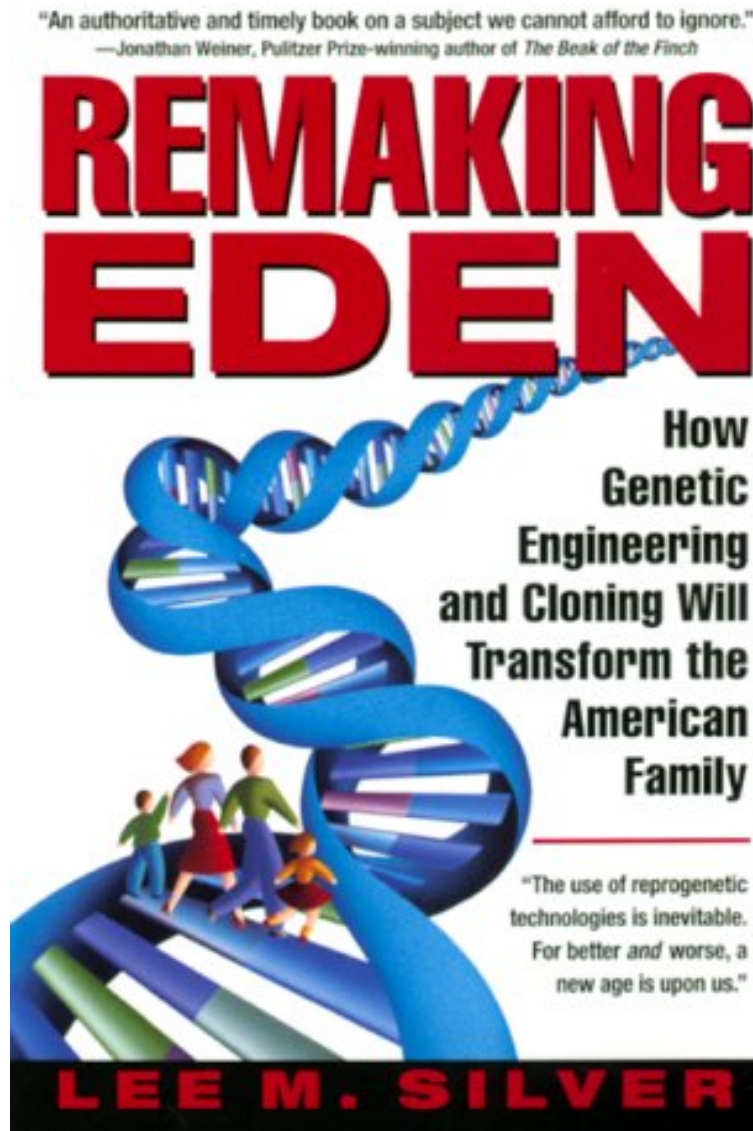


Remaking Eden

Lee M. Silver

**Download PDF / ePub / DOC / audiobook / ebooks*



 Download

 Read Online

#12352997 in Books 1998-10-01Format: Bargain PricePDF # 1 #File Name: B000H2MDBA400 pages | File size: 29.Mb

Lee M. Silver : Remaking Eden before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Remaking Eden:

14 of 15 people found the following review helpful. Brilliant in every wayBy Dr. Lee D. CarlsonWith the announcement today of the completion of mapping of the human genome, this book takes on particular importance. The book was published in 1997, and as further evidence of the technological hyperdrive of the 21st century and the

