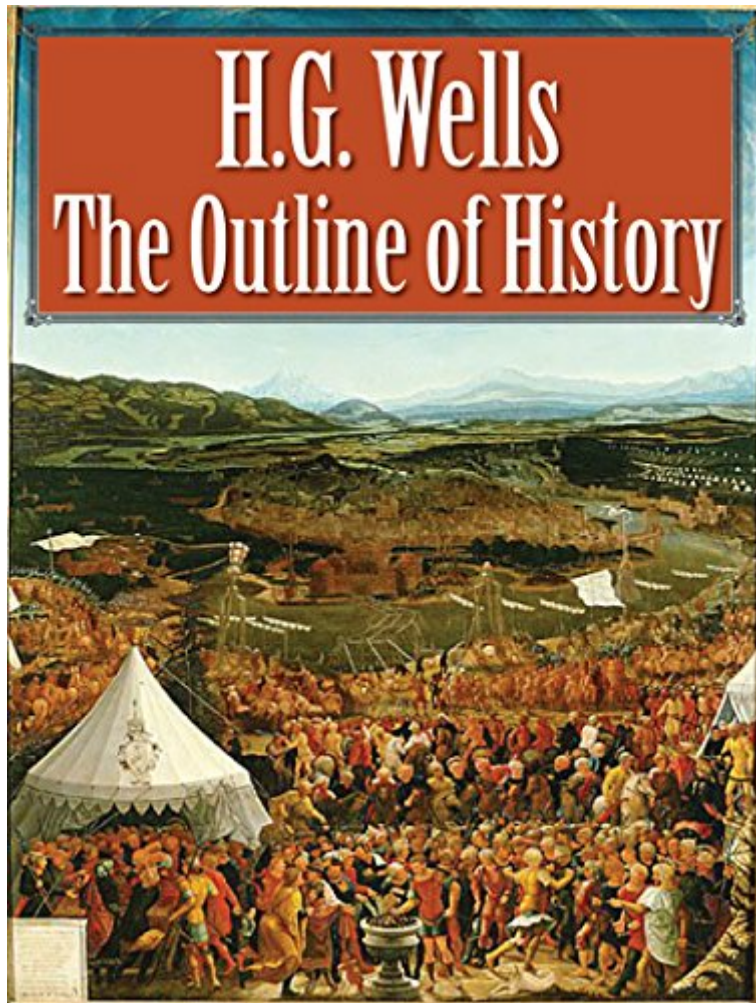




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The Outline Of History (Illustrated)



Synopsis

THIS Outline of History is an attempt to tell, truly and clearly, in one continuous narrative, the whole story of life and mankind so far as it is known to-day. It is written plainly for the general reader, but its aim goes beyond its use as merely interesting reading matter. There is a feeling abroad that the teaching of history considered as a part of general education is in an unsatisfactory condition, and particularly that the ordinary treatment of this "subject" by the class and teacher and examiner is too partial and narrow. But the desire to extend the general range of historical ideas is confronted by the argument that the available time for instruction is already consumed by that partial and narrow treatment, and that therefore, however desirable this extension of range may be, it is in practice impossible. If an Englishman, for example, has found the history of England quite enough for his powers of assimilation, then it seems hopeless to expect his sons and daughters to master universal history, if that is to consist of the history of England, plus the history of France, plus the history of Germany, plus the history of Russia, and so on. To which the only possible answer is that universal history is at once something more and something less than the aggregate of the national histories to which we are accustomed, that it must be approached in a different spirit and dealt with in a different manner. This book seeks to justify that answer. It has been written primarily to show that history as one whole is amenable to a more broad and comprehensive handling than is the history of special nations and periods, a broader handling that will bring it within the normal limitations of time and energy set to the reading and education of an ordinary citizen. This outline deals with ages and races and nations, where the ordinary history deals with reigns and pedigrees and campaigns; but it will not be found to be more crowded with names and dates, nor more difficult to follow and understand. History is no exception amongst the sciences; as the gaps fill in, the outline simplifies; as the outlook broadens, the clustering multitude of details dissolves into general laws. And many topics of quite primary interest to mankind, the first appearance and the growth of scientific knowledge for example, and its effects upon human life, the elaboration of the ideas of money and credit, or the story of the origins and spread and influence of Christianity, which must be treated fragmentarily or by elaborate digressions in any partial history, arise and flow completely and naturally in one general record of the world in which we live. The need for a common knowledge of the general facts of human history throughout the world has become very evident during the tragic happenings of the last few years. Swifter means of communication have brought all men closer to one another for good or for evil. War becomes a universal disaster, blind and monstrosly destructive; it bombs the baby in its cradle and sinks the food-ships that cater for the non-combatant and the neutral. There can be no peace now, we realize, but a common peace in all the world; no

