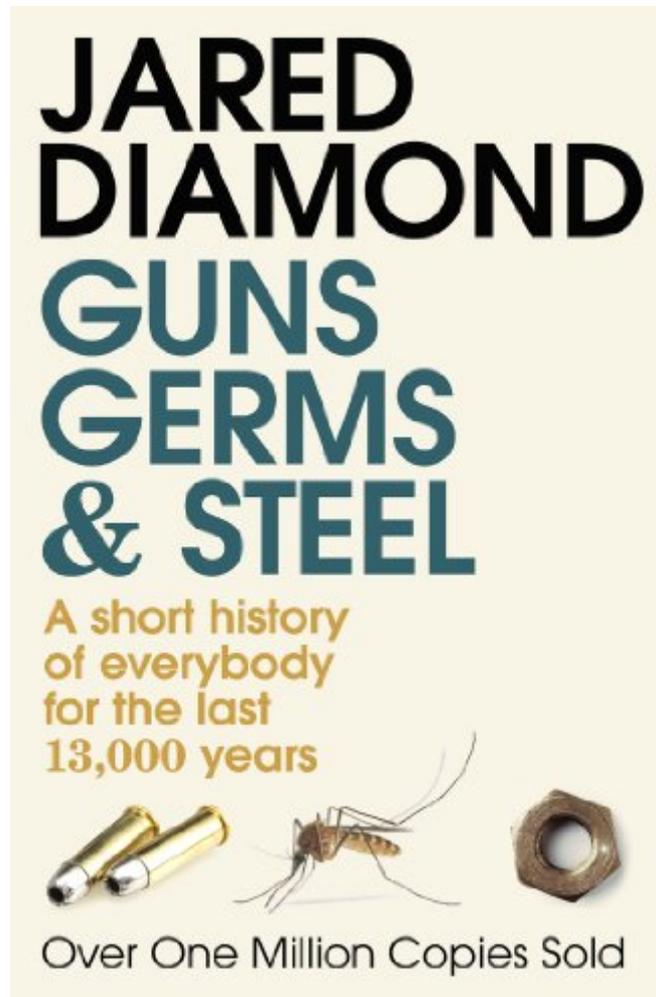


The book was found

Guns, Germs And Steel



Synopsis

****WINNER OF THE PULITZER PRIZE**** Over One Million Copies Sold Why has human history unfolded so differently across the globe? Jared Diamond puts the case that geography and biogeography, not race, moulded the contrasting fates of Europeans, Asians, Native Americans, sub-Saharan Africans, and aboriginal Australians. An ambitious synthesis of history, biology, ecology and linguistics, *Guns, Germs and Steel* is a ground-breaking and humane work of popular science.

Book Information

File Size: 4140 KB

Print Length: 483 pages

Page Numbers Source ISBN: 0099302780

Publisher: Vintage Digital; New Ed edition (July 4, 2013)

Publication Date: July 4, 2013

Sold by: Amazon Digital Services LLC

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0099302780

ISBN-13: 978-0099302780

ASIN: B00DQ8GDV8

Text-to-Speech: Enabled

X-Ray: Enabled

Word Wise: Enabled

Lending: Not Enabled

Enhanced Typesetting: Enabled

Best Sellers Rank: #80,329 Paid in Kindle Store (See Top 100 Paid in Kindle Store) #10 in Kindle Store > Kindle eBooks > Nonfiction > Politics & Social Sciences > Social Sciences > Human Geography #11 in Kindle Store > Kindle eBooks > History > World > Historical Geography #12 in Kindle Store > Kindle eBooks > Nonfiction > Science > Environment > Ecology

Customer Reviews

I think some of the reviewers here didn't read the book closely enough to understand the context of some of Diamond's arguments. He never says that biogeographical effects are the ONLY causes of history. His main purpose is the search for the ultimate, extremely general causes for the broadest of trends in human history and prehistory. By the time the Mongols roared across Asia, or the

Moguls invaded India, many cultures around the world already changed so much that bioregional factors, though seminal in the creation of these broadest trends, weren't nearly as important as the political, religious and economic ones. He is not ignoring religion and so on but, he states plainly several times that isn't his focus. He is looking for ultimate causes--before humans had extremely advanced mental concepts like religion. He also wanted to point out the devastating influence of disease on history. It was surely the European germs that did most of the conquering of Native Americans. The guns and horses were almost incidental. Later on, once Europeans had established themselves, then we can focus on economic and political systems. But we can't ignore the effects of the diseases unleashed on the Americas. These plagues gave the Europeans a very lucky boost that catapulted them beyond the wealth and power of China, India or the Middle East--long before the Industrial Revolution made this gap obvious. Another thing that some people seem to be having trouble with is his assertions about the native intelligence of tribal peoples around the world. (If you read the book, you notice that he is not just saying this about the New Guineans.) He takes pains to point out what he means by this. He not talking about some mysterious genetic superiority of tribal peoples.

