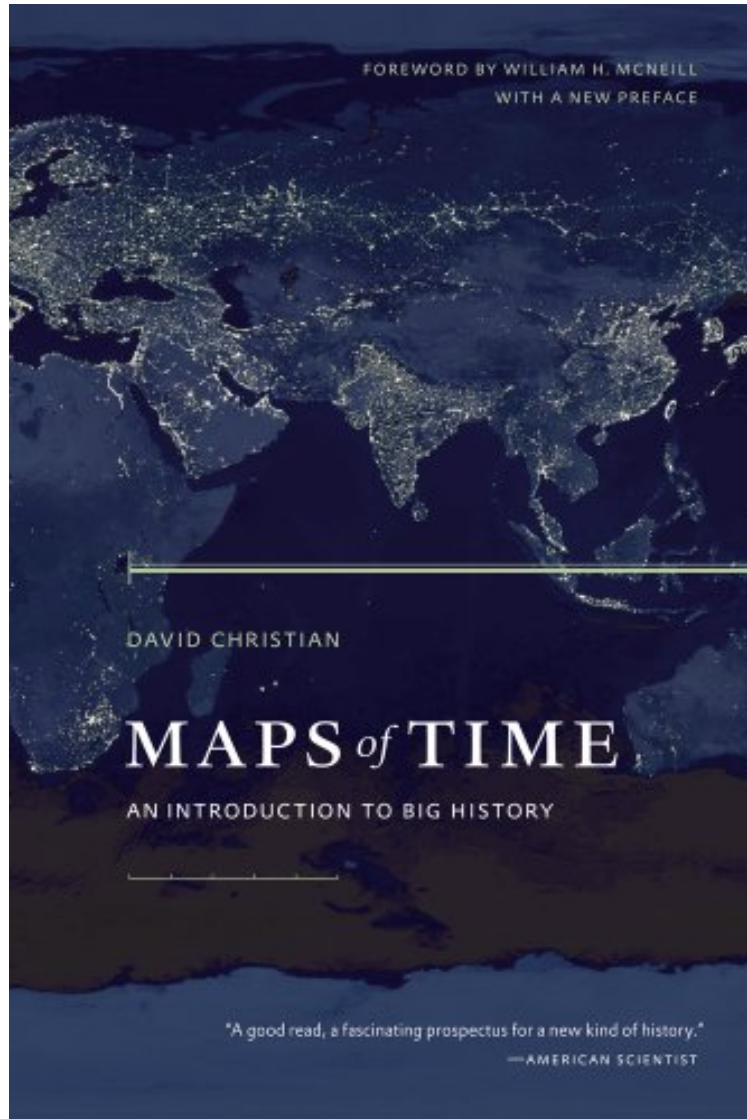


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Maps of Time: An Introduction to Big History

David Christian

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David Christian : Maps of Time: An Introduction to Big History before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Maps of Time: An Introduction to Big History:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Richer than Chocolate CheesecakeBy Alan D.This is a BIG book about a BIG subject. It is more rich, dense and multi-layered than chocolate cheesecake. It is taking me a long time to get through it (I am in the Cenozoic now) but taken in small bites, it is very rewarding. To me, the logic of looking at history this way - ie through the lenses of cosmology/geology/genetics/technology/anthropology etc., etc. is compelling and revelatory. I can see why it may become the basis for a tectonic shift in the way history is taught in

future...0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. and I would recommend reading both booksBy P. FrielThis is an audacious and compelling effort in Big History. It includes a broader timeline than Sapiens by Yuval Noah Harari, and I would recommend reading both books. One of the take-home messages from both books seems to be that there has been a big price to pay for "civilization", and the benefits for most of us only came very recently with the use of fossil fuels as energy sources.0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Understand the forces that shaped usBy Bob D.Heard his lecture series on the same topic, loved it so much I wanted to read it as well. Brilliant writer, brilliant thinker, it will definitely change the way you think about the world around youand the forces that shaped us. At the end you'll wonder why Big History isn't a requirement in our schools.

An introduction to a new way of looking at history, from a perspective that stretches from the beginning of time to the present day, Maps of Time is world history on an unprecedented scale. Beginning with the Big Bang, David Christian views the interaction of the natural world with the more recent arrivals in flora and fauna, including human beings.Cosmology, geology, archeology, and population and environmental studiesall figure in David Christian's account, which is an ambitious overview of the emerging field of "Big History." Maps of Time opens with the origins of the universe, the stars and the galaxies, the sun and the solar system, including the earth, and conducts readers through the evolution of the planet before human habitation. It surveys the development of human society from the Paleolithic era through the transition to agriculture, the emergence of cities and states, and the birth of the modern, industrial period right up to intimations of possible futures. Sweeping in scope, finely focused in its minute detail, this riveting account of the known world, from the inception of space-time to the prospects of global warming, lays the groundwork for world historyand Big Historytrue as never before to its name.

From Publishers WeeklySan Diego State University historian Christian is one of the founding figures of the "Big History" movement. His basic premise is that to truly make sense of human history, history must be integrated with virtually all other disciplines-and in order to do this correctly, historians must reach back to the beginning of time. It is becoming fairly well accepted for historians to draw on biology, economics, environmental studies and politics as well as a host of other fields of study, and Christian does a very nice job of explaining the factors that led to the rise of states, the industrial revolution and the information revolution, as well as looking at future possibilities for humankind. What is far less successful is his integration of cosmology, astrophysics and evolutionary biology with the basic fare usually associated with historical analysis. Rather than using the cosmological principles associated with the Big Bang, for example, to demonstrate "underlying unity and coherence" in all systems across time, Christian leaves the reader with a weak metaphor and limited insight. By attempting to cover all of the universe's 13 billion years in a single volume, even one approaching 600 pages, Christian is forced to use such a broad brush that readers will find much of this book to be fairly superficial. 45 bw illus., 9 maps. Copyright Reed Business Information, a division of Reed Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved. "No work in this genre [macro-history] is better than David Christian's Maps of Time: An Introduction to Big History.... [I]t is a brilliantly executed act of provocation." - The Times "Forges bold and ingenious connections between the physical and social sciences." - The Age "A good read, a fascinating prospectus for a new kind of history." - American Scientist"From the Inside Flap"You've all seen the poster of the milky way galaxy with an arrow to a point about halfway out from the center and the caption, You are here. This book is like that only more so. It locates the human experience in the entirety of space-time." Alfred Crosby, author of Ecological Imperialism: The Biological Expansion of Europe, 900-1900