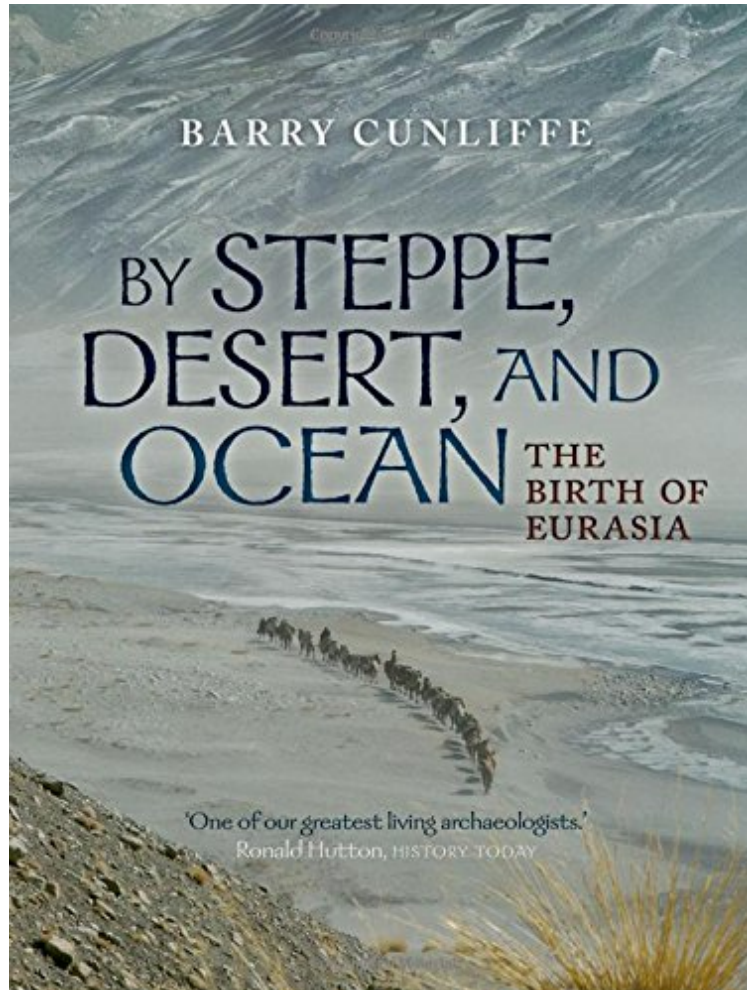


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Barry Cunliffe

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Barry Cunliffe : By Steppe, Desert, and Ocean: The Birth of Eurasia before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised By Steppe, Desert, and Ocean: The Birth of Eurasia:

6 of 6 people found the following review helpful. Incredibly well-written and highly recommended for all inhabitants of Earth By Bob McIncredibly well-written and highly recommended for all inhabitants of Earth! Might actually help folks begin to think in terms of big changes over long periods rather than just making it through life one day at a time. 1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Reasonably well written By Larry This is a survey of Eurasian history, focused on the Steppe and its role in migration and trade. The several areas of civilization hotspots in the Middle East and China are referenced early, with the Eastern Mediterranean and India a bit later. This book attempts to cover an enormous area in space and time. Many important details are briefly referenced or omitted for expediency. As the author mentions, entire books could be written on many of his paragraphs. All in all, a reader leaves this book with

a rough but reasonable understanding of Eurasian history. Many areas on the periphery such as Europe, Southern India, and most of Africa receive little or no mention - this history is directly focused on Eurasia. This book could be used as a basis of a survey course, but would need additional supporting material. The book's final chapter did seem hurried - with reference to visual media, it felt like the camera was moving too rapidly to see anything but a blurred image. 13 of 15 people found the following review helpful. Compelling, Sweeping History of Eurasia By David S. Wellhauser Barry Cunliffe's *By Steppe, Desert, and Ocean: The Birth of Eurasia* is a brilliant, if at times politically left-of-center and dry, read. If you are looking for a sweeping read that helps explain the massive landmass between Ireland and Japan. It concludes with the 13th Century but covers all major issues up until this time. At times enlightening and frustrating [the maps are all on a north-south axis rather than an east-west axis and this seems to be made a political point rather than to be enlightening] Cunliffe's work is very useful and enjoyable. Rating 5 out of 5 stars. Highly recommended for Eurasian history buffs.

By Steppe, Desert, and Ocean is nothing less than the story of how humans first started building the globalized world we know today. Set on a huge continental stage, from Europe to China, it is a tale covering over 10,000 years, from the origins of farming around 9000 BC to the expansion of the Mongols in the thirteenth century AD. An unashamedly "big history", it charts the development of European, Near Eastern, and Chinese civilizations and the growing links between them by way of the Indian Ocean, the silk Roads, and the great steppe corridor (which crucially allowed horse riders to travel from Mongolia to the Great Hungarian Plain within a year). Along the way, it is also the story of the rise and fall of empires, the development of maritime trade, and the shattering impact of predatory nomads on their urban neighbours. Above all, as this immense historical panorama unfolds, we begin to see in clearer focus those basic underlying factors--the acquisitive nature of humanity, the differing environments in which people live, and the dislocating effect of even slight climatic variation--which have driven change throughout the ages, and which help us better understand our world today.

"Cunliffe is a master storyteller, explaining his carefully researched conclusions through polished language and apropos turns of phrase that make his book a breeze despite its depth and breadth." --Publishers Weekly "In tracing the rise of Eurasian civilization, Cunliffe makes clear that history is much more than just one thing after another. As migrations and conquests pile up in the book, it becomes apparent that a dizzying array of forces interacted to produce the modern world." --Science News "By Steppe, Desert, and Ocean: The Birth of Eurasia by Barry Cunliffe is a pathbreaking attempt to enhance understanding of Eurasia by means of a reconsideration of focus, scale, time frame, and sources." -Stewart Gordon, H-Net "Cunliffe is a master storyteller, explaining his carefully researched conclusions through polished language and apropos turns of phrase that make his book a breeze despite its depth and breadth." -- Publishers Weekly "In tracing the rise of Eurasian civilization, Cunliffe makes clear that history is much more than just one thing after another. As migrations and conquests pile up in the book, it becomes apparent that a dizzying array of forces interacted to produce the modern world." --Science News "By Steppe, Desert, and Ocean: The Birth of Eurasia by Barry Cunliffe is a pathbreaking attempt to enhance understanding of Eurasia by means of a reconsideration of focus, scale, time frame, and sources." -Stewart Gordon, H-Net About the Author Barry Cunliffe taught archaeology in the Universities of Bristol and Southampton and was Professor of European Archaeology at the University of Oxford from 1972 to 2008, thereafter becoming Emeritus Professor. He has excavated widely in Britain (Fishbourne, Bath, Danebury, Hengistbury Head, Brading) and in the Channel Islands, Brittany, and Spain, and has been President of the Council for British Archaeology and of the Society of Antiquaries, Governor of the Museum of London, and a Trustee of the British Museum. He is currently a Commissioner of English Heritage. His many publications include *The Ancient Celts* (1997), *Facing the Ocean* (2001), *The Druids: A Very Short Introduction* (2010), and *Britain Begins* (2012), all also published by Oxford University Press. He received a knighthood in 2006.