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A Brief History of Mankind

2009-02-10

from the stone age to the space age an entertaining journey through our own story that asks not just how we got here but also where are we going in this thrilling introduction to the big ideas in history combining the latest research in history and archaeology aydon tells the story of our species from our origin in africa to the development of technology detailing the rise of nations and empires and the evolution of culture from cave painting to the internet packed with fascinating facts and insights the book also looks to the future and asks if the crisis of climate change is one challenge too far for humans

The Story of Man

2007-11-09

not just a history of the world this is also a history for the world packed full of fascinating information it is written in the same lively and accessible style that charmed the readers of cyril aydon s previous books charles darwin and a book of scientific curiosities it follows the fortunes and misfortunes of the human race from the time when our ancestors took their first tentative steps out of africa to the day when human beings set foot on the moon from the domestication of the first donkey to the cloning of dolly the sheep and from the building of the pyramids to the designing of the world wide informed by the most recent historical and archaeological research the book focuses not on the conventional small change of kings and queens battles and political maneuvers but on developments that have really shaped the lives of human beings around the globe the neolithic revolution in agriculture the invention of writing the rise and fall of empires the birth of great religions the industrial revolution this book asks whether we have really changed or are we just stone age people living in a space age we have made but cannot control

A Book of Scientific Curiosities

2005

cyril aydon has undertaken a 2000 year journey into mankind s speculation and discovery and proves that sometimes truth is stranger than fiction here is his selection of nearly two hundred famous scientists and their astonishing discoveries from how the babylonians taught us to measure time and the first use of the word dinosaur to galileo s revelations about the cosmos and maimen s development of the first laser retold in entertaining and illuminating anecdotes a book of scientific discoveries pulls together the elements of mystery and intrigue with accessible and fascinating accounts that bring science to life

A Brief History of the Middle East

2011-02-24

western civilization began in the middle east judaism and christianity as well as islam were born there for over a millennium the islamic empires were ahead of the west in learning technology and medicine and were militarily far more powerful it took another three hundred centuries for the west to catch up and overtake the middle east why does it seem different now why does osama bin laden see 1918 with the fall of the ottoman empire as the year everything changed these issues are explained in historical detail here in a way that deliberately seeks to go behind the rhetoric to the roots of present conflicts a brief history of the middle east is essential reading for an intelligent reader wanting to understand what one of the world s key regions is all about fully updated with a new section on the iraq invasion of 2003 the question of iran and the full context of the isreali palestine conflict

A Brief Guide to William Shakespeare

2013-02-07

an accessible and entertaining journey through the life times and work of the bard enigma master of language the greatest comedian in history the most famous writer in the world but isn't he a little bit boring this is an essential guide for anyone who has previously avoided the bard and is the perfect introduction for first time students or seasoned theatre lovers the book contains a full commentary of all the plays by bestselling and renowned writer Peter Ackroyd as well as full descriptions of the cast and the drama not forgetting the best speeches and the wit and wisdom from across the works there is also an opportunity to explore the poems and a complete set of sonnets as well as an investigation of who the dark lady might have been contains the complete sonnets the greatest speeches the best lines perfect for students struggling through their first play or for theatre lovers anywhere entertaining accessible shakespeare without the boring bits

A Brief History of Hitmen and Assassinations

2011-01-27

the true stories behind some of the most shocking assassinations in recent history we live in a new age of political assassination within our lifetimes all the senior members of the UN Security Council have used it as an extension of political policy in all corners of the globe in every case the orders came from the very top today while leading governments use covert ops drones and laser guided missiles the terrorist methods of car bombs and suicide bombers make the game even more dangerous in his compelling history of hit men assassinations and the men who command them Richard Bellfield recalls the major hits in history from Julius Caesar to twenty of the most shocking assassinations in recent history he also reveals how the assassination of President Sadat of Egypt launched al Qaeda how President Kennedy ordered the death of President Diem of Vietnam and with excerpts from CIA and al Qaeda manuals he shows how they have changed the course of history he also uncovers the hidden world of killers and cover ups

A Brief Guide to Secret Religions

2011-05-26

this wide ranging book explores the diversity of esoteric and occult beliefs neo paganism is one of the fastest growing new religions in the western world where witchcraft or wicca druidry and urban shamanism are thriving alongside this there has been an upsurge in new age ideas of an even wider variety including astrology tarot numerology and many others and then there are members of various schools of occult science practising high magic why this new interest in old beliefs why are millions of educated people today abandoning both the established religion of their parents and 21st century scientific rationalism and turning to magic and esoteric teachings in their search for spirituality those who follow these paths claim to be applying ancient wisdom to the modern world the brief history of secret religions a companion book to the brief history of secret societies looks at the history and variety of these esoteric movements where they came from and what they tell us about the world today praise for the new believers an excellent guide to fringe religions that juxtaposes respectable movements and those conventionally dismissed as cults the telegraph no nonsense comprehensive survey packed with non judgmental information about the beliefs aims and activities of such movements daily mail

