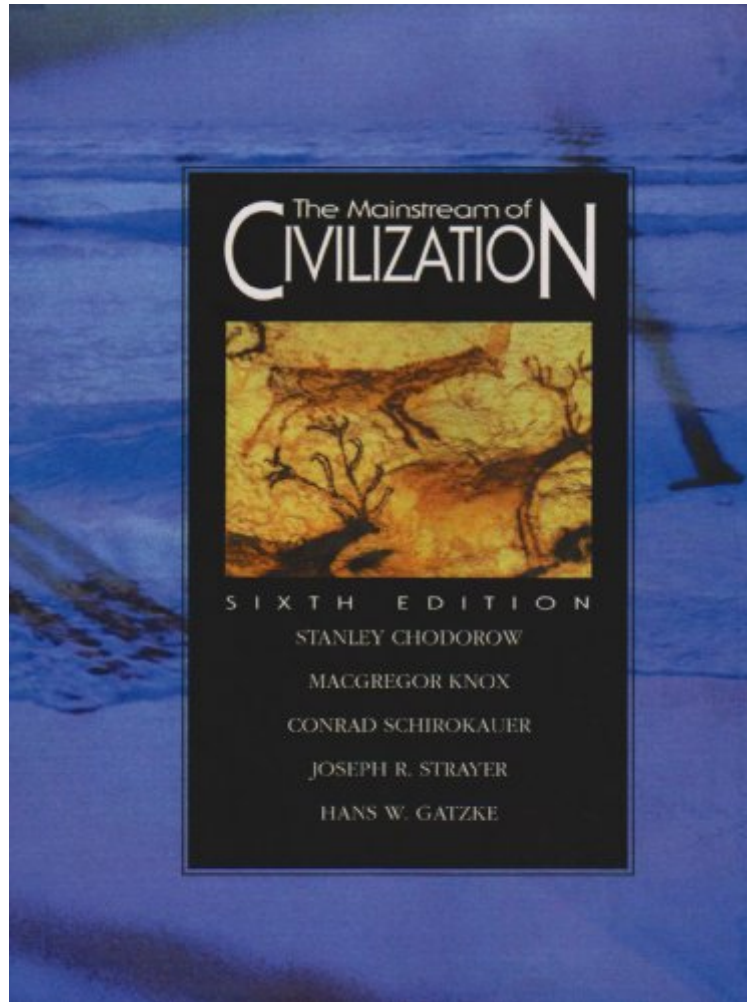


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The Mainstream of Civilization

Stanley Chodorow, MacGregor Knox, Conrad Schirokauer, Joseph R. Strayer, Hans W. Gatzke
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1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Five StarsBy CustomerThe book cover Western Civilization pretty well. It is a textbook at collegiate level and well written.0 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Survey work written by Conservatives. Liberals would not like itBy Mark K. RempelThis was a textbook assigned to a survey course on history of Western Civilization at a local community college. Supposedly a history of Europe it reaches beyond its scope with an excessive number of chapters discussing East Asia, South Asia, Africa, and a few other areas outside of Europe. Designed to be politically neutral it is nonetheless a conservative history of Europe, being very much anti-Communist throughout and only portraying its negative aspects. The book is also very much hostile to the

League of Nations and calls the 1919 Treaty of Versailles lenient to Germany, which is a ludicrous assertion. Its discussion of Europe and the world in the Nineteenth Century also has numerous errors of fact and contains much that is irrelevant to European history. Later chapters, such as The Age of Containment 1949-1975, are stretched out much too long and is chiefly irrelevant to Europe, with the focus being more of a world history book instead of a history of Europe. The discussions of the non-Western world from the 1940s to the 1990s and the end of Cold War era seems to be written by right-wingers and has often incorrect information, some times seems to be the perspective of radophobic conservatives. The book is also very much pro-Margaret Thatcher, which is disturbing. On the whole the late chapters lack neutrality and are weighed from a right-wing perspective, which brings the rest of the book into question. It spends far too long on the Middle Ages, going over the period in chapter after chapter. The first chapter on the origins of civilization spends too much time on pre-historic speculation on the stone age and beyond, which got tiresome. Sometimes even when the authors promise to stay to generally agreed upon facts in every sentence, they will say odd things, such as the ancient Israelites picked up a minor hill deity from Mt. Sinai named Yahweh, implying the Israelites did not worship Yahweh until after they escaped from Egypt. Designed for the beginning student, it is not recommended for liberal scholars, who would laugh and read something else. The authors have their specialties: Stanley Chodorow on medieval and Christian history, MacGregor Knox on military history, Conrad Schirokauer on Chinese history, Joseph Strayer on medieval history, especially medieval France, and Hans Gatzke on German history, diplomatic, military, and foreign policy. With all those Medievalists it is no wonder the book is excessively writing about the Middle Ages. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. The Mainstream of Civilization By Laura C. Sack This book was being used in my daughter's class in college. Sent it to her per her teacher's request. It must be a good book if her teacher is requiring it.

This affordable text offers a traditional political history approach in one convenient volume. A classic survey of Western civilization, this text has remained popular for its balanced coverage and its consistent efforts to explain why history exhibits the patterns it has.

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