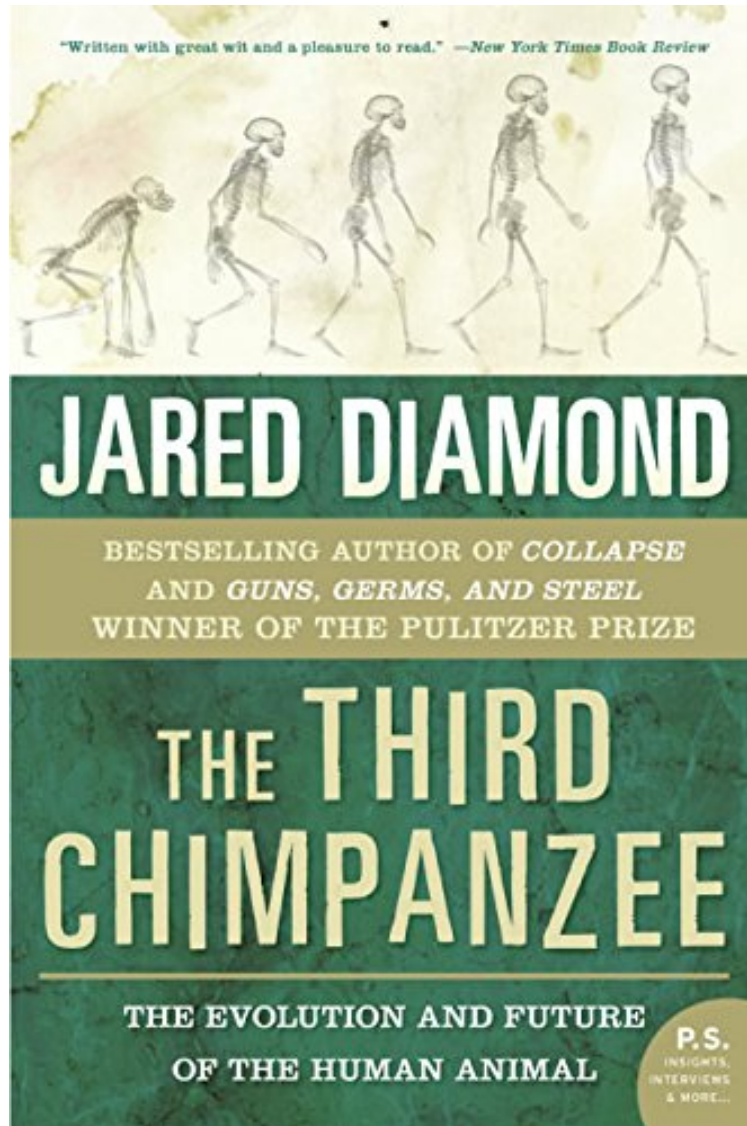


(Ebook free) The Third Chimpanzee: The Evolution and Future of the Human Animal (P.S.)

The Third Chimpanzee: The Evolution and Future of the Human Animal (P.S.)

Jared M. Diamond

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#32937 in Books Jared M Diamond 2006-01-03 2006-01-03 Original language: English PDF # 1 8.00 x .97 x 5.311, .72 #File Name: 0060845503432 pages Third Chimpanzee The Evolution and Future of the Human Animal | File size: 15.Mb

Jared M. Diamond : The Third Chimpanzee: The Evolution and Future of the Human Animal (P.S.) before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Third Chimpanzee: The Evolution and Future of the Human Animal (P.S.):

2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. Better than Advertised. By John D Purdy This has been such an

interesting read-actually going thru it slowly to be sure to inhale and retain events and changes as noted. Great reading at the end of another crazy day. I think I like some of our earlier versions of ourselves than some of the people I bounce off of every day. Terrific researcher who knows how to spin a fascinating tale. 1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. and this is great, just like all the others By ZoeCat Have read all his books, and this is great, just like all the others! 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Four Stars By RLWa gift for college student

The Development of an Extraordinary Species We human beings share 98 percent of our genes with chimpanzees. Yet humans are the dominant species on the planet -- having founded civilizations and religions, developed intricate and diverse forms of communication, learned science, built cities, and created breathtaking works of art -- while chimps remain animals concerned primarily with the basic necessities of survival. What is it about that two percent difference in DNA that has created such a divergence between evolutionary cousins? In this fascinating, provocative, passionate, funny, endlessly entertaining work, renowned Pulitzer Prizewinning author and scientist Jared Diamond explores how the extraordinary human animal, in a remarkably short time, developed the capacity to rule the world . . . and the means to irrevocably destroy it.