Cleopatra

2013-02-11

when Cleopatra took the throne of the kingdom of Egypt the pyramids and sphinx were already ancient wonders as queen she faced conquest by a new all powerful empire a Ptolemy descended from a general of Alexander the Great who conquered the Nile as part of his Macedonian lands her relationship with Mark Anthony has become one of the legendary love stories in history now draws on recent archaeological finds and fresh interpretations of ancient texts to separate truth from myth and set this

incomparably beautiful queen in context

A Brief History of Slavery

2011-08-18

a thought provoking and important book that raises essential issues crucial not only for understanding our past but also the present day in this panoramic history jeremy black tells how slavery was first developed in the ancient world and reaches all the way to the present in the form of contemporary crimes such as trafficking and bonded labour he shows how slavery has taken many forms throughout history and across the world from the uprising of spartacus the plantations of the west indies and the murderous forced labour of the gulags and concentration camps slavery helped to consolidate transoceanic empires and helped mould new world societies such as america and brazil black charts the long fight for abolition in the nineteenth century looking at both the campaigners as well as the harrowing accounts of the enslaved themselves slavery is still with us today and coerced labour can be found closer to home than one might expect

A Brief Guide to J. R. R. Tolkien

2012-10-18

a very readable overview of tolkien and his work incorporating a brief biography an examination of the books and a look at the process of filming his work including the hobbit and the lord of the rings saga it explores how tolkien s background as a medievalist and linguist informed the languages of middle earth the influence of his catholicism and tolkien s legacy in fantasy a timely book to coincide with the first of peter jackson s two keenly awaited hobbit films

A Brief History of Britain 1660 - 1851

2011-06-23

praise for the author gibson s well written and well documented account of james and the bishops will surely become the new standard authority on these implausible revolutionaries for many decades barbara brandon schnorrenberg anglican and episcopal history in 1660 england emerged from the devastation of the civil wars and restored the king charles ii to the throne over the next 190 years britain would establish itself as the leading nation in the world the centre of a burgeoning empire at the forefront of the enlightenment and the driving force behind the industrial revolution however radical change also brought with it anxiety and violence america was lost in the war of independence and calls for revolution at home were never far from the surface of everyday life in this vivid and convincing overview of the era in which britain transformed the world and was itself remade leading historian of the period william gibson also looks at the impact of this revolutionary change on the ordinary citizens of britain this is the third book in this wonderfully concise four volume brief history of britain which brings together leading historians to tell the story of britain from the norman conquest of 1066 right up to the present day combining the latest research with accessible and entertaining story telling it is the ideal introduction to british history for students and general readers

A Brief Guide to Native American Myths and Legends

2013-01-17

in this brilliant reworking of lewis spence s seminal myths and legends of the north american indians jon e lewis puts the work in context with an extensive new introductory essay and additional commentary throughout the book on the history of native americans their language and lifestyle culture and religion mythology he includes examples of myths from tribes omitted by spence a guide to tribes and their myths by region a basic lakota sioux glossary guides to key pronunciations and a bibliography

A Brief History of the Roman Empire

2013-06-20

in this lively and very readable history of the roman empire from its establishment in 27 bc to the barbarian incursions and the fall of rome in ad 476 kershaw draws on a range of evidence from juvenal s satires to recent archaeological finds he examines extraordinary personalities such as caligula and nero and seismic events such as the conquest of britain and the establishment of a new rome at constantinople and the split into eastern and western empires along the way we encounter gladiators and charioteers senators and slaves fascinating women bizarre sexual practices and grotesque acts of brutality often seen through eyes of some of the world s greatest writers he concludes with a brief look at how rome lives on in the contemporary world in politics architecture art and literature

A Brief History of Britain 1485-1660

2011-06-23

praise for the author for anyone researching the subject this is the book you ve been waiting for washington post from the death of richard iii on bosworth field in 1485 to the execution of charles i after the civil wars of 1642 48 england was transformed by two dynasties first the tudors who had won the crown on the battlefield changed both the nature of kingship and the nation itself england became protestant and began to establish itself as a trading power facing down seemingly impossible odds it defeated its enemies on land and sea but after a century elizabeth i died with no heir and the crown was passed to the stuart who sought to remould the kingdom in their own image leading authority on the history of the british isles in the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries ronald hutton brilliantly recreates the political landscape of this early modern period and shows how the modern nation was forged in these febrile transformative years combining skilful pen portraits of the leading figures of the day with descriptions of its culture economics and vivid accounts of everyday life hutton provides telling insights into this critical period on britain s national history this the second book in the landmark four volume brief history of britain which brings together leading historians to tell britain s story from the norman conquest of 1066 to the present day combining the latest research with accessible and entertaining story telling the series is the ideal introduction for students and general readers

