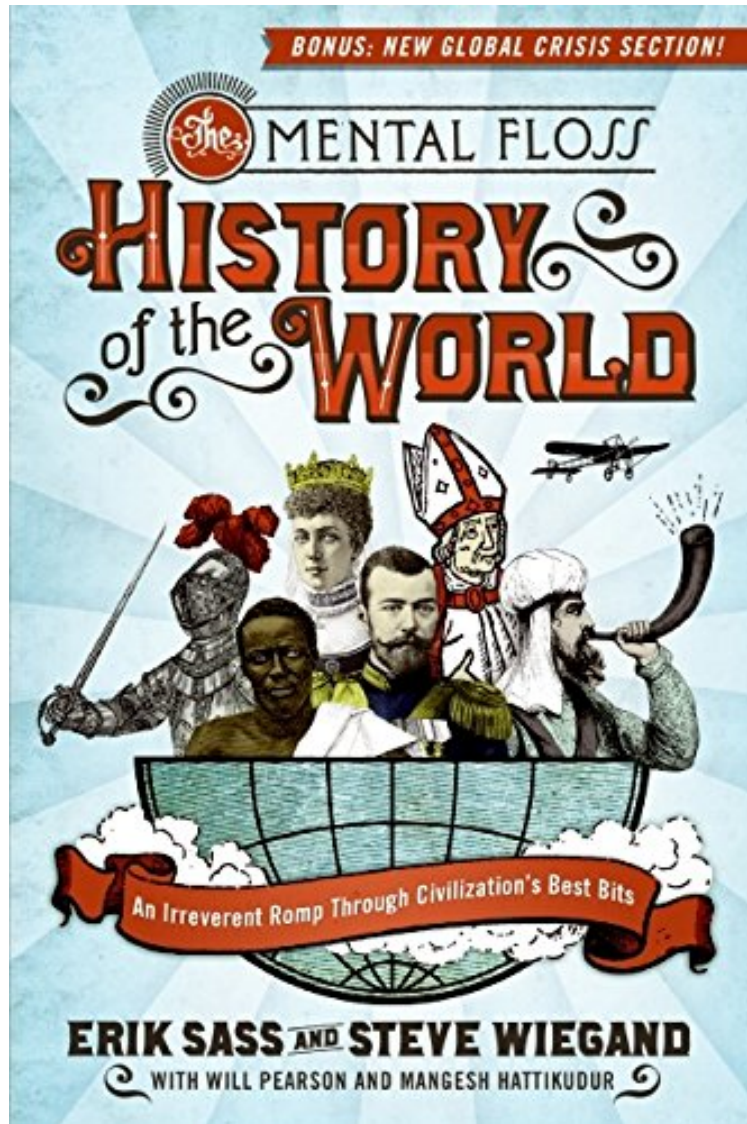


The Mental Floss History of the World: An Irreverent Romp Through Civilization's Best Bits

Erik Sass, Steve Wiegand, Editors of Mental Floss
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#148997 in Books Sass, Erik/ Wiegand, Steve/ Mental Floss 2009-10-27 2009-10-27 Original language:EnglishPDF # 1 8.25 x 1.08 x 5.501, .85 #File Name: 0061842672432 pages | File size: 44.Mb

Erik Sass, Steve Wiegand, Editors of Mental Floss : The Mental Floss History of the World: An Irreverent Romp Through Civilization's Best Bits before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Mental Floss History of the World: An Irreverent Romp Through Civilization's Best Bits:

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found the following review helpful. Love these books. By Real Conservationist These were bought for donation to our local library (Oldham County). Last year I had donated to the Carrolton (Carol County library) and they appreciated them a lot- The librarian told me that high school kind enjoy them and she believes, learn a lot from them. Recently I saw "Mental Floss" magazine in our local Oldham library, thanke the librarian, told her ti was my son's magazine, and asked if she would mind my donating the 2 history books. She was delighted, so I did.

