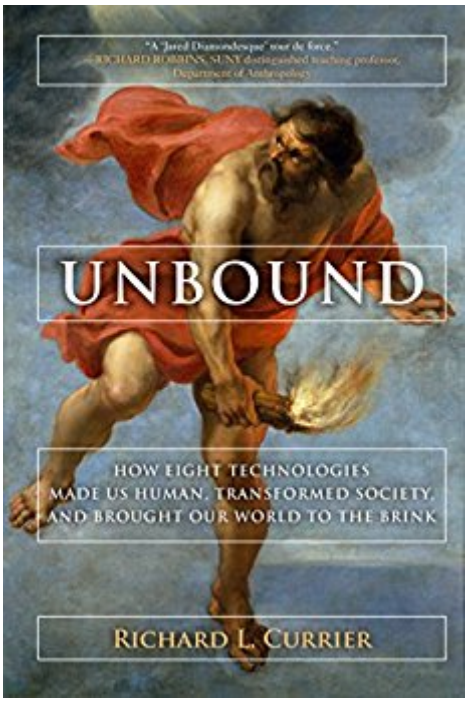
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Unbound: How Eight Technologies Made Us Human, Transformed Society, And Brought Our World To The Brink



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Synopsis

Although we usually think of technology as something unique to modern times, our ancestors began to create the first technologies millions of years ago in the form of prehistoric tools and weapons. Over time, eight key technologies gradually freed us from the limitations of our animal origins.The fabrication of weapons, the mastery of fire, and the technologies of clothing and shelter radically restructured the human body, enabling us to walk upright, shed our body hair, and migrate out of tropical Africa. Symbolic communication transformed human evolution from a slow biological process into a fast cultural process. The invention of agriculture revolutionized the relationship between humanity and the environment, and the technologies of interaction led to the birth of civilization. Precision machinery spawned the industrial revolution and the rise of nation-states; and in the next metamorphosis, digital technologies may well unite all of humanity for the benefit of future generations.Synthesizing the findings of primatology, paleontology, archeology, history, and anthropology, Richard Currier reinterprets and retells the modern narrative of human evolution that began with the discovery of Lucy and other Australopithecus fossils. But the same forces that allowed us to integrate technology into every aspect of our daily lives have also brought us to the brink of planetary catastrophe. Unbound explains both how we got here and how human society must be transformed again to achieve a sustainable future.Technology: “The deliberate modification of any natural object or substance with forethought to achieve a specific end or to serve a specific purpose.Ã¢â ¬Â•

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Customer Reviews

I have just put down what will be a classic and required reading in anthropology departments. 'Unbound' is more: it is a highly readable, believable history of how Man became what s/he is. It's a big book, and getting five million years into some 400+ pages must have been a Herculean task of editing for Currier. I read it almost at a sitting. Rarely can one call a work of non-fiction a page-turner, but this one is. And having been a Professor of Anthropology or actively involved in practical anthropology all my working life, and looking for the faults and what's missing, I am surprised to say at no point did I stop and note 'this is wrong' or 'he missed out ~'. This is one of those satisfying complete works that will appeal equally to the academic and the educated 'man in the street'. The structure is more than clever, it is original: with inventions leading up to language, the point at which most assessments of modern man begin. The reader will get some new viewpoints on early development ~ bipedalism and the invention of the spear stand out~ and, most importantly, how the bits go together to make evolution. The title is as brilliant as the 'binding' into various parts for ease of reference. Read Darwin, then read Currier. We are going to hear much of this book.

Informative, thought provoking and well thought through Unbound offers the reader an ability to understand where we have been and where we must go if we are to survive and continue to develop as we have during our past history as a species. It is not a dark and gloomy prediction, but rather an expectation that as humans we will rise to the occasion as we have done in the past, for if we fail, it is likely an utter failure for human kind. Well written, well thought through, well done.

A fascinating read and highly recommended. This should be on every high school and college required reading list. I have learned a lot from this book. Of course, some will claim these facts of science should not be taught in our schools.

I really enjoyed reading this book... the blending of biological, cultural, and technological evolution /

development, taken not as separate elements (as too often happens) but as interrelated threads that affect each other is an engrossing view of human and humanoid history. This is a unique book and well worth reading for anyone who is interested in how we got where we are."The Substance of Civilization" by Stephen Sass is a useful companion text, which amplifies the content of "Unbound".My thanks to Dr. Currier for producing a very useful text.

Theory of evolution navel-gazing and speculation. After a while it got wearisome. But there are a few nuggets in this dark mine so it gets three stars instead of one.

This book captured the dilemma and challenges of our species in retaining our common homeland planet earth. The presentation was clear, explicate and penetrating.Reading this book I will accept no compromises on the important issues raised. .

This book is a good and highly readable history and prediction of the human species. Hopefully, the author’s optimism about the future is justified.

Fun facts. Solid logic. A good read for those that enjoy asking why and seeing the connections in our world.

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