



Civilizations: Culture, Ambition, and the Transformation of Nature

Felipe Fernandez-Armesto

Download now

[Click here](#) if your download doesn't start automatically

Civilizations: Culture, Ambition, and the Transformation of Nature

Felipe Fernandez-Armesto

Civilizations: Culture, Ambition, and the Transformation of Nature Felipe Fernandez-Armesto

In *Civilizations*, Felipe Fernández-Armesto once again proves himself a brilliantly original historian, capable of large-minded and comprehensive works; here he redefines the subject that has fascinated historians from Thucydides to Gibbon to Spengler to Fernand Braudel: the nature of civilization.

To Fernández-Armesto, a civilization is "civilized in direct proportion to its distance, its difference from the unmodified natural environment" ...by its taming and warping of climate, geography, and ecology. The same impersonal forces that put an ocean between Africa and India, a river delta in Mesopotamia, or a 2,000-mile-long mountain range in South America have created the mold from which humanity has fashioned its own wildly differing cultures. In a grand tradition that is certain to evoke comparisons to the great historical taxonomies, each chapter of *Civilizations* connects the world of the ecologist and geographer to a panorama of cultural history. In *Civilizations*, the medieval poem *Sir Gawain and the Green Knight* is not merely a Christian allegory, but a testament to the thousand-year-long deforestation of the trees that once covered 90 percent of the European mainland. The Indian Ocean has served as the world's greatest trading highway for millennia not merely because of cultural imperatives, but because the regular monsoon winds blow one way in the summer and the other in the winter.

In the words of the author, "Unlike previous attempts to write the comparative history of civilizations, it is arranged environment by environment, rather than period by period, or society by society." Thus, seventeen distinct habitats serve as jumping-off points for a series of brilliant set-piece comparisons; thus, tundra civilizations from Ice Age Europe are linked with the Inuit of the Pacific Northwest; and the Mississippi mound-builders and the deforesters of eleventh-century Europe are both understood as civilizations built on woodlands. Here, of course, are the familiar riverine civilizations of Mesopotamia and China, of the Indus and the Nile; but also highland civilizations from the Inca to New Guinea; island cultures from Minoan Crete to Polynesia to Renaissance Venice; maritime civilizations of the Indian Ocean and South China Sea...even the Bushmen of Southern Africa are seen through a lens provided by the desert civilizations of Chaco Canyon.

More, here are fascinating stories, brilliantly told -- of the voyages of Chinese admiral Chen Ho and Portuguese commodore Vasco da Gama, of the Great Khan and the Great Zimbabwe. Here are Hesiod's tract on maritime trade in the early Aegean and the most up-to-date genetics of seed crops. Erudite, wide-ranging, a work of dazzling scholarship written with extraordinary flair, *Civilizations* is a remarkable achievement...a tour de force by a brilliant scholar.

 [Download Civilizations: Culture, Ambition, and the Transfor ...pdf](#)

 [Read Online Civilizations: Culture, Ambition, and the Transf ...pdf](#)

Download and Read Free Online Civilizations: Culture, Ambition, and the Transformation of Nature Felipe Fernandez-Armesto

From reader reviews:

Danny Whittemore:

What do you in relation to book? It is not important to you? Or just adding material if you want something to explain what the one you have problem? How about your extra time? Or are you busy man? If you don't have spare time to do others business, it is make one feel bored faster. And you have spare time? What did you do? Everyone has many questions above. The doctor has to answer that question since just their can do in which. It said that about e-book. Book is familiar in each person. Yes, it is proper. Because start from on kindergarten until university need this Civilizations: Culture, Ambition, and the Transformation of Nature to read.

Fredrick Alfred:

This Civilizations: Culture, Ambition, and the Transformation of Nature book is absolutely not ordinary book, you have it then the world is in your hands. The benefit you obtain by reading this book is definitely information inside this publication incredible fresh, you will get data which is getting deeper you read a lot of information you will get. This Civilizations: Culture, Ambition, and the Transformation of Nature without we recognize teach the one who reading through it become critical in considering and analyzing. Don't possibly be worry Civilizations: Culture, Ambition, and the Transformation of Nature can bring whenever you are and not make your tote space or bookshelves' come to be full because you can have it in the lovely laptop even phone. This Civilizations: Culture, Ambition, and the Transformation of Nature having very good arrangement in word along with layout, so you will not feel uninterested in reading.

Burton Zinn:

You can get this Civilizations: Culture, Ambition, and the Transformation of Nature by look at the bookstore or Mall. Merely viewing or reviewing it may to be your solve trouble if you get difficulties for the knowledge. Kinds of this publication are various. Not only by simply written or printed but also can you enjoy this book simply by e-book. In the modern era similar to now, you just looking from your mobile phone and searching what your problem. Right now, choose your personal ways to get more information about your e-book. It is most important to arrange you to ultimately make your knowledge are still change. Let's try to choose proper ways for you.

Jose Roberts:

That guide can make you to feel relax. This specific book Civilizations: Culture, Ambition, and the Transformation of Nature was colourful and of course has pictures around. As we know that book Civilizations: Culture, Ambition, and the Transformation of Nature has many kinds or style. Start from kids until young adults. For example Naruto or Investigation company Conan you can read and believe you are the character on there. So , not at all of book tend to be make you bored, any it can make you feel happy, fun and rest. Try to choose the best book in your case and try to like reading which.

**Download and Read Online Civilizations: Culture, Ambition, and
the Transformation of Nature Felipe Fernandez-Armesto
#EO6K051UGBJ**

Read Civilizations: Culture, Ambition, and the Transformation of Nature by Felipe Fernandez-Armesto for online ebook

Civilizations: Culture, Ambition, and the Transformation of Nature by Felipe Fernandez-Armesto Free PDF d0wnl0ad, audio books, books to read, good books to read, cheap books, good books, online books, books online, book reviews epub, read books online, books to read online, online library, greatbooks to read, PDF best books to read, top books to read Civilizations: Culture, Ambition, and the Transformation of Nature by Felipe Fernandez-Armesto books to read online.

Online Civilizations: Culture, Ambition, and the Transformation of Nature by Felipe Fernandez-Armesto ebook PDF download

Civilizations: Culture, Ambition, and the Transformation of Nature by Felipe Fernandez-Armesto Doc

Civilizations: Culture, Ambition, and the Transformation of Nature by Felipe Fernandez-Armesto Mobipocket

Civilizations: Culture, Ambition, and the Transformation of Nature by Felipe Fernandez-Armesto EPub