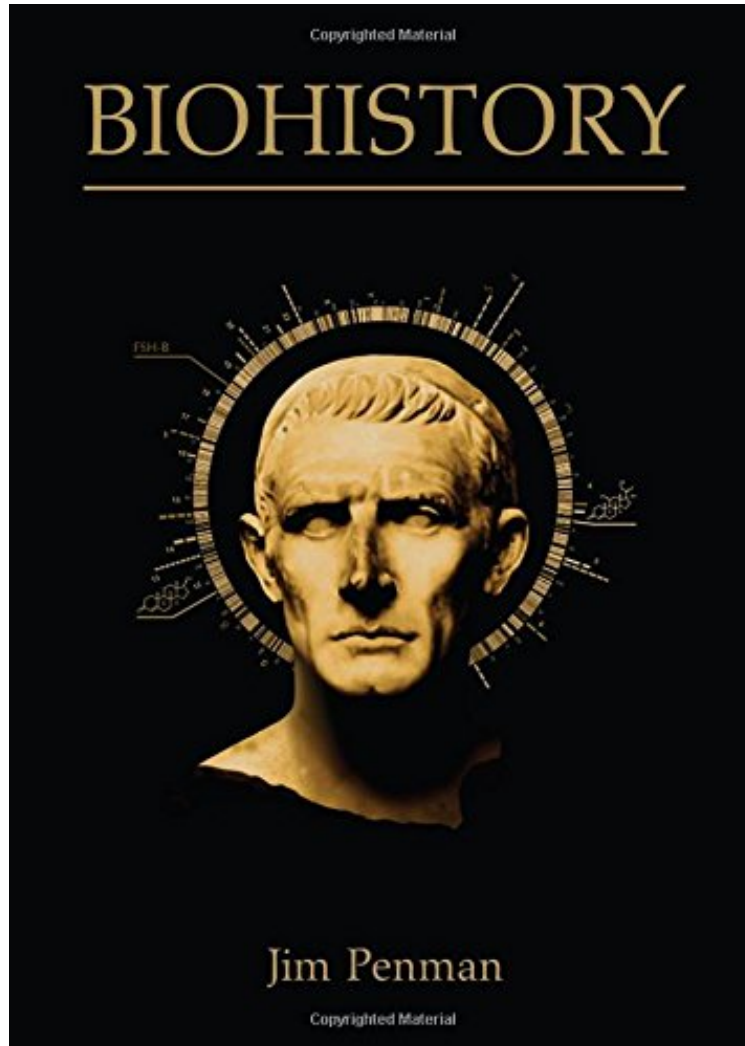


Biohistory

Jim Penman

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Jim Penman : Biohistory before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Biohistory:

2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. Penman has done a fantastic service by writing this bookBy John K. PressDr. Penman has done a fantastic service by writing this book. If you are familiar with r/K theory, you must read this book. What he has done is take it from vague generalities to testable details. I believe he is pointing the way forward for sociobiology. If you have any pretense to integrating these sort of theories into your work, you must read this book. It will greatly influence my later iterations of culturism.15 of 16 people found the following review helpful. Biohistory, by Jim Penman, is one of those ...By Dr. Frank SalterBiohistory, by Jim Penman, is one of those rare books that broaches a radically new idea and develops it with massive documentation across numerous disciplines. It

is not an opening shot but a salvo in what is sure to become a debate about big ideas: the nature and dynamics of civilisations; how various civilisations emerged and where they are headed. In my own field of expertise - biopolitics - Penman makes his case using cutting edge concepts such as cultural technologies. Whether or not every component of this grand thesis is confirmed - I have some issues - it is a tour de force of multi-disciplinary scholarship and argumentation. This is a must-read for those who want to stretch their minds or who care about the human condition. Five stars. 4 of 4 people found the following review helpful. I have only read a few pages so I don't feel comfortable giving it a bad review. By J. Longphre RE: Kindle version (for Kindle on iPad). There is some sort of formatting issue where the layout all wrong. Tables are not tables but rather plain text, and so on. It is as if all formatting was removed and the whole book, footnotes and all, is one stream-of-consciousness text file. I have never had this happen in a kindle version of a book. I have only read a few pages so I don't feel comfortable giving it a bad review, but no one will get the kindle version if it appears like it has for me. NOTE: I tried updating the KindleApp, removing from my device and re-downloading, shutting down the iPad (and restarting). Nothing works. The author should get this addressed.

Biohistory is a revolutionary new theory that explores the biological and behavioural underpinnings of social change, including the rise and fall of civilisations. Informed by significant research into the physiological basis of behaviour conducted by author Dr Jim Penman and a team of scientists at RMIT University and the Florey Institute in Melbourne, Australia, Biohistory examines how a complex interplay between culture and biology has shaped civilisations from the Roman Empire to the modern West. Penman proposes that historical changes are driven by changes in the prevailing temperament of populations, based on physiological mechanisms that adapt animal behaviour to changing food conditions. It details the history of human society by mapping the effects of these epigenetic changes on cultures, and on historical tipping points including wars and revolutions. It shows how laboratory studies can be used to explain broad social and economic changes, including the fortunes of entire civilizations. The author's shocking conclusion is that the West is in terminal and inevitable decline, and that its only hope may lie with the biological sciences. Drawing on the disciplines of history, biology, anthropology and economics, Biohistory is the first theory of society that can be tested with some rigour in the laboratory. It explains how environment, cultural values and childrearing patterns determine whether societies prosper or collapse, and how social change can be both predicted and potentially through biochemistry.

The most powerful books tend to challenge common wisdom and widespread beliefs. Jim Penman does that in this volume. --Dr Steven A. Peterson, Professor of Politics and Public Affairs and Director of the School of Public Affairs, Penn State Harrisburg A theory which only the unwise will ignore. --Dr Michael T. McGuire, MD, Professor of Psychiatry and Biobehavioral Science, University of California at Los Angeles If a fraction of the argument presented [] is borne out, it will shatter mainstream political science and grand history. --Dr Frank Salter, Principal, Social Technologies Pty Ltd; Senior Fellow, International Strategic Studies Association About the Author Dr Jim Penman, PhD, is the pioneer of 'Biohistory', a revolutionary new scientific theory into the physiological underpinnings of social change and its probable effects on civilisations. He obtained a PhD in History from La Trobe University, Australia. His doctorate integrated broad historical changes with cross-cultural anthropology and aspects of animal behaviour. His more recent work focuses on biochemistry and the emerging field of epigenetics. Biohistory examines how social change and historical patterns in human society have biological roots. It explains how social, political and economic changes are driven by changes in the prevailing temperament, influenced by mechanisms designed to adapt animal social behaviour to changing food conditions. He received his doctorate in 1983 but lacked resources to pursue research. Instead, he established Jim's Group, Australia's largest franchise network, with commercial success enabling the creation of a Biohistory research program in 2007, now the Biohistory Foundation. Additional support has been provided by the Australian Research Council, La Trobe University, RMIT University and the Howard Florey institute. To date, Dr Penman has co-authored ten peer-reviewed papers in leading journals including Behavioral Brain Research and Physiology and Behavior. Findings so far include a method of dramatically improving the maternal behaviour of rats, with far-reaching effects on offspring. They also make clear that the observed patterns are epigenetic in origin, supporting Biohistory's broader social and historical observations.