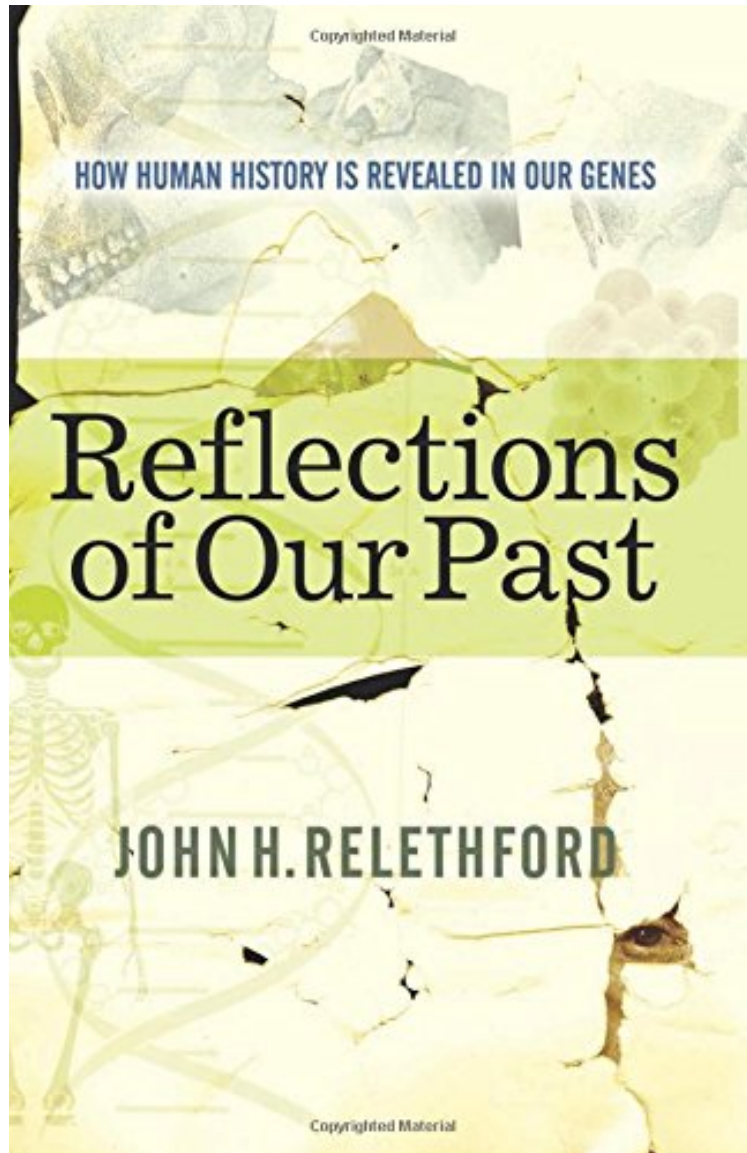


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Reflections Of Our Past: How Human History Is Revealed In Our Genes

John H Relethford

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John H Relethford : Reflections Of Our Past: How Human History Is Revealed In Our Genes before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Reflections Of Our Past: How Human History Is Revealed In Our Genes:

1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Well Written and Interesting Read - For Lay and Students, AlikeBy

Kirsten H. Gordon What a great tour of anthropological discovery methodology by one of the world authorities and leaders in the field. Fascinating detective work almost reminded me of TV's CSI. Great sense of humor and excellent sentence/paragraph progression and structure. I'd recommend this book for anybody interested in learning more about the field, or learning more about the ways in which genetic composition analysis has proven (and disproven) many of the theories about where we came from and how we got here. For me, it was recreational reading that opened my eyes to an entire field! RECOMMENDED.0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. A must read for those interested in evolutionary and population genetics By S. M. Silverberg MD This well written and very informative book on evolutionary and population genetics is a must read for anyone truly interested in the subject. As a layman in this field I am beginning to get an understanding of the subject. I would recommend it highly.1 of 2 people found the following review helpful. Interesting book, needed it for a college class. By lenny guevara It is definitely a book that can be used to learn about ones ancestry past our general idea of generations. This explains how we came to be as modern humans. It goes through our relationships with apes and how genetically close we are to them. Detailed book on this subject, it goes along with the basis of biological anthropology. I am currently using this for a my race and racism class at my university.

Where did modern humans come from and how important are the biological differences among us? Are we descended from Neanderthals? How many races of people are there? Were Native Americans the first settlers of the New World? How can we tell if Thomas Jefferson had a child with Sally Hemings? Through an engaging examination of issues such as these, and using non-technical language, *Reflections of Our Past* shows how anthropologists use genetic information to test theories and define possible answers to fundamental questions in human history. By looking at genetic variation in the world today, we can reconstruct the recent and remote events and processes that created the variation we see, providing a fascinating reflection of our genetic past. *Reflections of Our Past* is a W. W. Howells Book Prize Winner and Choice Outstanding Academic Title.

From Publishers Weekly In this gem of a book, Relethford, an anthropologist at SUNY Oneonta, examines how members of his field use genetic information to shed light on human origins and prehistory, and he questions some orthodox views along the way. Through intuitive examples and friendly analogies, Relethford shows the lay reader why our closest living relatives are the African apes and how one's method of genetic classification depends on the questions one is trying to answer. Examining how our genetic variations inform us about our origins, he tentatively challenges current views by proposing that not all of our ancestors originated in Africa 150,000 years ago—some came from other continents. Then there is the question of what happened to the ill-fated Neanderthals: Relethford shows that differences between Neanderthal and present human DNA are not as great as we might think, and concludes that perhaps Neanderthals were bred out of existence by mixing with a numerically superior gene pool. The remainder of the book shows how genetic data from living human populations can be used to reconstruct the past. The author touches on the Kennewick Man controversy (the skeleton found in Washington state was dated at 9,600 years old yet appeared European), concluding that he was probably not Caucasian but in fact a precursor to Native Americans. There are also chapters on the origins of the Polynesians, the genetic history of Ireland and ever-interesting case studies of genetic admixture such as the Jewish diaspora and the Thomas Jefferson-Sally Hemings affair. Copyright 2003 Reed Business Information, Inc. From Booklist In this clarifying presentation, Relethford conveys the vital contribution genetic analysis makes to our understanding of human evolution. Its techniques burst into popular awareness when, 15 years ago, scientists announced they had traced back 200,000 years to discover "Eve," the common ancestor to all humanity or, strictly speaking, a pool of several thousand individuals with the common ancestor. Nice story, but how accurate is it? Relethford delves into the issue to unveil a fundamental debate in paleoanthropology about whether modern humans are descended from the Eve group in Africa, or from multiregional populations. What DNA, drawn from Neanderthal bones and living people, says about this is not clear-cut; however, Relethford's explanation of genetic techniques most certainly is. An important contribution to the literature on human origins. Gilbert Taylor Copyright American Library Association. All rights reserved About the Author John H. Relethford is Distinguished Teaching Professor, Department of Anthropology, SUNY College at Oneonta, where he has received the Chancellor's Award for Excellence in Teaching. His research interests include genetics and human history, human biological variation, and the origins of modern humans. He is currently President Elect of the American Association of Physical Anthropologists. *Reflections of Our Past* is a W. W. Howells Book Prize Winner and Choice Outstanding Academic Title. John Relethford lives in Oneonta, New York.