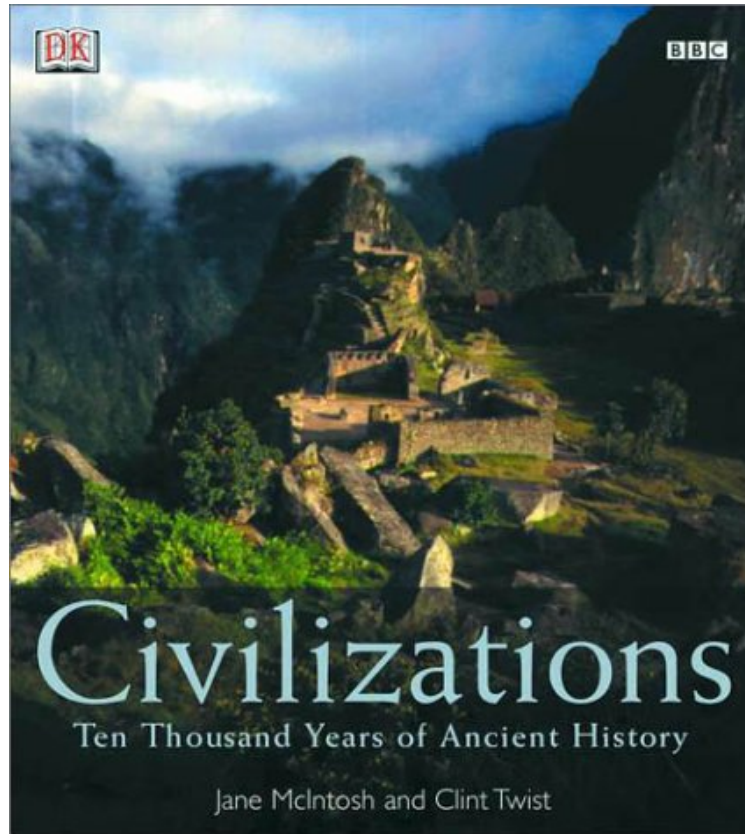


(Mobile ebook) Civilizations: Ten Thousand Years of Ancient History

Civilizations: Ten Thousand Years of Ancient History

DK Publishing, Jane McIntosh, Clint Twist
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DK Publishing, Jane McIntosh, Clint Twist : Civilizations: Ten Thousand Years of Ancient History before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Civilizations: Ten Thousand Years of Ancient History:

5 of 8 people found the following review helpful. Beautifully written overview, some omissions, etc.By Not a ClueThe first clue that this is not a reliable reference was that it has no publication date. The printing technology indicates it was published within the past 20 years, and the cover refers to a book that has not yet been published in 2001, but I found nothing else.Omission is also the most common defect inside. Regarding the sudden appearance of agriculture in Japan (500 BCE), there is no mention of the modern Japanese from Korea displacing the older civilization that was probably related to the Ainu. The fine chronology in front mentions independent early development of agriculture in New Guinea, but it does not appear in the text. The idea that evidence of the caste system has been found by Indus archeology is important enough to warrant a little information about the evidence, but none is provided; it should appear in "A Peaceful Realm", whenever that is published. I think they are trying to avoid any possible controversy, but of course that endeavour always fails. I could have used a map showing the land with the sea level at 10000 BCE level, when Japan was connected to Asia, England and Ireland to Europe, and the Black Sea wasn't.I was looking for something about India from 1500 to 600 BCE, since Jane McIntosh seems to have expertise in the Indus civilization,

