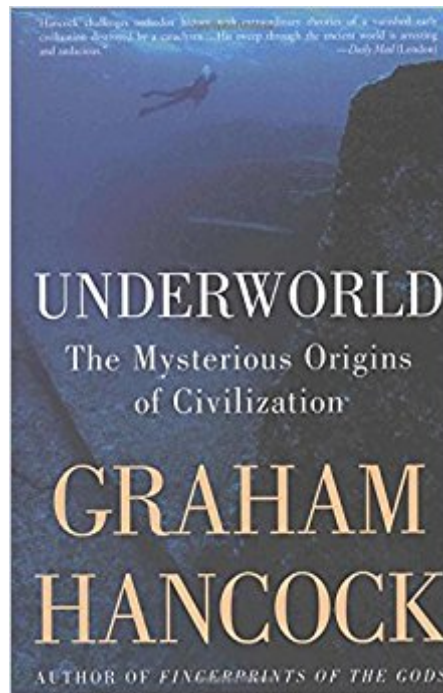


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Underworld: The Mysterious Origins Of Civilization



Synopsis

What secrets lie beneath the deep blue sea? Underworld takes you on a remarkable journey to the bottom of the ocean in a thrilling hunt for ancient ruins that have never been foundâuntil now. In this explosive new work of archaeological detection, bestselling author and renowned explorer Graham Hancock embarks on a captivating underwater voyage to find the ruins of a mythical lost civilization hidden for thousands of years beneath the worldâs oceans. Guided by cutting-edge science, innovative computer-mapping techniques, and the latest archaeological scholarship, Hancock examines the mystery at the end of the last Ice Age and delivers astonishing revelations that challenge our long-held views about the existence of a sunken universe built on the ocean floor. Filled with exhilarating accounts of his own participation in dives off the coast of Japan, as well as in the Mediterranean, the Atlantic, and the Arabian Sea, we watch as Hancock discovers underwater ruins exactly where the ancient myths say they should beâsubmerged kingdoms that archaeologists never thought existed. You will be captivated by Underworld, a provocative book that is both a compelling piece of hard evidence for a fascinating forgotten episode in human history and a completely new explanation for the origins of civilization as we know it.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Already a huge success in England, this lengthy and at times quite academic study extends the basic argument of Hancock's 1994 Fingerprints of the Gods, a wild combination of astronomy, archeology, geology and folk myth whose worldwide success made Hancock perhaps the most

popular proponent of "alternative history" as well as a publishing phenomenon. Hancock's basic thesis is simple: although mainstream scholars refuse to believe it, there once was "a lost civilization destroyed in the cataclysmic global floods that brought the last Ice Age to an end," and the survivors passed on their knowledge to the newer ancient civilizations with which we are more familiar. The search for an "Indian Atlantis" is the basis for this book, which is structured around Hancock's exploration of underwater sites near India, Japan, Taiwan and China, and in the Arabian and Mediterranean Seas. As usual, Hancock wonderfully introduces the general reader to Indian and Japanese subcultures; however, his reliance primarily on works by local alternative historians many of whose views have been clearly refuted by other scientists while ignoring almost anything that refutes his own thesis undercuts his credibility. In his effort to present his step-by-step discoveries in the style of a "whodunit," Hancock remains an entertaining writer and an interesting cultural journalist. But while the exploration of undersea prehistoric sites is a fascinating and ongoing research area, and Hancock's main contribution to the subject his theories continues to make him a successful writer, his works have been relegated to marginalia. Copyright 2002 Reed Business Information, Inc. --This text refers to the Hardcover edition.

Hancock has reportedly sold several million copies of his books touting earlier origins to civilization than is the general consensus. He believes that civilization rose about 17,000 years ago (rather than about 6,000) and vanished beneath a rising sea level, leaving its traces in flood myths in Sumerian and Vedic texts, in early maps of the Age of Discovery, and more plausibly, in submerged ruins. Hancock throws up a fantastic amount of data on these points in this work, ranging from his personal textual interpretations to his dives at coastal sites in Malta, India, Japan, and the Bahamas. Perhaps Hancock's what-if, adventuring style will again prove commercially successful, if not intellectually persuasive to archaeologists, but the poor organization of this work may daunt the otherwise enthusiastic. Discursive and speculative, it expands the meaning of open-minded and could have been pruned without harm (Hancock prints scads of his correspondence and interviews verbatim). However, rebels always attract attention--and Hancock has already proven that he can. Gilbert Taylor Copyright © American Library Association. All rights reserved --This text refers to the Hardcover edition.

