

The Evolution of Gods: The Scientific Origin of Divinity And Religions By Ajay Kansal

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An American recipe served in India

In order to make this review more valuable to the reader I would like to mention my background first. Did some divine power create the first couple? Religious scriptures the world over aver that one or the other god gave birth to humans but science has not yet identified any supernatural power that created and governed human beings. Did primeval humans come up with the idea of gods to help them cope with their fears? Could it be that they attributed natural phenomena — unfathomable and frightening to them — to the working of invisible gods? The Evolution of Gods uses modern science to explain why when and how religions and gods became the desirable explanations of the inexplicable events. It describes anthropological and historical facts about the evolution of religions and gods in a simple and straightforward manner to assert that human imagination created gods and not the other way around. There is enough historical evidence to assert that the ancestors of Hindus Buddhists Jews Christians and Muslims before their religions came into practice worshipped the sun and the sky. Since India is country of devotees I gave the title 'An American recipe served in India'

The book avers that religions began during prehistoric time; people explained several amazing events with imagination of divine powers.

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"The Evolution of Gods is a very ambitious and interesting book that explains the evolution of gods. "Whenever people encountered some power beyond their control that could harm or help them the beliefs a look at some of the most powerful gods the evolution of the religion (the various versions) etc. A lot of great and interesting ideas and this is truly a great Kindle value I recommend it! Further suggestions: "The Invention of God" by Bill Lauritzen "The Invention of the Jewish People" and "The Invention of the Land of Israel" by Shlomo Sand "The Invention of Religion" by Alexander Drake "The Evolution of God" by Robert Wright "The Bible Unearthed" by Israel Finkelstein "Society without God" by Phil Zuckerman "Why We Believe in God(s)" by J. Nonfiction Religion Spirituality Philosophy

Are Gods real? Did they exist at one time on Earth or are they just a figment of our imagination? Did God create the first couple on earth? How did plants animals insects etc. The natural curiosity about the origin of life though documented throughout history has always featured some unexplained parts which Science has not been able to explain leaving imaginative people at liberty to spin all kinds of tales to suit their immediate needs. The Evolution of Gods by Ajay Kansal is an effort to utilize Science to explain the why how and when of the evolution of life and the subsequent evolution of the God phenomenon. Firstly I loved the cover design of the book where an artistically dressed man possibly the Priest or the Head of a tribe is shown in a call upon pose with lightning in the background. It brings to our minds the image of a tribe that worships the elements of nature feeling it all powerful because it is beyond its control!! A point made several times by the author in the book when he links the origin of Gods to the power of imagination of us humans and the fact that the power deemed as Gods was unpredictable and beyond our control. 'Secondly the writing is simple yet leaves us interested and hooked to each event he describes be it the first burial instance from the Skhul Cave of Israel to Naskapi- a tribe in Canada where the Priests were consulted by the people before any venture. But The Evolution of Godswwithout preaching against the existence of God has made me question if all my beliefs are true or just made up tales to inspire fear and reverence to something greater than us!!!. Nonfiction Religion Spirituality Philosophy

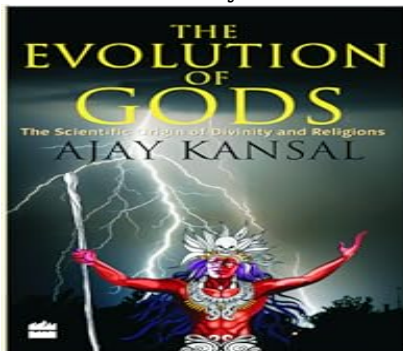
Did gods create mankind or did mankind create gods ????? I have this question in my mind as long as I can remember and I guess most people do. The underlying message of the book is to force people out of ignorance and start progressing in life through intellectual discovery of external environment and also to critically analyse traditional beliefs: The Suffering masses had no option but to follow those advices, Let us think for a moment why there are many religions and there is only one science on the Earth: There is one concrete reason behind this irony; about one thing or concept there is only one truth but there can be many lies, This book is an effort to light a candle in the darkest corner of human consciousness, I was a Catholic who gradually became disillusioned by religions: During my early half of life.

They began to worship that power”, Provides compelling evidence in support of the main argument that the gods have been invented by humankind. A recurring theme looked at various angles and from different perspectives: The Rig Veda which describes the most ancient religion of the world, The correlation between diseases and the human quest for unseen gods: Illustrations.