Pop quiz! Who said what about history? History is . . . (a) more or less bunk. (b) a nightmare from which I am trying to awaken. (c) as thoroughly infected with lies as a street whore with syphilis. Match your answers: (1) Stephen Daedalus of James Joyce's Ulysses (2) Henry Ford (3) Arthur Schopenhauer It turns out that the answer need not be bunk, nightmarish, or diseased. In the hands of mental_floss, history's most interesting bits have been handpicked and roasted to perfection. Packed with little-known stories and outrageousbut accuratefacts, you'll laugh yourself smarter on this joyride through 60,000 years of human civilization. Remember: just because it's true doesn't mean it's boring! Now with Breaking News "If You Thought the Last Depression Was Great . . ." Answers: (a) 2 (b) 1 (c) 3

.com History is . . . (a) more or less bunk. (b) a nightmare from which I am trying to awaken. (c) as thoroughly infected with lies as a street whore with syphilis. Match your answers: (1) Stephen Daedalus of James Joyce's Ulysses (2) Henry Ford (3) Arthur Schopenhauer It turns out that answer need not be bunk, nightmarish, or diseased. In the hands of mental_floss, history's most interesting bits have been handpicked and roasted to perfection. Packed with little-known stories and outrageousbut accuratefacts, you'll laugh yourself smarter on this joyride through 60,000 years of human civilization. Remember: just because it's true, doesn't mean it's boring! Exclusive: ian Tips for .com When you think of the word , were sure the first thing that comes to mind is the fantastic website where you can buy our book (buy our book!) or half-naked warrior women. But here are three tantalizing tidbits you might not know--and why you need to act now. 1. Find Gold Theres something about long, tropical rivers that seems to drive people batty. But the Basque conquistador Lope de Aguirre was by all accounts a murderous sociopath long before he got to the . Take, for instance, the time a judge sentenced Aguirre to be flogged. The brutish Basque hunted the terrified magistrate across 4,000 miles of rough South American terrain, barefoot, to kill him! So, in 1560, it probably wasnt the best idea to invite Aguirre along on the quest to find El Dorado, the legendary city of gold. After 900 miles of unbroken rain forest, Aguirre was fed up. He led a mutiny that killed more than half of his fellow conquistadors. Then, he declared himself prince of Peru, Tierra Firma, and Chile. Eventually he and his tiny army attacked Panamawhere he was killed and dismembered so his body parts could be paraded around the colony. The bright side: El Dorado is still out there, waiting for you to discover it! Just dont bring a friend like Lope. 2. Invest a Dollar When its not making people crazy, the seems to inspire bizarre, larger-than-life schemes. In 1967, American shipping magnate and billionaire Daniel Ludwig bought a larger-than-Connecticut sized chunk of the to create a gigantic industrial and agricultural complex called the Jari Project. It didnt work out. All the construction led to massive soil erosion, screwing up the agricultural part of his plan. After sinking \$1 billion into the project (back when \$1 billion really meant something) Ludwig called it quits in 1982. It was eventually put up for sale for \$1--a great deal, if youre willing to assume \$354 million in debt. The bright side: For anyone with a dollar and a dream, its your lucky day: the Jari Project is still for sale! 3. Make New Friends The pictures of spear-wielding tribesmen produced in May 2008 may have been a hoax, but its true that there are literally dozens of so-called uncontacted native tribes in the basin--Stone Age peoples who have never had any contact with the outside world! While this seems preposterous, it makes sense when you consider the Basins size, over 2.7 million square miles in area, half of which is covered by dense rain forest and divided by 15,000 rivers and tributaries. Altogether, there are believed to be about three dozen uncontacted tribes in Brazil and 15 in Peru. The bright side: If youre up for the adventure, you have more than 50 chances to claim fame and fortune. Just make sure you dont accidentally give everyone smallpox. And so much more! What youve just read isnt available in our book, but dont worry--roughly 82% of the rest of history is. Our twelve essential chapters tackle everything from civilizations baby steps in the Fertile Crescent to the Popes first text message, the 6,000-pound super-wombats of early Australia to the Goose Crusade of 1096, the golden hemorrhoids of the Philistines to the most important assassinations of the 20th century, and everything else thats wacky, entertaining, and completely, unbelievably true.