but found nothing. That, however, may simply indicate there is no archeological evidence. (Hindu nationalist "archeology" notwithstanding.) Some details seem at odds with other recent mainstream sources. I would not really trust any single item in this book without checking another source. Perhaps that is an inevitable result of squeezing world history into a short book, probably on a tight schedule, but it is why I gave it four stars instead of five. The larger matters, meriting two or more sentences, are probably accurate within the limit of current knowledge. The Eurocentric viewpoint is evident, but somewhat muted compared to other world histories. That too is probably inevitable because history is determined by the available evidence even when it is not dictated by the winners. This is an excellent and beautiful short overview, contains superb maps, and includes many fascinating insightful sidebars. Just remember to write in the year of publication. 1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Nice book By CESI bought this for a friend who is impossible to buy for it truly is a nice book - full of facts, pictures theories. It is a coffee table book which you can endlessly pick up, read pick up again. 7 of 14 people found the following review helpful. Smooth! By Mayuresh Kelkar The Indological spinning machine just never stops. The book perpetuates the same old Eurocentric cliché by presenting these people as invaders even though no hard evidence exists. Ashoka is fashioned as at least part Greek! A couple of quotes for illustration purposes (page numbers pertain to the hardcover edition): "As the Indus cities disappeared around 1800 BC horse riding Indo-Aryan nomads, keeping cattle and worshipping warlike gods, infiltrated the northwest and swelled the ranks of the rice farmers who were beginning to penetrate the forest of the Ganges (sic!) valley and that of its great tributary, the Yamuna (p.133).""The Indus script will probably never be deciphered-the texts that survive are too short, giving little to work on. In addition we do not know what language the Indus people spoke-although most scholars think it was an early form of Dravidian languages now spoken in southern India (p. 66)." "The Nordic super race of Aryans are now called the Indo-Aryans. However, they are still riding horses and worshipping "warlike" gods. Referring to Vedic Gods as "warlike" is mischievous and motivated. Indra, Agni, Soma, Varuna, Marut were invoked to ensure peace and prosperity. Only some hymns to Indra and Agni mention conflict situations; many times with a mythical demon Vrata, and some real enemies, the Dasa/Dasyus. Putting the two quoted paragraphs together, the reader is compelled to deduce a scenario of violent invasion. Very smooth indeed! Read this book if you are a British high school kid at the bottom of your class.

Civilization takes the reader from the earliest days of human settlement to the civilizations of the New World overthrown by the Spanish conquistadors. After a brief look at humanity's development as monadic hunters and gatherers, the book opens with the crucial step taken around 10,000 years ago when some communities started to cultivate plants. The settled villages of these early farmers were the forerunners of the complex cities and highly sophisticated cultures that were later to flourish in the emergent civilizations around the world. Focusing largely on the world's key civilizations in each time period, the book begins with the primary civilizations in Mesopotamia, India, Egypt, and China, and from there to Greece, Rome, and their contemporary cultures, culminating in the settlements in the Americas. Illustrated with revealing photographs, artworks, and maps throughout, *Civilizations* brings alive the ideas, events, and people of earlier cultures whose achievements have laid the foundations of our present-day world.

From Publishers Weekly In *Civilization: Ten Thousand Years of Ancient History*, Jane McIntosh (The Practical Archaeologist) and Clint Twist (Historical Atlas of the Celts) explore the first 10,000 years of civic life. Beginning with the first agricultural settlements "the moment when... the pace of change accelerated, leading rapidly to the very different world in which we live today" the authors look at Mesopotamia, Egypt, India, China, Greece and the Roman empire, finishing up with the Incas and Aztecs. Shipbuilding, aqueducts, pyramids, pottery and technologies of every variety are given fresh consideration. With more than 270 color photographs and illustrations, this large-format book will entertain and illuminate. Copyright 2001 Cahners Business Information, Inc. About the Author Jane McIntosh is a freelance archaeological writer, editor, and consultant. Her doctoral and post-doctoral research was on the South Indian Iron Age, and she has considerable experience in archaeological fieldwork in India, Iraq, Cyprus, and Britain. Dr. McIntosh taught archaeology at Cambridge University. She has written a number of books and multimedia texts, including *Atlas of the Ancient World* CD-ROM (1998), *The Practical Archaeologist* (1999), and *A Peaceful Realm: The Rise and Fall of the Indus Civilization* (2001). She has contributed many articles to encyclopedias, dictionaries, and atlases. Clint Twist studied history at Cambridge University and then worked as a consultant on various archaeology and museum projects in the Middle East. He has written over thirty books, including an eight-volume history of exploration. Many of these titles have been translated and published internationally. His recent projects include editing the *Encyclopedia of Colonial America* (1998); compiling *World History* (1999), a chronology of people and events; and writing *Historical Atlas of the Celts* (2001).