.com Jared Diamond states the theme of his book up-front: "How the human species changed, within a short time, from just another species of big mammal to a world conqueror; and how we acquired the capacity to reverse all that progress overnight." *The Third Chimpanzee* is, in many ways, a prequel to Diamond's prize-winning *Guns, Germs, and Steel*. While *Guns* examines "the fates of human societies," this work surveys the longer sweep of human evolution, from our origin as just another chimpanzee a few million years ago. Diamond writes: It's obvious that humans are unlike all animals. It's also obvious that we're a species of big mammal down to the minutest details of our anatomy and our molecules. That contradiction is the most fascinating feature of the human species. The chapters in *The Third Chimpanzee* on the oddities of human reproductive biology were later expanded in *Why Is Sex Fun?* Here, they're linked to Diamond's views of human psychology and history. Diamond is officially a physiologist at UCLA medical school, but he's also one of the best birdwatchers in the world. The current scientific consensus that "primitive" humans created ecological catastrophes in the Pacific islands, Australia, and the New World owes a great deal to his fieldwork and insight. In Diamond's view, the current global ecological crisis isn't due to modern technology per se, but to basic weaknesses in human nature. But, he says, "I'm cautiously optimistic. If we will learn from our past that I have traced, our own future may yet prove brighter than that of the other two chimpanzees." -- Mary Ellen Curtin
From *Library Journal* Research biologist (Papua New Guinea, Solomon Islands) Diamond argues that the human being is just a third species of chimpanzee but nevertheless a unique animal essentially due to its capacity for innovation, which caused a great leap forward in hominoid evolution. After stressing the significance of spoken language, along with art and technology, Diamond focuses on the self-destructive propensities of our species to kill each other (genocide and drug abuse) and to destroy the environment (mass extinctions). He also discusses human sexuality, geographic variability, and ramifications of agriculture (metallurgy, cultivated plants, and domesticated animals). Absent from Diamond's work is the role religion plays in causing both war and the population explosion as well as long-range speculations on the future of our species. This informative, most fascinating, and very readable book is highly recommended for all libraries. - H. James Birx, Canisius Coll., Buffalo, N.Y. Copyright 1992 Reed Business Information, Inc.
From *Kirkus* Plenty of provocative ideas in this grand sweep of evolutionary biology and anthropology: not surprising for this MacArthur ``genius" Award-winner, Natural History columnist, and UCLA Medical School physiology professor. With only 1.6 percent difference between the human genome and the genomes of two species of chimps, Diamond declares that we should call ourselves ``the third chimpanzee." (Curiously, he fails to mention neoteny as making a world of genetic difference.) Diamond first reviews human evolution, ending with the great leap forward that he attributes to language. New in this area is a discussion of animal art and communication (e.g., bowerbird constructions, vervet-monkey talk) and creolization (the development of sophisticated human languages from pidgin forms). With respect to other human features, Diamond reprises all the theories you've ever heard about sexual behavior, selection, menstruation, menopause, etc. Ditto for aging. He steers a common-sense course between extremes, opting for the game-theory approach of optimizing one's genes and of group survival. Old-but-not-fertile elders are essential imparters of knowledge for the group. A chapter on self-destructive behaviors (smoking, drinking, drug abuse) offers the peculiar theory that we do it to advertise that we are really superior because we can flaunt handicaps! No mention is made of the fit of the chemicals to receptors in the brain and to circuits evoking pleasure. Later, drawing on his special knowledge of New Guinea, Australia, and Polynesia, and his research on birds, Diamond provides a fascinating if overwhelmingly pessimistic view of human predation through genocide, species and resource destruction, and potential nuclear disaster. Conclusions of continued human, species, and planetary destruction are inescapable, in spite of Diamond's optimism that we can learn from the past and some modest success he has had with conservation programs. Quirky arguments at times, yes, but generally Diamond is as sharp as his name. (Twenty-five line drawings and halftones.) -- Copyright 1992, Kirkus Associates, LP. All rights reserved.