In one compelling volume, the famous biologist Jared Diamond tackles the most important question of global history: Why did Europeans come to dominate the New World? This question has been answered by others before; Diamond's idea that Europe's geography is the cause ("geographical determinism") has also been proposed before. Any student of history can drag up a case or two of this thesis. Baron Montaigne, for example, proposed that Europe's primacy stemmed from its superior government, which could be derived directly from the coolness of its climate. The deep significance of this book is that Diamond's thesis is not simply idle speculation. He proves that the Eurasian land mass had by far the best biological resources with which to develop agricultural societies, and was thus more able to form large, coherent, and powerful social entities. To support this idea, Diamond introduces thorough set of well-researched data on what kinds of plants and animals are necessary to support a farming society. He investigates the biological resources available to potential farmers in all parts of the world. The people of Eurasia had access to a suite of plants and animals that provided for their needs. Potential farmers in other parts of the world didn't--and so their fertile soil went untilled. After establishing this strong foundation, Diamond falls into repeating ideas about the formation of large-scale societies. These ideas, while unoriginal, are still compelling, and Diamond presents them in a very clear and well-written way. His other major original contribution comes when he discusses the diseases that helped the Old World conquer the New.

According to Diamond, four factors are responsible for all historical developments: 1) availability of potential crops and domestic animals, 2) the orientation of continental axis to facilitate the spread of agriculture, 3) transfer of knowledge between continents, and 4) population size. Diamond states that "those four sets of factors constitute big environmental differences that can be quantified objectively and that are not subject to dispute." Fair enough, but what *is* subject to dispute is that there might be some other factors at work. Thomas Sowell in *Race and Culture* does a good job of developing the thesis that the exchange of information among European cultures, facilitated by Europe's plentiful navigable rivers, was the key to Europe's technological and economic rise. David Landes in *The Wealth and Poverty of Nations* attributes China's conscious decision in the 1400's to isolate itself from other nations as the key event (decision) that caused it to lose its technological advantage and fall behind Europe. (Diamond briefly touches on 15th Century China in the final chapter, but manages to boil this as well down to an accident of geography.) This is unfortunate, because the book contains a wealth of excellent material which is excellently explained. Many of the core causes which Diamond explores ring very true, and his points are persuasively argued. The connection between the development of agriculture and the subsequent unequal rise of military capability worldwide is very convincing. But convincing though they may be, reading these theories one can't shake the sneaking suspicion that Diamond is selectively presenting evidence which he's found to support his previously drawn conclusion, and neglecting evidence which runs counter.

[Download to continue reading...](#)

Guns, Germs And Steel Armas, gÃfÂ©rmenes y acero / Guns, Germs, and Steel: The Fates of Human Societies (Spanish Edition) The Men of Steel Anthology: The Men of Steel (special edition 2015 includes new release Raising Steel: Momma Joe's story) Guns: Complete Gun Guide for Beginners from Buying and Owning (Guns, firearms, self defense, deer hunting, police officer, weapons, military) Guns: Weapons Guide for Total Beginners - Guns, Colts Revolvers and Rifles (Firearms training - Firearms for Beginners - Firearms Books Book 1) The Illustrated World Encyclopedia of Guns: Pistols, Rifles, Revolvers, Machine And Submachine Guns Through History In 1100 Clear Photographs How to Hide Your Guns: A Quick Guide To Keeping Your Guns Safe, Secure, And Out Of The Wrong Hands Hardening, Tempering, Annealing and Forging of Steel: A Treatise on the Practical, Treatment and Working of High and Low Grade Steel (Classic Reprint) Those Mean Nasty Dirty Downright Disgusting but...Invisible Germs / Esos desagradables detestables sucios completamente asquerosos pero... invisibles ... y espaÃfÂ ol) (English and Spanish Edition) The Doctors' Plague: Germs, Childbed Fever, and the Strange Story of Ignac

Semmelweis (Great Discoveries) Germs That Won't Die: Medical Consequences of the Misuse of Antibiotics Louis Pasteur: Hunting Killer Germs Blast Off! Rockets, Robots, Ray Guns, and Rarities from the Golden Age of Space Toys The Illustrated Directory of Guns: A Collector's Guide to Over 2,000 Military, Sporting and Antique Firearms German Machine Guns of World War I: MG 08 and MG 08/15 (Weapon) Gun Digest's Concealed Carry Guns & Handgun Ammo eShort Collection: Handguns and loads for personal protection recommended by Massad Ayoob. (Concealed Carry eShorts) Letters from Elmer Keith: A Half Century of Advice on Guns, Ammo, Handloading, Hunting, and Other Pursuits TM 43-0001-28, TECHNICAL MANUAL, ARMY AMMUNITION DATA SHEETS ARTILLERY AMMUNITION GUNS, HOWITZERS, MORTARS, RECOILLESS RIFLES, GRENADE LAUNCHERS, AND ARTILLERY FUZES (FSC 1310, 1315, 1320, 1390) The Art of American Arms Makers: Marketing Guns, Ammunition, and Western Adventure During the Golden Age of Illustration US Army, Technical Manual, TM 9-1300-251-34&P, ARTILLERY AMMUNITION FOR GUNS, HOWITZERS, MORTARS, RECOILLESS RIFLES AND 40MM GRENADE LAUNCHERS, 1994

[Dmca](#)