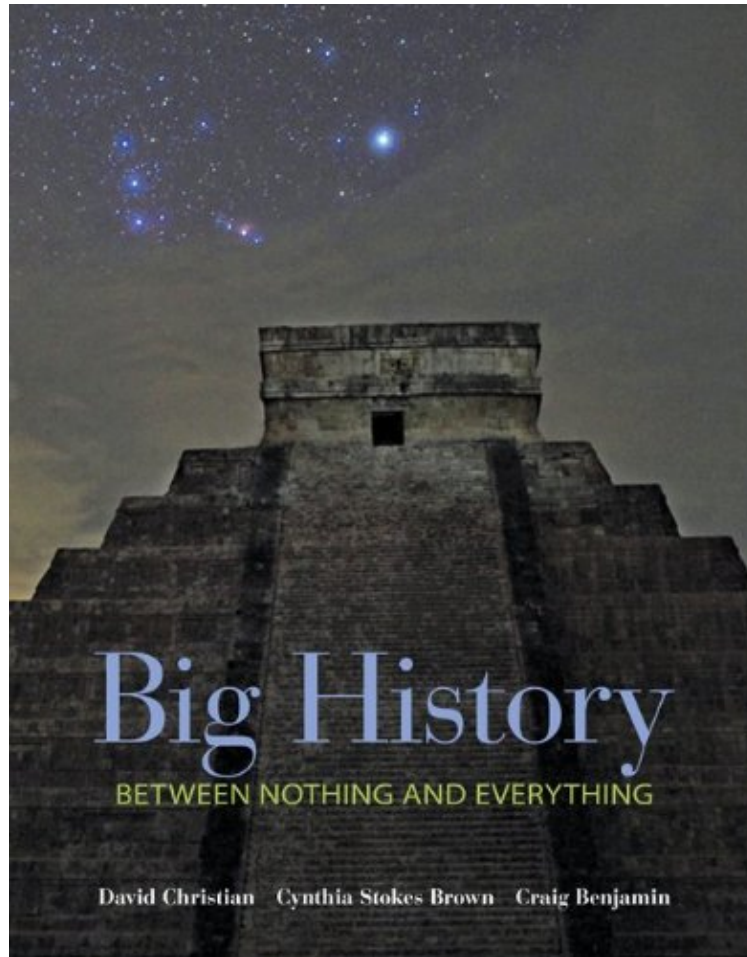


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Big History: Between Nothing and Everything

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David Christian, Cynthia Brown, Craig Benjamin : Big History: Between Nothing and Everything before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Big History: Between Nothing and Everything:

7 of 7 people found the following review helpful. What you have inherited from the past 13.82 billion years.By Lowell GustafsonAlong with Cynthia Brown and Craig Benjamin, David Christian draws on physics, astronomy, chemistry, biology, anthropology, and other fields to tell the coherent, evidence based story of the stages from the Big Bang 13.82 billion years ago until now, with reasoned expectations for the future. It places the written record of the human past within the natural record of the entire past. The periods of the past are embedded now in what we are made of and how we are made. The common origin of everything in a singularity of infinite heat and density without mass, of all life on earth from the Last Universal Common Ancestor, of all humans from a sturdy band of Africans about 200,000 years ago is a powerful story. You are made of hydrogen atoms that were likely formed soon after the Big Bang and carbon that was formed in a star at least five billion years ago. The gold in the ring on your finger was made in a supernova.

Our inheritance from the past is profound - and the authors explain it all well. 2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. Goldilocks for History By Michael Adams This is the way I would have loved to be introduced to History as a youngster, to paraphrase Bill Gates. The study of history has reached a Goldilocks threshold, a phrase often used by David Christian, where it is possible to integrate all physical sciences into History because of the remarkable modern means developed to date almost everything in our universe. Above all the authors have made their subject matter accessible and interesting. 1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Totally five star textbook on Big History By Dem If you are interested in the so called "Big History" i.e. from Nothing (Big Bang) to Everything (today) then this is the place to start. A very readable textbook that introduces to this vast subject. Very clearly written but based on the best current scientific knowledge that humanity has acquired. The photos, tables etc are very helpful. It is a totally five star textbook (my only grudge being that like most textbooks it is a bit pricey).

Big History: Between Nothing and Everything surveys the past not just of humanity, or even of planet Earth, but of the entire universe. In reading this book instructors and students will retrace a voyage that began 13.7 billion years ago with the Big Bang and the appearance of the universe. Big history incorporates findings from cosmology, earth and life sciences, and human history, and assembles them into a single, universal historical narrative of our universe and of our place within it. The first edition of *Big History: Between Nothing and Everything*, is written by the pioneers of the field, and presents a framework for learning about anything and everything. It encourages students to think critically about our cumulative history and the future of the world through a variety of lenses. Instructors and students can now access their course content through the Connect digital learning platform by purchasing either standalone Connect access or a bundle of print and Connect access. McGraw-Hill Connect is a subscription-based learning service accessible online through your personal computer or tablet. Choose this option if your instructor will require Connect to be used in the course. Your subscription to Connect includes the following: SmartBook - an adaptive digital version of the course textbook that personalizes your reading experience based on how well you are learning the content. Access to your instructors homework assignments, quizzes, syllabus, notes, reminders, and other important files for the course. Progress dashboards that quickly show how you are performing on your assignments and tips for improvement. The option to purchase (for a small fee) a print version of the book. This binder-ready, loose-leaf version includes free shipping. Complete system requirements to use Connect can be found here: <http://www.mheducation.com/highered/platforms/connect/training-support-students.html>

About the Author DAVID CHRISTIAN (DPhil, Oxford University) is by training a historian of Russia and the Soviet Union. He has spent most of his career at Macquarie University in Sydney, Australia, apart from an eight-year period teaching at San Diego State University from 2001 to 2008. Christian has published histories of modern Russia and also a study of the role of the trade in vodka in nineteenth-century Russia. In 1998, he published *A History of Russia, Central Asia and Mongolia*, the first volume in the Blackwell History of the World Series. He began teaching courses on big history in 1989 at Macquarie University. He first used the phrase big history for such courses in an article published in the *Journal of World History* in 1991 titled *The Case for Big History*. In 2010, with Bill Gates, he founded the Big History Project, which is building a free online high school course in big history due for release in late 2013. Christian is a member of the Australian Academy of Humanities and the Royal Holland Society of Sciences and Humanities. He is the founding president of the International Big History Association. CYNTHIA STOKES BROWN (PhD, Johns Hopkins University) spent most of her career directing the secondary teaching credential program at Dominican University of California. She taught selected courses in the history department and wrote books about civil rights history and teachers. Browns book *Big History: From the Big Bang to the Present* was published in 2007. Since then her interests have been consulting with the big history program at Dominican, serving on the board of the International Big History Association since its inception, and writing big history essays for high school students through the Big History Project funded by Bill Gates. CRAIG BENJAMIN (PhD, Macquarie University) is an associate professor of history in the Meijer Honors College at Grand Valley State University in Michigan. Like both his co-authors, Benjamin is a frequent presenter of lectures at conferences worldwide, and the author of numerous publications including books, chapters, and essays on ancient Central Asian history, big history, and world history. In addition, Benjamin has recorded lectures for the History Channel, The Teaching Company, and the Big History Project. He is currently a member of both the Advanced Placement and SAT World History Test Development Committees, vice president (president elect) of the World History Association, and has been treasurer of the International Big History Association since its inception in January 2011.