



Big History: From the Big Bang to the Present

By Cynthia Stokes Brown

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Big History: From the Big Bang to the Present By Cynthia Stokes Brown

Extend the human story backward for the five thousand years of recorded history and it covers no more than a millionth of a lifetime of the Earth. Yet how do we humans take stock of the history of our planet, and our own place within it? A “vast historical mosaic” (*Publishers Weekly*) rendered engaging and accessible, *Big History* interweaves different disciplines of knowledge to offer an all-encompassing account of history on Earth. Since its publication, Cynthia Brown’s “world history on a grand scale” (*Kirkus*) has been translated into nine languages and has helped propel the “big history” concept to viral status. This new edition of Brown’s seminal work is more relevant today than ever before, as we increasingly must grapple with accelerating rates of change and, ultimately, the legacy we will bequeath to future generations. Here is a pathbreaking portrait of our world, from the birth of the universe from a single point the size of an atom to life on a twenty-first-century planet inhabited by 7 billion people.

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Big History: From the Big Bang to the Present By Cynthia Stokes Brown Bibliography

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Editorial Review

From Publishers Weekly

Beginning with the very origin of the universe, American Book Award–winning author Brown (*Ready from Within: Septima Clark and the Civil Rights Movement*) shows that history is more than the written records of the gaffly species *Homo sapiens*. In a multidisciplinary narrative subtly emphasizing the mutual impact of people and planet, Brown covers Earth's history from the big bang through the development of life and the growth of civilization. Nice concrete details give immediacy to the most remote events: The gold in the ring on your finger has to be more than 4.5 billion years old. Brown's story covers the globe, encompassing the Mongols and Vikings, Mayans and Aztecs, as well as the Islamic Empire and Europe. Brown looks at the gold rush that followed Columbus's American voyages and the impact of chocolate, tomatoes, potatoes, tobacco and chili peppers on European habits. In a blink the Industrial Revolution and world wars lead to the new millennium. While much of the story is familiar, Brown's writing lucidly knits each topic into a vast historical mosaic. This exciting saga crosses space and time to illustrate how humans, born of stardust, were shaped—and how they in turn shaped the world we know today. 33 b&w illus. (Sept.)

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Review

“This exciting saga crosses space and time to illustrate how humans, born of stardust, were shaped—and how they in turn shaped the world we know today.”

—*Publishers Weekly*

“There’s much to argue about in Brown’s account, and much to discover.”

—*The Washington Post*

“Brown combines the findings of major authorities in the natural sciences and the human sciences, crisply portraying the discoveries and debates on history at the grandest scale.”

—Patrick Manning, Andrew W. Mellon Professor of World History, University of Pittsburgh

Review

Cynthia Brown gives us a global history, one which provides the kind of historical knowledge that all students should bring to their understanding of current happenings.

Users Review

From reader reviews:

John Dinwiddie:

Do you have favorite book? When you have, what is your favorite's book? Book is very important thing for us to be aware of everything in the world. Each book has different aim or perhaps goal; it means that guide has different type. Some people experience enjoy to spend their time to read a book. They are really reading whatever they consider because their hobby is reading a book. Consider the person who don't like reading through a book? Sometime, man or woman feel need book after they found difficult problem as well as exercise. Well, probably you will want this Big History: From the Big Bang to the Present.

Clarence Danner:

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Donna Johnson:

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Annie Rose:

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