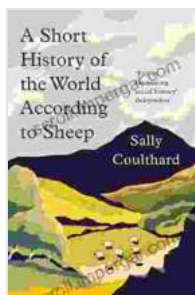


A Sheep's-Eye View of Human History



A Short History of the World According to Sheep

by Sally Coulthard

★★★★☆ 4.6 out of 5

Language : English
File size : 16413 KB
Text-to-Speech : Enabled
Screen Reader : Supported
Enhanced typesetting : Enabled
Word Wise : Enabled
Print length : 237 pages

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Throughout history, sheep have played a pivotal role in shaping human civilization. As one of the first animals to be domesticated, sheep have provided us with food, clothing, and transportation. They have also played a significant role in our art, culture, and religion. In this delightful and informative book, "A Short History of the World According to Sheep," author Baa-bara Ewe takes us on a fascinating journey through time, exploring the surprising and often hilarious ways that sheep have influenced our lives.

Chapter 1: The Sheepish Origins of Civilization

Sheep were first domesticated in Mesopotamia around 11,000 years ago. These early sheep were used primarily for their wool, which was used to make clothing and blankets. Sheep also played a role in the development of agriculture, as they were used to clear land for grazing and to fertilize fields. By the Bronze Age, sheep had become an essential part of human societies around the world.

Chapter 2: The Sheep in Ancient Egypt

In ancient Egypt, sheep were considered sacred animals. The ram-headed god Amun was one of the most important gods in the Egyptian pantheon. Sheep were also used in religious ceremonies and rituals. For example, the Book of the Dead, an ancient Egyptian funerary text, describes how the deceased would be judged by the god Osiris, who would weigh their heart against the feather of a sheep. If the heart was lighter than the feather, the deceased would be allowed to enter the afterlife.

Chapter 3: The Sheep in the Middle Ages

During the Middle Ages, sheep continued to play an important role in European society. They were used for food, clothing, and transportation.

Sheep also played a role in the development of the wool trade. In the 12th century, the English began to export wool to Flanders, where it was used to make fine cloth. The wool trade helped to make England one of the richest countries in Europe.

Chapter 4: The Sheep in the Renaissance

The Renaissance saw a renewed interest in classical learning and culture. This interest extended to sheep, which were often depicted in art and literature. For example, the painting "The Adoration of the Shepherds" by Giotto di Bondone shows the Virgin Mary and the Christ child surrounded by shepherds and their sheep. Sheep also played a role in the development of science. In the 16th century, the English scientist William Harvey used sheep to study the circulation of blood.

Chapter 5: The Sheep in the Industrial Revolution

The Industrial Revolution brought about major changes in the way that sheep were used. The development of new machinery made it possible to produce wool more efficiently. This led to a decline in the number of sheep kept for wool production. However, sheep continued to be used for food and transportation. In the 19th century, the United States became a major producer of sheep and wool.

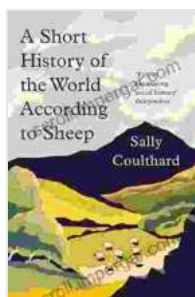
Chapter 6: The Sheep in the Modern World

In the modern world, sheep continue to play an important role in human society. They are still used for food, clothing, and transportation. Sheep also play a role in the production of pharmaceuticals and other products. In addition, sheep are often kept as pets. Sheep are a reminder of our long

and close relationship with animals. They are a symbol of our dependence on the natural world and a source of food, clothing, and companionship.

"A Short History of the World According to Sheep" is a delightful and informative book that explores the surprising and often hilarious ways that sheep have shaped human history. Author Baa-bara Ewe takes us on a journey through time, from the woolly annals of Mesopotamia to the modern world. Along the way, we learn about the role that sheep have played in agriculture, art, culture, and religion. Whether you are a sheep lover or simply curious about the history of the world, this book is sure to entertain and inform you.

So next time you see a sheep, take a moment to appreciate its long and fascinating history. And remember, sheep are not just animals. They are also a part of our human story.



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