incredible advances in sequencing technology since 1997, the author predicts on page 244 that the Human Genome Project would take 23 more years, and be completed by 2020! The book is excellent, for the author gives brilliant arguments both supporting genetic technologies and countering many that don't. In addition, the author discusses possibilities in reproductive technologies that may be unknown to a reader, like myself, who is not an expert in embryology. For example, he discusses the occurrence (although rare) of natural-born chimeric human beings, who arose from the fusion of two embryos that resulted from the fertilization of two eggs that had been ovulated simultaneously by their mother. Another example discussed is the possibility of a fertilized egg winding up in the peritoneal cavity (in the abdomen essentially). This example was discussed in the context of whether indeed a man could carry a pregnancy. Some of the other interesting arguments and discussions in the book include: 1. When addressing the assertion that it is unfair for only the wealthy to take advantage of genetic technologies for enhancing their progeny, the author agrees that it is, but he then states correctly that a society that accepts the right of wealthy parents to provide their children with a top-notch private education cannot use "unfairness" as a reason for denying the use of genetic technologies. 2. His discussion of the status of the embryo as human life, which he argues, brilliantly, is not. "If a human life can begin in the absence of conception" he says, "then it is scientifically invalid to say that conception must mark the beginning of each human life. It is as simple as that". 3. The discussion of the history of in vitro fertilization, the ethical issues surrounding it, and the technologies needed to bring it about. The author regards IVF as a pivotal point in history, in which humans took charge of their reproductive destiny. 4. The discussion of cloning, elaborating naturally on the cloning of Dolly the sheep. He states that the cloning of Dolly "broke the technological barrier" and that there is "no reason to expect that the technology couldn't be transferred to human cells." Recent experiments in the last few months however have cast doubt on the ability to do cloning of primates, and so human cloning could therefore be problematic. The author though counters very successfully the arguments against the practice of human cloning. The author has a refreshing optimism throughout the book, and he remains confident in the human ability to both understand the world and change it with proven and safe technologies. In light of the completion of the mapping of the human genome, his optimism is certainly justified. The technologies discussed in this book, coupled with the information obtained from the complete human genome, promise an incredibly interesting future for biology. Both the author and the individuals behind the human genome project are excellent examples of the ingenuity and mental discipline of the human species.

10 of 12 people found the following review helpful. Techno-utopian nonsense. By Austin Post I think the underlying ethos of this book is techno-utopianism. Silver believes science can and will create a new world where the human race will essentially become gods. He does point out some problems like the fact that poor people will not be able to afford these and so the wealthy may end up engineering themselves into a separate race, however nowhere in this book is any doubt that science can accomplish this. Essentially Mr. Silver is a neo-enlightenment thinker, who believes the human race has no limits. I'm a skeptic in that that the more I look back on history, the more I realize that human nature is pretty fixed. People have dreamed of being like gods for centuries, and it hasn't happened. We are developing better treatments for disease, although I think people like Silver and other utopians like Ray Kurzweil (in a different direction) tend to underestimate the extreme complexity of the biological process. They believe that because we can decode the genome, it means we can engineer it. In reality things are so complex that I believe it is hubris to suggest humans can simply do everything. We understand how the sun works, but we cannot create a second solar system. In the end I think there are two sides to Mr. Silver. I am sure he is a deeply intelligent professor, on the other hand he runs away with his science fiction dreams. He simply assumes given enough time we will magically be able to accomplish all this. He ignores an important point that people like Peter Thiel have brought up, which is outside of advances in computing, technology has actually slowed down over the past several decades.

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Very By Customer Very pleased

Could a child have two genetic mothers? Will parents someday soon be able to choose not only the physical characteristics of their children-to-be, but their personalities and talents as well? Will genetic enhancement ultimately lead to a split in the human species? In this brilliant, provocative, and necessary book, Lee M. Silver takes a cautiously optimistic look at the scientific advances that will allow us to engineer life in ways that were unimaginable just a few short years ago indeed, in ways that go far beyond cloning. In clear, engaging, and accessible prose, Silver demystifies the science behind a myriad of thrilling and frightening new possibilities, in a book that is essential reading for anyone who wants to understand the hopes and dilemmas of the American family in the twenty-first century.

About the Author Lee M. Silver is professor of molecular biology and public affairs at the Woodrow Wilson School of Public and International Affairs at Princeton University, and author of *Challenging Nature*. He holds a Ph.D. in biophysics from Harvard University, and he lives with his family in New Jersey and New York.