My order of the Graham Hancock book "Underworld: The Origins Of Human Civilization" arrived after being on order for about two weeks. It was packaged well and was easy to extract from the shipping box. This huge book was filled from start to finish with astounding finds that Mr. Hancock

and his fellow explorers uncovered across the globe in the later 1990's and the early part of the last decade. Mr. Hancock is convinced that humankind from past eons had actually developed truly advanced civilizations, but war and natural disasters all too often destroyed them without barely a trace of their ever having existed. This book covers many areas of our world where seemingly impossible archaeological finds are being unearthed and "unsead" (for want of a better term).

I'm on the last chapter of what can be at times a challenging read. Author Hancock has done some extensive research into this subject and brought it all together. As stated in some of his former works, he believes that the traditional view of Archaeologist, is missing a massive piece of the puzzle. When you look at edifices like the Pyramids, which exist all over the world, their perfect astrological alignment and massive construction, we are lead to believe that Men barley out of the stone age, were responsible for this construction, with rudimentary tools, of these massive construction projects that would be a challenge to today's modern Construction companies with powered equipment, Hancock's belief is that this technology and construction savvy, just didn't pop up one day, but was the results of a developed society and engineers, that existed in the pre deluge days of the planet. Hancock revels that in pretty much every culture on the planet there is a Noah Ark like story, of collecting animals, or seed and finding refuge before the great flood, and the survival of the few afterwards. Hancock goes on with this theory, with the help of modern technology and diverse disciplines that show pre flood maps of the coast lines of world, prior to the melting Ice caps. His dives in various places in the world revel man made structures beneath the waves, that match up to local legends. His belief that there is a pre history of this planet that explains these gaps in our understanding of civilization, but they exist in this not so hidden Underworld.

I love this book - the way it makes such a clear and thorough case for the existence of advanced ancient pre-historic, pre-flood, ice age civilizations - ones that were capable of engineering (large cities and temples), agriculture, mathematics, astronomy, global oceanic navagations and cartography long before we thought possible. This is an amazingly interesting and important subject and I thank Hancock for doing so much detective work, synthetic thinking, and having a willingness to question and stay open minded. Many of his critics may know more about aspects of this research but they clearly don't keep as open or curious a mind as he does. And they obviously don't care or dare to put the puzzle pieces together. He may be wrong about some (or many) of the details, but that doesn't change the big picture that emerges. I also agree with many other reviewers that Hancock needs a better editor, someone willing to condense and simplify and keep him from

repeating his line of inquiry from various different angles (which in a perverse way works by showing the way he approached the subject and had insight unfold). He has potential to be a great writer given an even greater editor! Part of the problem is he is brilliant and in his long winded way weaves a fascinating, even spell binding story. I think all his books would benefit from re-edited future editions which condense the good and revise/remove his more questionable theories.... (this appears to be what was done with the 2nd edition of SUPERNATURAL, where something like 8 chapters of academic detail was condensed into one. I found that book a delight and a breeze to read.)

If found this to be a very interesting read. The author is honest in his opinions. When there is ambiguity, he readily admits it. I did find it ironic in that he mentions a couple times that he thinks the ancient alien theory (as of 2001 when the book was written) is bunk, but then he has been on multiple episodes of the t.v. show since 2010. Perhaps his opinion has changed? In any event, this book is worth your time.

Yet another excellent work by the author. Mr. Hancock has made an exceptional study of "pre-civilizations" in areas that are rarely if ever covered in the common media. He makes a great case for the possible and probable origins of our civilization in areas not relatively acknowledged in "mainstream" publishing. As you read this work you will be accompanying him on his trips, not just reading dry facts as to how he derived his opinions and theories. As previously noted in the reviews of his other works, he is an excellent and interesting writer. He writes in great depth so you can understand the; who, what, when, where, how and why of his research and opinions. This book is typical to his writing in that regard. Good comparisons of the various opinions of how our cultures have mysteriously come from "nowhere" to a heavily advanced state "overnight". It is definitely another pass around book! Well worth your time.

His core theory is very solid, well thought out, and clearly documented throughout this very detailed book: 1. There was a worldwide, very sophisticated megalithic civilization 2. That civilization was basically wiped out by "Noah's flood" 3. The flood was the result of the melting of the glaciers at the end of the ice age around 13,000-10,000 years ago and 4. The sea level rose as a result and covered up the evidence of that civilization. 5. Chosen survivors protected and brought over key knowledge, flora, fauna and possibly technology to jumpstart new civilizations after the global devastation from "the flood."

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