prosperity but a general prosperity. But there can be no common peace and prosperity without common historical ideas. Without such ideas to hold them together in harmonious co-operation, with nothing but narrow, selfish, and conflicting nationalist traditions, races and peoples are bound to drift towards conflict and destruction. This truth, which was apparent to that great philosopher Kant a century or more ago – it is the gist of his tract upon universal peace – is now plain to the man in the street. Our internal policies and our economic and social ideas are profoundly vitiated at present by wrong and fantastic ideas of the origin and historical relationship of social classes. A sense of history as the common adventure of all mankind is as necessary for peace within as it is for peace between the nations.

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Customer Reviews

Unlike another Kindle version of this book I bought, this one was proofread before being published, and is therefore a pleasure to read. The book itself is excellent, full of interesting historical analysis

and speculation on H.G. Wells' part. (This particular edition covers human history through 1920.) I can't imagine anyone will read this book and agree with everything Wells has to say, but he couches his arguments in such an interesting and insightful way that he makes you examine your assumptions and beliefs. The Outline of History is an excellent reminder that the human race sprang from common roots and challenges. I can't think of a better book to broaden one's horizons.

I got a book that was exactly as described. It's not very often that I don't get to be disappointed. But this is one of those rare times. Thank you for being a perfect seller, by my not so humble standards.

This is one of the books that every educated person should read. This kind of knowledge is not available normally via the traditional media. To watch television for more than an hour a day (except for special sports events) seems to me to be self-abuse. Don't abuse yourself with useless information. Partake of the wine of sweet knowledge. Hollybuds is a company of integrity.

Tiny print but easy read not too technical to read. But has enough factual info to be useful for masters level studies. Would recommend for someone with Bachelor's level or above due to vocabulary.

I read this book about 50 years ago and enjoyed it immensely so decided to re-read the Kindle version. Because it's an outline, it doesn't belabor anything - Wells pretty much keeps things moving. And the thing that I found entertaining is that Wells often editorializes. For example, talking about the foul odours emanating from early cave men's abodes (from such things as rotten meat) he compares it to the odours from some continental hotels. There are several things I DON'T like about this Kindle edition. It's full of typographical errors and there are literally hundreds of inappropriately placed commas throughout, making it often difficult to follow Wells' very long sentences. I also deplore the fact that none of the scores of illustrations are included. To make matters worse, there are the titles of all of these so you know damned well what you're missing. But then, for 80 cents I suppose one shouldn't complain.....It's still a good read.

Received promptly in good condition,

The table of contents alone is worth the money. The other Kindle version's of this book do not have a table of contents that is nearly as functional. The introductory essay will be of special value to the readers of Wells' science fiction as well.

A classic work on the history of the world told most authoritatively, fearlessly and forthrightly and in an absorbing and entertaining manner. I believe this is the standard book on world history and reads like an exhilarating novel, long though. Read the unabridged version and every minute spent on it is worth its weight in gold. T.S. Krishnamoorthy, Coimbatore, India

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