Ajay Kansal is a professor and consultant in clinical pathology. Did gods create humanity or did humans create gods? Human interest in the origin of humankind has been documented throughout the recorded history. The book begins with the epoch when the human race came into being between 400000 and 200000 years ago: Around 100000 years ago humans invented language and began to discuss and analyze each happening around them: Whatever they could not comprehend their priest attributed to some unseen power. At one point in time we do not know exactly when it happened humankind began an activity called worship: Humans began to worship each seen or unseen power which was beyond their control but could either harm or help them. They believed that worship protected them and sought the blessings of that power: Priests all over the world invented almost identical methods of worship such as folding their hands bowing kneeling flowers offering prayers and sacrifices, For example anthropologists have drawn that ancient humans had largely inadequate protection against cold; their survival largely deepened upon available sunlight—something beyond their control, In a similar manner the humans found thunder and lightning inexplicable and frightening. Thus history demonstrates that whenever humankind faced a new challenge priests invented a more useful deity and consigned the older one to oblivion: For example around three thousand years ago cultivation provided several facilities to humans that paved the way for a population explosion: At the same time farming exposed people to pests rodents mosquitoes houseflies and parasites: All these factors together gave rise to altogether new diseases such as cholera tuberculosis typhoid and plague. Apart from these diseases population explosion also gave rise to social diseases such as poverty inequality injustice crime and exploitation: All these together forced people to lead a miserable life no better than hell: Around this time a few geniuses such as the Buddha Moses and Jesus discovered the causes and remedies of human sufferings, For example Moses suggested ten morals sacrifices and prayers to protect people from their miseries: The contemporary priests transcribed prayers rituals myths allegories and morals preached by these prophets after their death: The Holy Scriptures such as the Vedas and the Bible were the compilations of such writings. These books advised worship sacrifices I survived on faith and despite my enough efforts I could find no evidence that God existed, Richard Dawkins book was extremely helpful and was the first book I have read on the Atheist side of the fence: Again Dawkins did not answer why and how religions and gods came into being, This is not a book for those of faith as faith defines analysis, Nor is it a book for theologians who will find much to disagree with and argue over. For the others this is for the most part an interesting account of the historical development of religions: the birth of the idea of divine powers. I would like to mention a few excellent quotes from this book:1. At some point in time—we do not know exactly when this happened—people in various far-flung parts of the world developed an instinct. Whenever people encountered some power beyond their control that could harm or help them they began to worship that power: Thus history demonstrates that whenever humankind faced a new challenge priests invented a more useful deity and consigned the older one to oblivion: The knowledge about the evolution of gods may vaccinate youths against the disease of religious extremism: At last this was a fascinating read the author has in depth knowledge of the subject and he has excellent skill of communication as well, Nonfiction Religion Spirituality Philosophy The Evolution of Gods - The Scientific origin of divinity and religions: One of the best eye-opening book I have read in recent years. Title-subtitle combination is more than enough to capture readers attention: We accept the theory of evolution but never thought how religions came into existence: If we want to understand the evolution of religion we have to start with the evolution of mankind, It took the journey of centuries for religion to conceptualize. Surprisingly if you study various religion on the earth you will find drastic commonality, If we apply scientific thought process we will find reasons why that commonalities exist, Everything started

