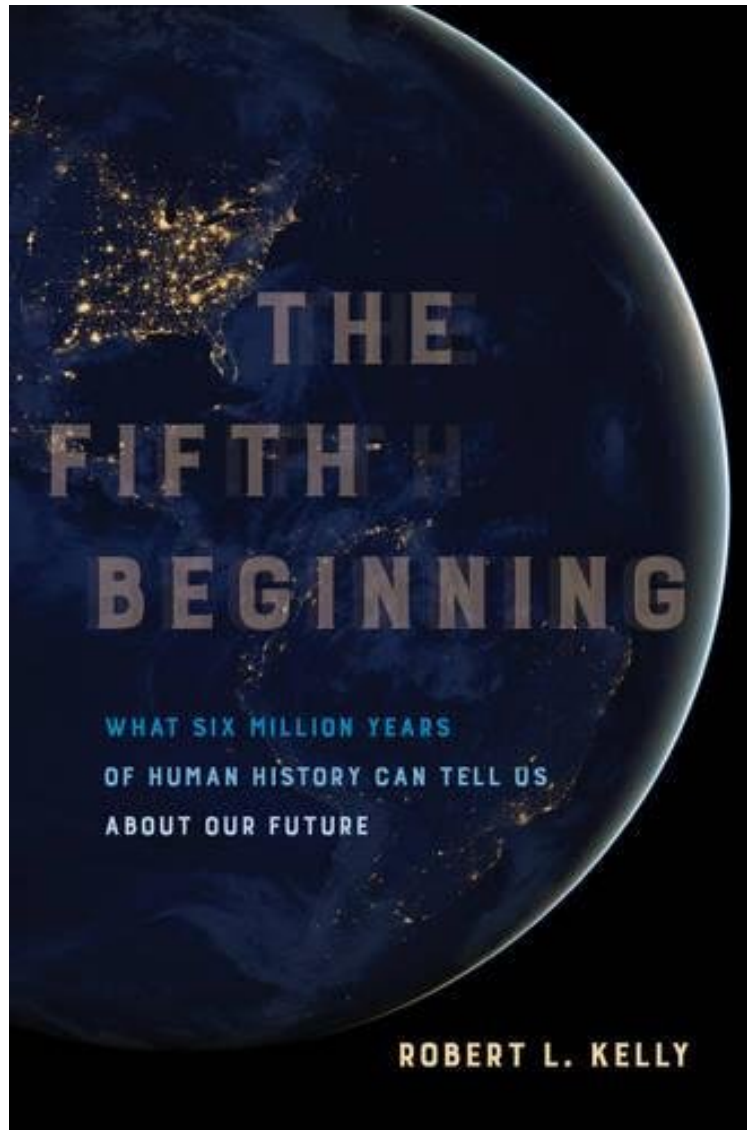


[Download] The Fifth Beginning: What Six Million Years of Human History Can Tell Us about Our Future

# The Fifth Beginning: What Six Million Years of Human History Can Tell Us about Our Future

*Robert L. Kelly*

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**Robert L. Kelly : The Fifth Beginning: What Six Million Years of Human History Can Tell Us about Our Future** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Fifth Beginning: What Six Million Years of Human History Can Tell Us about Our Future:

1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Must-read!By Rachael ShimekThis book is a must-read for all humans! It traces the human story from its very beginnings, to the present day, and into the possibilities of our future

as a species (spoiler: the future is up to us!). It is written in such a way as to be accessible to all readers, regardless of their background. It also manages to be quite funny at times, even though the subject is as serious as any can be. Also, do read the end notes- sometimes they are just citations from the text, but often they are little nuggets of amusing and surprising information that add to the overall experience of the book. Highly recommended! 1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. A phenomenal jaunt through time and space. By Kindle Customer A tour de force in archaeological thought. An outstanding account of the human journey to where we are today and where we could be heading, aka the 5th Beginning. Dr. Kelly's straightforward writing style is easy to understand and his anecdotes help make key points easier to digest. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Five Stars By 1 Great book. Great bibliography.

I have seen yesterday. I know tomorrow. This inscription in Tutankhamun's tomb summarizes *The Fifth Beginning*. Here, archaeologist Robert L. Kelly explains how the study of our cultural past can predict the future of humanity. In an eminently readable style, Kelly identifies four key pivot points in the six-million-year history of human development: the emergence of technology, culture, agriculture, and the state. In each example, the author examines the long-term processes that resulted in a definitive, no-turning-back change for the organization of society. Kelly then looks ahead, giving us evidence for what he calls a fifth beginning, one that started about AD 1500. Some might call it globalization, but the author places it in its larger context: a five-thousand-year arms race, capitalism's global reach, and the cultural effects of a worldwide communication network. Kelly predicts that the emergent phenomena of this fifth beginning will include the end of war as a viable way to resolve disputes, the end of capitalism as we know it, the widespread shift toward world citizenship, and the rise of forms of cooperation that will end the near-sacred status of nation-states. It's the end of life as we have known it. However, the author is cautiously optimistic: he dwells not on the coming chaos, but on humanity's great potential.