A Brief History of The Third Reich

2011-06-23

the abuse of power genocide the destruction of total war unimaginable cruelty and the suffering of millions were all central features of hitler s nazi regime yet the nazis were also highly successful in manipulating images and information they mobilized and engaged vast numbers of people caught the imagination of the young and appeared remarkably modern to many contemporary observers was the third reich a throwback to a mythical past or a brutally modern and technologically advanced state was hitler a strong dictator who achieved his clear goals or was his chaotic style of government symptomatic of a weak dictator unable to control the complex and contradictory forces that he had unleashed was the third reich ruled by terror or largely supported by a compliant german population was the genocide against the jews a peculiarly german phenomenon or a uniquely german expression of a terrible wider trend whittock explores these and other key questions interrogating the views of different historians and drawing on a wealth of primary sources from state sponsored art to diaries letters and memoirs of both perpetrators and victims to provide an overview of the complex evidence history should aim to put us firmly in touch with the lives of people living in the past and the issues they faced whittock never loses sight of the individuals whose lives were caught up in these extraordinary events while also giving a lucid overview of the bigger picture

A Brief History of Robin Hood

2013-02-07

who was robin hood throughout history the figures of the hooded man of sherwood forest and his band of outlaws have transfixed readers and viewers but where does the myth come from the story appeared out of the legend of the green man but found its location during the reign of richard ii the lionheart who was away from england fighting in the crusades in his absence his brother john lay waste to the country but does this tell the full story was robin a bandit prince ahead of a troop of brigands who was the sherrif and was he in fact the legitimate law in the land fighting vigilantes

A Brief History of Khubilai Khan

2015-05-21

his grandfather was the bloodthirsty mongol leader genghis khan his mother a christian princess groomed from childhood for a position of authority khubilai snatched the position of great khan becoming the overlord of a mongol federation that stretched from the balkans to the korean coast his armies conquered the asian kingdom of dali and brought down the last defenders of imperial china khubilai khan presided over a glorious asian renaissance attracting emissaries from all across the continent and opening his civil service to men with coloured eyes administrators from the far west his reign began the glorious yuan dynasty that ruled over china for only ninety years but had a profound impact on asian history from international trade to cultural revolution jonathan clements s insightful biography into the life and times of one of china s greatest leaders is a fascinating introduction to an important era uncovering the man behind marco polo s mythic portrait

A Brief History of Vampires

2013-02-07

a historical journey in pursuit of the history legend and lore of vampires where do they come from why do they have so much appeal today as twilight hits the book charts and billboards and true blood is on tv there are vampires in downtown clubs and never has it been more fashionable to be pale m j trow looks at the story of vampires and charts its origins a long way from the shopping mall in the story of the warrior prince vlad of wallachia

A Brief History of Bad Medicine

2012-01-19

a doctor removes the normal healthy side of a patient s brain instead of the malignant tumor a man whose leg is scheduled for amputation wakes up to find his healthy leg removed these recent examples are part of a history of medical disasters and embarrassments as old as the profession itself in brief history of bad medicine robert m youngson and ian schott have written the definitive account of medical mishap in modern and not so modern times from famous quacks to curious forms of sexual healing from blunders with the brain to drugs worse than the diseases they are intended to treat the book reveals shamefully dangerous doctors human guinea pigs and the legendary surgeon who was himself a craven morphine addict exploring the line between the comical and the tragic the honest mistake and the intentional crime brief history of bad medicine illustrates once and for all that you can t always trust the people in white coats

A Brief Guide to Cloud Computing

2010-08-26

an accessible and comprehensive guide to the future of computing cloud computing is the next computing revolution and will have as much impact on your life as the introduction of the pc using websites including facebook flickr and gmail many people already store some information out in the internet cloud however within a few years most computing applications will be accessed online with the web at the heart of everything we do in this valuable guide expert christopher barnatt explains how computing will rapidly become more reliable less complex and more environmentally friendly he explores online software and hardware and how it will alter our office work and

personal lives individuals and companies are going to be released from the constraints of desktop computing and expensive corporate data centres new services like augmented reality will also become available including coverage of google docs zoho microsoft azure amazon ec2 and other key developments this book is your essential guide to the cloud computing revolution