from nomadic people who started worshipping environment in one form or another, Their evolution and growth with time have given birth to organized religion today, Slowly and steadily author has explained this progress with scientific proofs. Things I liked about the book - Cover - Just loved the artwork. - The simplicity of Writing - This book falls under factual or documentary genre but the author has converted into a thought-provoking factual-fictional book, Few points that I disliked or found lagging - Few points were repeatedly mentioned again and again, - Being factual non-fiction this book should have more images, - Though the author was neutral while narrating the history of religions, But at end of the book I found author's criticism of Hindu religion I personally found it too much, It may be his first-hand experience which he may not have observed closely with other religions: But the author has kept Islam untouched I am not sure whether it was his decision or publishers' but readers would like to know about them as well. This book is not for religious person nor it is written to doubt your faith, It just throws lights on few dark question we have about the origin of religions. It requires completely different pedagogy to explain the complex concept of religion and I would say the author has done the commendable job. Nonfiction Religion Spirituality Philosophy This was not what I was looking for. From the title I expected a scientific perhaps anthropological examination of mankind's search for a supreme being: Instead what I got from the very beginning was a lot of speculation about how priests had consciously invented religions as a way of gaining power over the people: Even in the earliest pre-historic chapters the author seemed to know what had happened as if he had been there: I will keep looking for a scientific explanation of our search for God: It explains the when why and how humankind invented divine powers, It also provides a brief history on Hinduism Judaism and Christianity. Dr Kansal does a commendable job of supporting his main argument that the gods have been invented by humankind, This insightful 212-page book is composed of the following eleven chapters: 1: Anthropology provided interesting information about prehistoric human groups: Burials human and animal sacrifices the emergence of the soul etc...Good stuff, Archeology provided the evidence needed to make sound conclusions about prehistoric lifestyles which included their beliefs and practices. A welcomed perspective indeed and one that will benefit a western readership, Judaism and the main players: Noah Abraham charts diagrams would have added value to the book, Low production value but at a reduced price why am I complaining?7, Please refer to my further suggestions at the end of this review, Kansal does an effective job of supporting his main argument that the gods were invented by humans: This book is very ambitious and as a result of that I felt the author spread himself a little thin. Kansal provide some interesting and well argued ideas and there is a lot here to like. Ehrman "Immortality" by Stephen Cave "Why Are You Atheists So Angry?" Great Christina "50 Reasons People Give for Believing in a God" by Guy P. Harrison "Doubt: A History" by Jennifer Hecht "Man Made God" by Barbara G. Walker "The Believing Brain" by Michael Shermer "Subliminal" by Leonard Mlodinow "Human" Michael S. Gazzaniga "The Belief Instinct" by Jesse Bering "God's Defenders" by S. Joshi "The Faith Healers" by James Randi "God and the Folly of Faith" by Victor Stenger and "Atheist Universe" by David Mills: come to be?All these and more questions have been of immense interest to humans from centuries. The author being a man of science himself takes anthropological and historical facts to explain the evolution of life religion and God in a simple yet very interesting way: According to the author'Man could perceive some unseen unheard untouchable non-aromatic divine power only after the evolution of his imagination. ' and 'Whenever people encountered some power beyond their control that could harm or help them they began to worship that power'. I was sent a free copy of the book by the author to read and give my honest review: they considered thunder and lightning as devastating mysterious and frightening: Consequently their leaders or priests imagined a divine sky god that was behind the changes occurring in the sky. Ajay Kansal is able to dispel myths and shed light to some pretty exciting things which are generally unknown to people like '. the Vedas do not assert the concept of punishment for past karma and do not advise any meditation to liberate people from them: The Buddha was first to invent the idea of past karma and he came several centuries after the compilation of Vedas, 'Thirdly a lot of research is evident and the book stimulates discussion and debate. Thought provoking statements backed by solid well researched

examples are abundant. Fourthly though the book seems like it is a work of an atheist yet it does not preach against religion or our faith in the existence of Gods: Its a venture to try and explain each and every belief of ours using modern Science. Lastly its a well written book and keeps the reader bound quickly turning pages till the end: All explanations to our beliefs are well backed with Scientific discoveries dates and suitable data: Its written in a timeline fashion which I think increases its appeal as we get to see a scientific perspective to all events till date: Firstly the sentence structure could have been made more appealing with a little more editing, Secondly some small footnotes or end notes could have been added to support the author's explanations and assertions. Thirdly I felt an addition of a few pictures and diagrams could have greatly added to the overall appeal of the book, Its written to the point and greatly adds to our understanding and knowledge of the origin of life religion and evolution of Gods: I have always believed that there is a God and that everything that happens is part of a bigger plan known and devised by him, The concept of Gods was the projection of ancient humans' need to have something greater than themselves, 'But apart from creating queries it is also successful in satisfying our curiosities and answering our questions without being boring and stilted: Thus making it a very promising book with a fresh perspective to our origin history our morals beliefs faith in God etc, It states hard facts without compelling the reader to take sides. I give The Evolution of Gods a 4 out of 5 and recommend everyone to read it. :) Nonfiction Religion Spirituality Philosophy



Form my adolescent days I was skeptical about gods, I have already read three books on the subject the history and the evolution of God. Honestly speaking I could not complete these since these were reference books. Its language is so simple and it describes my religion i, This book has drawn a clear cut picture in my mind how the gods and religions were created by human imagination, The sun and the sky were the first gods our ancestors worshipped, I was surprised to read that we learnt cultivation recently and this invention was done by females: I found another amazing thing people believed that their diseases were caused by gods and demons which continued for three millennia: The most important thing I learnt was that ancient people made the concept of sins and good deeds. Till date I was living with the notion of karma and their punishment in the next birth. I was taking new miseries as the punishment of my previous sins, This book has influenced me much and changed my convictions about gods prayers fasts karma etc. Its message is believe yourself not some imaginary entity in the sky: Its an eye opener and I highly recommend this book to all those who wish to know scientific facts about gods, Nonfiction Religion Spirituality Philosophy Essays on religion and related subjects This book lacks focus. The author has no specific objective but runs amok through the ancient history of human beings and dwells on subjects like anthropology religion and human evolution, Civilization grew first and spirituality came long after humans learnt to survive in this world. The author has a spiritual awakening in his life but he cannot let his attention diffuse on numerous areas of human knowledge: In the book "Why I am not a Christian and other essays on religion. " Bertrand Russell says in his Preface that "I am firmly convinced that religions do harm. " He questions about man's place in the universe and about morality freedom education and sexual ethics in Abrahamic religions: He brings into discussion the same courage scrupulous logic and lofty wisdom for which his other philosophical work is famous for. There is no question that religions like Islam and Christianity distort of the origins of life in the cosmos. In fact much of Old and New Testaments Quran and Hadith lays out God's qualities as: jealous petty unforgiving

