal resilience. The geopolitical context of McKay's

methodology is critical. Writing amidst the post-Cold War reconfiguration of global power, he situates the rise and fall of empires—Achaemenid Persia, Han China, the Abbasid Caliphate—within broader patterns of connectivity and fragmentation. These empires, he argues, were not merely political entities but socio-technical networks: systems of trade, communication, and ideological diffusion that prefigured modern globalization. The Silk Road, for instance, was not just a conduit for silk and spices, but a vector for religious syncretism, technological transfer, and disease ecology—elements McKay shows were instrumental in shaping demographic and cultural landscapes across Eurasia. His mapping of these networks avoids Eurocentric teleology, instead emphasizing lateral exchanges between the Islamic world, Sub-Saharan Africa, and South Asia as equal engines of historical change. Economically, Volume 2 offers a granular examination of pre-industrial modes of production and exchange. McKay dismantles the myth of stagnation in pre-capitalist societies, revealing sophisticated systems of credit, labor organization, and commodity circulation long before the factory system. In discussing the medieval Islamic world, he highlights the institutional sophistication of **waqf** (charitable endowments) and **mudarabah** (profit-sharing partnerships) as proto-capitalist mechanisms that enabled large-scale investment in infrastructure and urban development. Similarly, his analysis of Ming China’s market revolution underscores the role of state fiscal reforms, silver inflows from the Americas, and maritime trade

Questions & Answers About a history of world societies volume 2 john p mckay

No	Question	Answer
1	What is 'A History of World Societies Volume 2' by John P. McKay about?	It is a comprehensive textbook that covers the history of world societies from 1500 to the present, focusing on global interactions and cultural, political, and economic developments.
2	Who is the author John P. McKay?	John P. McKay is a historian and professor known for his work in world history and for co-authoring the widely used textbook series 'A History of World Societies.'
3	Which time period does Volume 2 of 'A History of World Societies' cover?	Volume 2 covers the period from 1500 to the present, highlighting major historical events and trends in world societies during this era.
4	How is 'A History of World Societies Volume 2' structured?	The book is organized thematically and chronologically, integrating political, social, cultural, and economic history to provide a global perspective on world societies.

5	What makes 'A History of World Societies Volume 2' a popular textbook for history courses?	Its comprehensive coverage, clear writing, and incorporation of diverse perspectives from around the world make it a popular choice for college-level world history courses.
6	Are there any supplementary materials available with 'A History of World Societies Volume 2'?	Yes, the textbook often comes with supplementary materials such as online resources, study guides, and access to digital platforms for enhanced learning.
7	Has 'A History of World Societies Volume 2' been updated recently?	The textbook has multiple editions, with updates reflecting the latest scholarship and pedagogical improvements; users should check for the most recent edition for updated content.
8	Can 'A History of World Societies Volume 2' be used for self-study?	Yes, the book's clear explanations and comprehensive coverage make it suitable for self-study by individuals interested in world history.
9	What are some key themes emphasized in 'A History of World Societies Volume 2'?	Key themes include globalization, cultural exchange, imperialism, revolutions, industrialization, and the development of modern nation-states.

history of world societies, John P. McKay, volume 2, world history textbook, McKay history book, global history, social history, historical societies, world civilizations, history education

A History Of World Societies Volume 2 John P McKay eBook Resource

A History Of World Societies Volume 2 John P McKay eBooks provide structured digital knowledge.

Core Discussion

Digital books help readers maintain productivity.

Practical Use

A History Of World Societies Volume 2 John P McKay eBooks support consistent study routines.

Conclusion

Digital reading improves access to information.

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A History Of World Societies Volume 2 John P Mckay eBooks help bridge the gap between theory and applied knowledge.

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A History Of World Societies Volume 2 John P Mckay eBooks encourage self-paced

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Professionals rely on A History Of World Societies Volume 2 John P Mckay eBooks to maintain relevance in rapidly evolving industries.

Digital learning through A History Of World Societies Volume 2 John P Mckay eBooks aligns well with modern productivity systems and digital note-taking tools.

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Final thoughts on the benefits of eBooks like A History Of World Societies Volume 2 John P Mckay

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