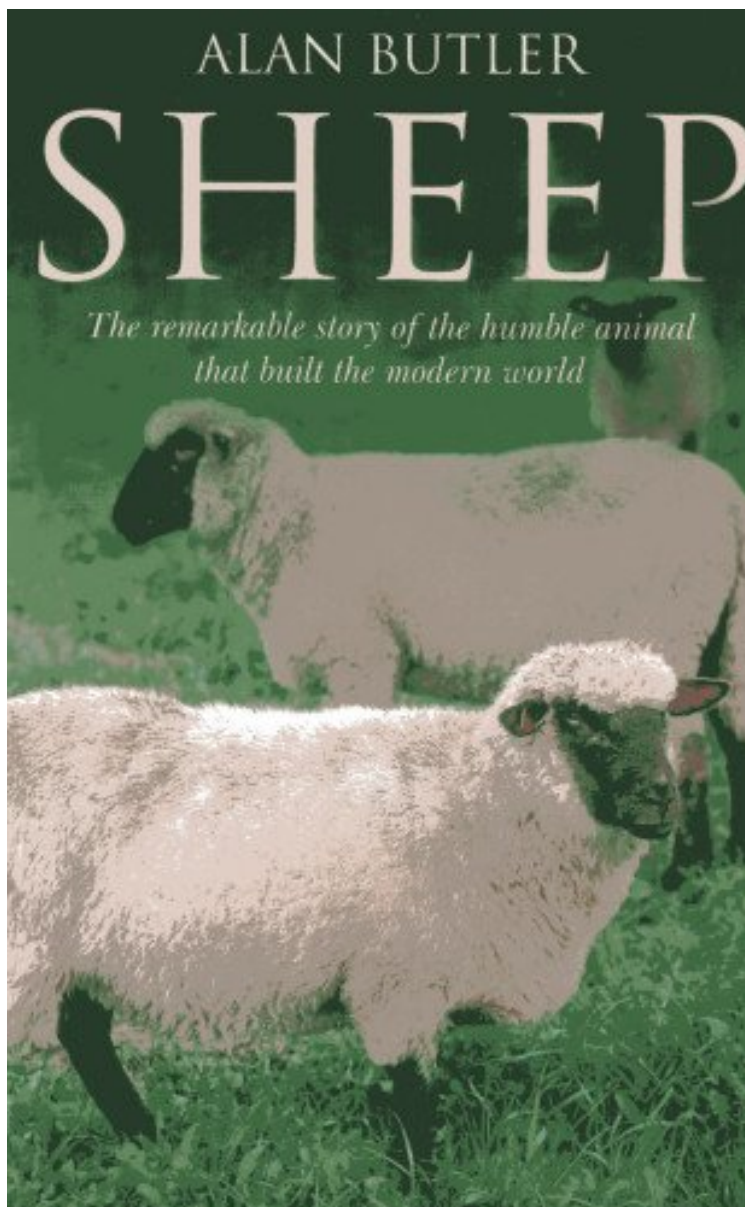


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Sheep

Alan Butler

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Alan Butler : Sheep before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Sheep:

2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. Excellent Educational ReadBy James S. MacLachlanIt was an interesting book a great view of history from an other than normal point of view. World economics, innovation,

political struggles over sheep? Yes, indeed he does make a pretty good case for it - a fairly entertaining one. One of his references was Daniel Defoe who, besides writing "Robinson Crusoe", also traveled about Britain wrote "A Tour Through the Whole Island of Great Britain". Quotes of Defoe's observations lent a lot of strength to his arguments. I would have liked a bit more specifics about the sheep themselves the arts of turning their wool into cloth. All his observations were general would probably be fine for most, but Mom raised them for a number of years so I know a bit more than average would have liked to know more. He didn't cover that most probably will be glad that he didn't. Mechanically, his writing was pretty good. He sometimes swarmed around in time came back by the same era people several times but each time it was from a different angle. He tied together cause effect nicely, without swamping me with too many disparate details all at once. Even if I wasn't familiar with that particular time place in history, by the time he was finished, I had a pretty good view of it. I also really appreciated the way he finished each chapter with a paragraph or two that concisely summed up the point he'd made throughout. Very well done, readable, understandable memorable. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. A wonderful book! By Jennifer Bogut One of my favorite books - I have purchased multiple copies to give to friends! So interesting - not at all like a dry history book, but a story told about a truly amazing and oftentimes underappreciated animal. Highly recommend!

What was the most important step in civilization? Alan Butler's answer is that it was when we began capturing wild sheep, domesticating and breeding them. Sheep were the mainstay of ancient cultures, by far the most important of the domesticated animals. Able to survive almost anywhere, over-wintering successfully, they provided not just milk, meat and skin, but warm clothing. This is why so many of the earliest gods and their myths are sheep related, from the Egyptian Ra (ram) to the later Christian Lamb of God. But sheep have not only sustained us for thousands of years. Sheep farming also underpinned the growth of European nation states, international trade and modern economies. In effect sheep built the modern world. The demands of the woollen textile industry both drove and financed the Industrial Revolution. The British Empire was founded on wool. The space needed for sheep drove millions off the land, many of whom took them to Australasia and the Americas. With over a billion sheep in the world today the humanity-sheep relationship represents the most successful example of mammalian symbiosis on the planet. The story of the sheep is the story of humanity, a surprisingly exciting and gripping tale that deserves to be told. Spanning a vast period of time, it includes some of the most famous names that have been left to us by history, and many that deserve to better recognised.

A rattling good read! --- Reading Clinic, BBC Radio 4 About the Author Alan Butler has had a life-long interest in sheep. He writes stage and radio plays, and has published Civilization One, The Templar Continuum, The Virgin and the Pentacle and The Goddess, the Grail and the Lodge. He lives in the East Riding, England.