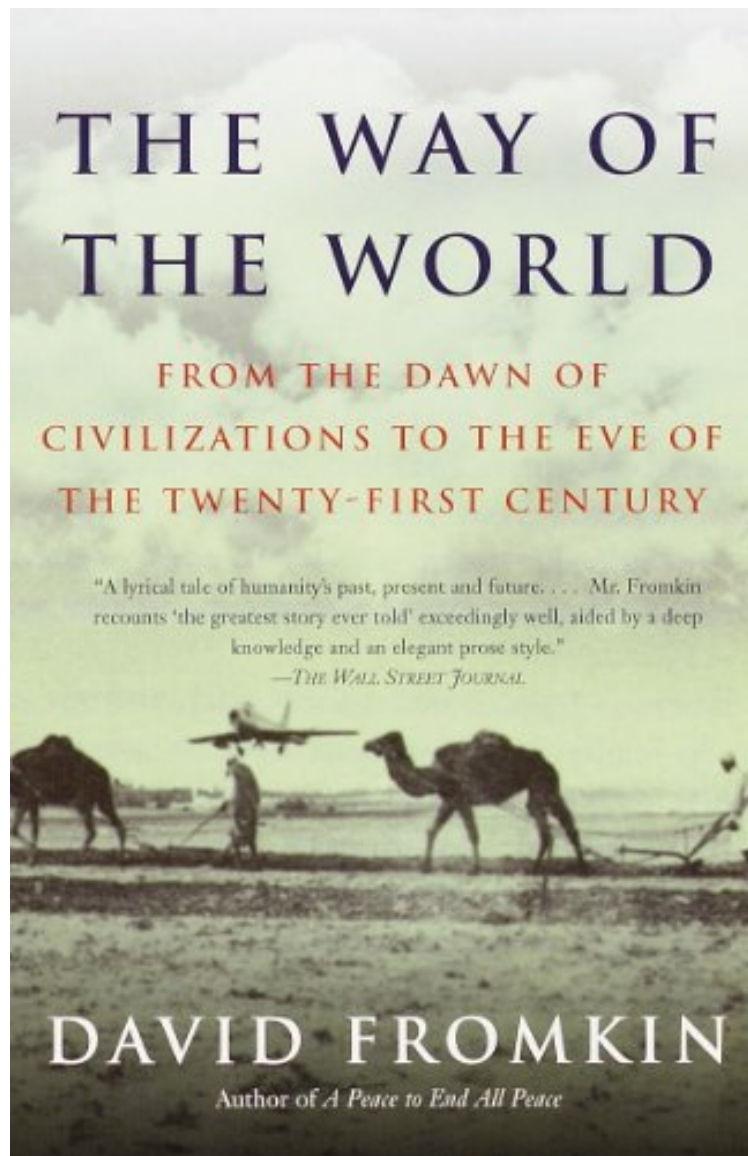


[Download] The Way of the World: From the Dawn of Civilizations to the Eve of the Twenty-first Century

The Way of the World: From the Dawn of Civilizations to the Eve of the Twenty-first Century

Von David Fromkin

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Von David Fromkin : The Way of the World: From the Dawn of Civilizations to the Eve of the Twenty-first Century before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Way of the World: From the Dawn of Civilizations to the Eve of the Twenty-first Century:

KundenrezensionenHilfreichste Kundenrezensionen0 von 0 Kunden fanden die folgende Rezension hilfreich. A

delightful work of exposition and interpretation Von Oliver Kamm This is how history should be written. It takes a perspective as wide as can possibly be - from the birth of the universe and pre-history to the present - and manages to make sense of the whole, in just 220 pages. What is most impressive is Professor Fromkin's unobtrusive insistence that history - contrary to the charlatans of the post-structuralist school, and the increasing specialisation of history as a discipline - has a meaning and a narrative, coupled with his treatment of non-western societies. That is true multiculturalism, as opposed to the know-nothing version, so shamefully promulgated in some academies, that decries the very notion of civilisation. The book nicely refers to scholars and to stories in the press (e.g. of fossil finds) that the critical newspaper reader might have seen, and draws them into a thrilling narrative. My one main criticism of a splendid book is that, for such a fine writer and skilled historian, Professor Fromkin is surprisingly idiosyncratic in his use of punctuation, and I find this obtrusive. He uses commas, colons and semi-colons almost indiscriminately, rather than with care and accuracy. The publisher's editor should have picked this up; perhaps he will, for a paperback edition.

0 von 0 Kunden fanden die folgende Rezension hilfreich. Interesting yet "jumpy". Von Ein Kunde David Fromkin illustrates an interesting account of the history of civilization and cites many interesting specific points throughout human history. However, it is not a page-turner until the conclusion when you finally want to figure out what his main thesis is. Apparently, all of civilization has led up to American society. And he cites a certain number of steps that civilization took to get to where it is today. Yet, I'm not sure what they really are. The words are well-defined yet Fromkin's one-sided arguments are usually definite without any presentable disagreements. He jumps around at the end and makes his conclusion just a little off his original intent of presenting the world's history. If I knew what his intentions were at the beginning I would have been a little more excited as when I read the book jacket. Overall, though Fromkin presents some fascinating views and facts for such a short book (when I mean short, I mean the world's history is so expanse, one would need to write a series to cover it). Recommended for history fans.