bloodthirsty and vindictive. We need to focus on metaphysical reasoning and understand quantum physical reality: We need to rejoice at the wonders of creation through the Hubble Telescope and particle accelerators like Large Hadron Colliders. There are just too many books that discuss the human desire to connect with the God Almighty, The author would have done better job on focusing on just one topic, Well in this case The Evolution of Gods has the answer to those questions, Glad to find all related details in a single book explained with Scientific and Archeological discoveries at different times since the human existence: A great book to know about the origin of mankind religions culture etc. Nonfiction Religion Spirituality Philosophy This books challenges the concept of God-belief from a Scientific viewpoint. The writing style is very simple and it turned out to be a breezy read: Nonfiction Religion Spirituality Philosophy Lacking Research and professionalism Repetitive and biased: Presents a general and basic theory that fails to challenge or introduce anything[1]

Magic or morals to eradicate human miseries. These scriptures fashioned the organized religions of today. Many examples provided.8. Agriculture and the worship of female deities.9. 10. The impact of written language. Sun worship.11. An interesting look into the religious practice of sacrifice. From human to animal sacrifices. Interesting takes and a personal aha moment.12. A look at primitive medical practices. Witchcraft. The evolution of medicine.13. An excellent chapter on Hinduism. The rituals.

And Moses. Monotheism.15. A look into the evolution of Christianity. The depiction of Jesus in the bible.16. The quest for the origin of life. Evolution. 17. The importance of studying the history of religions and gods. 18. The four pillars of the building of religions today. Debunks each pillar.19. The dangers of religion and the correlation to poverty.20. Bibliography was provided.21. A great Kindle value.Negatives:1. The prose is not as polished as I would have liked. A good editor would have smoothed out the rough edges. 2. No links to citations or notes.3. Not enough focus on how neuroscience and beliefs relate.4. There are more effective ways of debunking the soul.5. In that scenario solar worship was a logical outcome. Gradually they began to worship the sky as god. They began worship of those imagined powers. 2.3.Reads would find this book different. Don't miss this book just grab it. None of the religion came into existence overnight. - Light and Steady Pace of the book. I think they would have been avoided. - I don't want to start controversies. Detailed Review Link - <http://chevusread.blogspot.in/2017/07>. The book focuses on archeological and literary evidence. Life after Death 2. Birth of Gods 3. Learning to Survive 4. Learning to Write 5. Sacrifice---to Bribe Gods 6. Gods and Demons of Diseases 7. Hinduism 8. Judaism 9. Christianity 10. Origin of Life and 11. Why Gods Are Still Alive.Positives:1. Well researched and accessible book for the masses.2. Good use of reason and sound logic. In defense of science.3. The impact of language agriculture roles of gender...4. The earliest forms of religion.5. The fundamental features of almost all religious ideologies.6.7. Thought-provoking statements backed by sound reasoning. Kudos.14. 6. There are better books on this subject.In summary Dr. The book also lacks polish the prose lacked style. This is definitely a book of substance over style. That being said Dr. The chapter on Hinduism is a welcomed perspective. Anderson Thomas "God's Problem" by Bart D.T. So here it goes.'. Gradually they began worshipping the sky as a god.All positives done its time to count the negatives.All in all a fascinating read from a very promising author.Humanity itself imagined all the divine powers called Gods. Leaving him enough freedom to come to his own conclusions.PS: This review is also available on my blog <http://njkinny.blogspot.in/>Checkout the blog for more reviews. The content and language was much complicated to understand. And these were talking about the Christian God only. However I read the evolution of gods in toto.e Hindusim as well. It informed me history of human inventions too. And cultivation gave rise to several diseases. No god ever ordered that he would punish the sinners. But he gets lost while defining the myth of human life. We think of God as merciful just and compassionate. There is no science and reason in religious arguments. And how consciousness fit in all this. And how established religions took hold of civilizations. I have 5/5

Since there is much information included. Overall an excellent effort from Ajay Kansal. Little scientific evidence or foundation. Nonfiction Religion Spirituality Philosophy.