

The Dawn of Human Culture

Richard Klein and Blake Edgar

I have few criticisms of this book and none of importance. I do have comments on the subject of human evolution in general. These are not disagreements with the authors who hike the mountain tops of their field.

There are three comments in the book I take some exception to. As I have stated in other book reviews I do not want to know the authors religions or political views unless the subject of the book is religion or politics. On page 153 the authors state “on the Golan Heights in Syrian territory presently controlled by Israel.” They could have just said “on the Golan Heights” and it would not have taken anything away from what they were presented as related to the theme of the book. The additional comments added nothing except to present their politics. It was unprofessional. This was the only such instance of this behavior I came across. The two other places of some disagreement where related to the subject.

On page 107 one finds concerning humanoids many years ago “When a female saw a large, well-made biface in the hands of its maker, she might have concluded that he possessed just the determination, coordination, and strength needed to father successful offspring.” Is one to assume from the section that this comment appears in that the brain size of males was 2/3 the brain size of modern males and the brain size of females was 50% bigger than the brain size of modern females?

The third area I have problems with is one in which the authors present their weakest and somewhat deceptive arguments. The authors present without directly stating it that one mutation can make a great leap in evolution. On page 271 one finds “... a team of geneticists led by Cecilia Lai of Oxford University indirectly supported this idea when they identified a single gene that is probably ‘involved in the developmental process that culminates in speech and language’.” Words to look out for here are “indirectly supported” and “probably”. In other book reviews I have expressed my thoughts on evolutionists presenting probable or hypothetical situations and then a page and a half later drawing conclusions from them that are claimed to be proven true having proceeded from the hypothetical situation. This is what is called the Dawkings phenomenon. The authors do

not go to the extent as others, but purposely leave the impression that one mutation resulted in speech.

The study shows that a defect in that one gene adversely affected speech recognition. To say that one gene is responsible for speech one would have to put a defect in every other gene, one at a time, and show that it had no effect on speech. The one mutation theory is the author's explanation for modern human culture. The mutation happened 40,000 to 50,000 years ago. It had no physical effect. Its only effect was on the brain. That is difficult to accept. The author's subtly express their belief, but it is expressed.

To say that one mutation resulted in speech recognition or the advent of culture is beyond what can logically be accepted. One does not have to rely on the lack of believability of the one mutation hypothesis. There are other more obvious problems. For the one mutation to propagate into the future it would seem that a male and female at the same location, at the same time would have to have the same mutation. These two people would have to get cozy with each other and have offspring that got cozy with each other. The mutated gene could be a dominate gene in which case the person with it could get cozy with many other people resulting in cultured offspring. It would seem that the recessive gene would still be around. That would mean that there would be a large number of uncultured people without voice recognition around. Organized society could not work. Many of these people would get into politics. We would have leaders who do not listen and pass laws no one wants and increase taxes no one can pay,

There is another greater problem with the one mutation hypothesis. Homo sapiens had a large extension in the world 50,000 years ago. Not only would cultured Homo sapiens have replaced Neanderthals and Homo erectus, they also would have replaced all non-cultured Homo sapiens.

Other more general comments need making. Many, if not most, conclusions are determined from bones. Can similar bones really be classed as different species? I believe one definition of species is a group on animals that can interbreed. All dogs can interbreed. Some classify dogs not as a species but as a sub-species. Dogs come in many shapes, sizes, and with quite varying intelligence. If those that classified the ancient primate bones were given a trunk load of bones from dogs without being told anything about when the animals lived, how many species would they

come up with? There could well be a hundred species of dog from such a classification. The point is, are all these different species of primates really different. Or are they the same species with micro-evolutionary changes. Can it be told from the bones that humanoid primates from all these species could not interbreed?

Mathdrooler 17 Feb 2011

Cave Paintings and the Dawn of Human Creativity (Review). Clottes's™ book, translated from the French, introduces the reader to current issues in the study of parietal art, the technical term for prehistoric paintings found on walls both outside and in caves. One can imagine the difficulty studying these ancient works of art, full of animals, humans, geometric patterns, and more—but with no written sources helping scholars understand the world from which they emerge. As Roma. Roman Republic. Dawn of Humanity is a 2015 American documentary film that was released online on September 10, 2015, and aired nationwide in the United States on September 16, 2015. The PBS NOVA National Geographic film, in one episode of two hours, was directed and produced by Graham Townsley. The film describes the 2013 discovery, and later excavation, of the fossil remains of Homo naledi, an extinct species of hominin assigned to the genus Homo, found within the Dinaledi Chamber of the Rising Star Cave system. The abrupt emergence of human culture over a stunningly short period continues to be one of the great enigmas of human evolution. This compelling book introduces a bold new theory on this unsolved mystery. Author Richard Klein reexamines the archaeological evidence and brings in new discoveries in the. A bold new theory on what sparked the "big bang" of human consciousness. This was the beginning of human culture--the "dawn" as they call it. It wasn't a change in physiology--humans have been anatomically modern for something like 150,000 years. What changed was the wiring in the brain, or the chemistry in the brain or the linkage between the modules in the brain, or, as th Neither "bold" nor "new," but excellent nonetheless.

HUMAN CULTURE. Richard G. Klein with Blake Edgar. A Peter N. Nevaumont book. However, the evidence for a genetic change is circumstantial, and our more fundamental point is that the spread of modern humanity is tied to the dawn of culture as we know it. Arguably, the "dawn" was the most significant prehistoric event that archeologists will ever detect. Before it, human anatomical and behavioral change proceeded very slowly, more or less hand-in-hand. 00 Dawn Front Matter.r.qxd 1/29/02 5:02 PM Page 3. The dawn of human culture. Richard G. Klein with Blake Edgar. A Peter N. Nevaumont book. Human beings are naturally interested in their origins, and every culture has devised its own account. Most such explanations center on supernatural creators, and their acceptance is entirely a matter of faith. Science, however, has produced a different kind of narrative that can be tested, even rejected, with testimony from the ground, or, increasingly, from within the human genome. The scientific evidence for human evolution has been accumulating for more than 150 years, and much has been added in just the past decade. The abrupt emergence of human culture over a stunningly short period continues to be one of the great enigmas of human evolution. This compelling book introduces a bold new theory on this unsolved mystery. Author Richard Klein reexamines the archaeological evidence and brings in new discoveries in the field. A bold new theory on what sparked the "big bang" of human consciousness. This was the beginning of human culture--the "dawn" as they call it. It wasn't a change in physiology--humans have been anatomically modern for something like 150,000 years. What changed was the wiring in the brain, or the chemistry in the brain or the linkage between the modules in the brain, or, as they say, neither "bold" nor "new," but excellent nonetheless.