0 von 0 Kunden fanden die folgende Rezension hilfreich. puts the history of civilization into complete context Von Ein Kunde The book is wonderful! The history is of ideas and key trends. There are no dates, no people. He does a wonderful job tying everything together. Too often history is presented in a manner that shows us the trees, but not the forest. The author shows us the forest. The chapter on America explains in only 20 pages the significance of our country better than any book I've read. It's a "thinking" book. Even though it's only 200+ pages, I found myself stopping to think about key paragraphs every few pages. He put all of history's key players, wars, countries, etc. into complete context with each other.

Kurzbeschreibung How did we get here? David Fromkin provides arresting and dramatic answers to the questions we ask ourselves as we approach the new millennium. He maps and illuminates the paths by which humanity came to its current state, giving coherence and meaning to the main turning points along the way by relating them to a vision of things to come. His unconventional approach to narrating universal history is to focus on the relevant past and to single out the eight critical evolutions that brought the world from the Big Bang to the eve of the twenty-first century. He describes how human beings survived by adapting to a world they had not yet begun to make their own, and how they created and developed organized society, religion, and warfare. He emphasizes the transformative forces of art and the written word, and the explosive effects of scientific discoveries. He traces the course of commerce, exploration, the growth of law, and the quest for freedom, and details how their convergence led to the world of today. History's great movements and moments are here: the rise of the first empires in Mesopotamia; the exodus from Pharaoh's Egypt; the coming of Moses, Confucius, the Buddha, Jesus, and Muhammad; the fall of the Roman Empire; the rise of China; Vasco da Gama finding the sea road to India that led to unification of the globe under European leadership. Connections are made: the invention of writing, of the alphabet, of the printing press, and of the computer lead to an information revolution that is shaping the world of tomorrow. The industrial, scientific, and technological revolutions are related to the credit revolution that lies behind today's world economy. The eighty-year world war of the twentieth century, which ended only on August 31, 1994, when the last Russian troops left German soil, points the way to a long but perhaps troubled peace in the twenty-first. Where are we now? The Way of the World asserts that the human race has been borne on the waters of a great river--a river of scientific and technological innovation that has been flowing in the Western world for a thousand years, and that now surges forward more strongly than ever. This river highway, it says, has become the way of the world; and because the constitutional and open society that the United States champions is uniquely suited to it, America will be the lucky country of the centuries to come. Fromkin concludes by examining some of the choices that lie ahead for a world still constrained by its past and by human nature but endowed by science with new powers and possibilities. He pictures exciting prospects ahead--if the United States takes the lead, and can develop wisdom on a scale to match its good fortune.

.de Historians and philosophers of history have long debated whether the human story is one of constant improvement and progress, or whether history is instead a wheel that leads us again and again to the same place--the same choices, the same errors. To judge by this slender volume, David Fromkin is an unabashed partisan of the first school. In his view, the logic of history leads to

"the only civilization still surviving, the scientific one of the modern world," the civilization of capitalism and technology. That view is, of course, arguable, but Fromkin defends it ably and intelligently. General readers will be more interested in Fromkin's overview of world history, a fast-forward tour of the evolution of civilization from a simple congeries of agriculturalists, as in Sumer, to a collectivity of peoples interested in such ideals as morality and peacemaking. Fromkin's whirlwind approach is sometimes vexing--he treats, for instance, the fall of Rome in just a few sentences, ignoring generations of scholarly inquiry on the multiple causes of that decline--but it nonetheless yields a spirited synthesis of past events and patterns. Fromkin closes by remarking that although the future may promise "a nightmare of nationalist, religious, and language-group wars," the worldwide adoption of an American-style federalism that transcends such distinctions is a more attractive possibility. "For all its faults," he writes, "the American way may prove to be the only viable one to deal with the consequences of the modernizing revolution. If so, the world is in luck, for continuing American leadership, like it or not, seems to be what the world has got." --Gregory McNamee

Pressestimmen "The origins of [Mr Fromkin's book] lie in a question posed to him by a Wall Street hedge-fund manager over lunch. 'Can you tell the story of humanity and the universe and make it whole?' Well, actually," Mr Fromkin replied, 'Yes, I can.' The result is a lyrical tale of humankind's past, present, and future...Mr Fromkin recounts [it] exceedingly well, aided by a deep knowledge and an elegant prose style.--Andrew Stark, The Wall Street Journal "Superbly crafted...Fromkin has the rare ability to convey a lot of information, often on difficult or sophisticated subjects, with a few beautifully constructed sentences."--Roger Bishop, Bookpage "Fascinating...engaging...Fromkin identifies the major social, educational, scientific, economic, and governmental trends he believes have significantly contributed to the evolution of humankind."--Booklist