A Brief Guide to Classical Civilization

2010-08-26

a general introduction to the classical world from its origins to the fall of the roman empire the book focuses on questions of how we know about classical civilization from archaeology and history deals with the mycenaean era and the world of myth and epic in homer s iliad odyssey gives an outline of greek history in the 5th 4th centuries bc looks at greek social life and the alternative model of sparta and considers the achievements of the greeks in their art and architecture tragedy and comedy turning to rome it engages with roman history the roman epic tradition the fascinating features of roman social life analyses roman satire explores the urban environment in pompeii and herculaneum and concludes with the end of rome

The World Turned Upside Down

2013

acting as a sorcerer s apprentice the west incorporated 1 3 billion chinese and 1 2 billion indians into the world s labour equation within a context of lower production costs this resulted in erosion of its competitive capacity and social stability while greatly benefiting developing economies many of which were able to emerge with unprecedented speed with china as the main engine the developing economies have become increasingly integrated sustaining in the process a fundamental part of the global trade growth while this phenomenon took shape excesses within western economies generated a seismic crisis that dramatically accelerated a slow decline as the ascendant and descendant curves of developing and developed economies are crossing each other a decoupling tendency between both has become evident the economic partnership between china and latin america epitomizes well the growing integration between emerging economies even if mostly benefiting from it latin america is under the double sign of threat and opportunity due to this complex relation for latin america to succeed it will need to reinvent itself the analyses and information contained in this book will be of interest to researchers academics and policy makers alike

World Turned Upside Down, The: The Complex Partnership Between China And Latin America

2013-04-30

acting as a sorcerer s apprentice the west incorporated 1 3 billion chinese and 1 2 billion indians into the world s labour equation within a context of lower production costs this resulted in erosion of its competitive capacity and social stability while greatly benefiting developing economies many of which were able to emerge with unprecedented speed with china as the main engine the developing economies have become increasingly integrated sustaining in the process a fundamental part of the global trade growth while this phenomenon took shape excesses within western economies generated a seismic crisis that dramatically accelerated a slow decline as the ascendant and descendant curves of developing and developed economies are crossing each other a decoupling tendency between both has become evident the economic partnership between china and latin america epitomizes well the growing integration between emerging economies even if mostly benefiting from it latin america is under the double sign of threat and opportunity due to this complex relation for latin america to succeed it will need to reinvent itself the analyses and information contained in this book will be of interest to researchers academics and policy makers alike

East-West Sword and Word

2017-02-24

amid the rising technicalities of modernism the heart of humanity has been ripped apart and while religionism is tearing throughout the heart of modernity everything is hinting at danger to come caught amid their dramatic collide we moderns have been left in a de facto despair and while the glory each claimed seems a key factor for more tragedies they are almost overshadowed by the merging supremacy of money lifemammonism they are all letting us down and parts us moderns from our trustworthy dream of truth beauty and justice further it is impossible to read far in the underlying factors and related elements of the coming crises and all of them are worrisome either of reorganization of tender nature of reprogramming of living cells and of current technotronic engineering of time via digitized machines without finding that they will certainly shake the good grounds of faith and beliefs everywhere de risking the inevitable and while working around such a failure we moderns have to humanly build on our own strength

A Brief Guide to Charles Darwin

2013-02-07

charles darwin has become one of the most important men in history the quiet unsure polymath who avoided confrontation ensconced in his family home at down house in kent was also a revolutionary who developed his idea of natural selection in isolation cyril aydon s short biography is considered one of the best introductions to the life and ideas of darwin with darwin s legacy still in contention and the forthcoming anniversary of the publication of the origins species aydon s book is a perfect guide to the ideas as well as the man who was recently voted one of the greatest britons of all time and certainly one of the most influential thinkers ever

Posthumanism in the Novels of Kurt Vonnegut

2020-05-18

posthumanism in the novels of kurt vonnegut matter that complains so re examines the prevailing critical consensus that kurt vonnegut was a humanist writer while more difficult elements of his work have often been the subject of scholarly attention the tendency amongst critics writing on vonnegut is to disavow them or to subsume them within a liberal humanist framework when vonnegut s work is read from a posthumanist perspective however the productive paradoxes of his work are more fully realised drawing on new materialist eco critical and systems theory methodologies this book highlights posthumanist themes in six of vonnegut s most famous novels and emphasises the ways in which vonnegut troubles human non human natural artificial and material discursive hierarchical binaries

A Book of Scientific Curiosities

2005-11-15

an offbeat examination of some of the scientific community s more unusual discoveries from the past two millennia describes how the babylonians achieved time measurement galileo s revelations about the cosmos maimen s development of the first laser and more

Environmental Health Perspectives

2009-07

Environmental Health Perspectives (EHP) is a peer-reviewed journal of environmental health and toxicology. It is published by the National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences (NIEHS) and the American Chemical Society (ACS). The journal covers a wide range of topics, including environmental health, toxicology, and public health. It is one of the leading journals in the field of environmental health and toxicology.

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2001-12

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2017-12-25

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