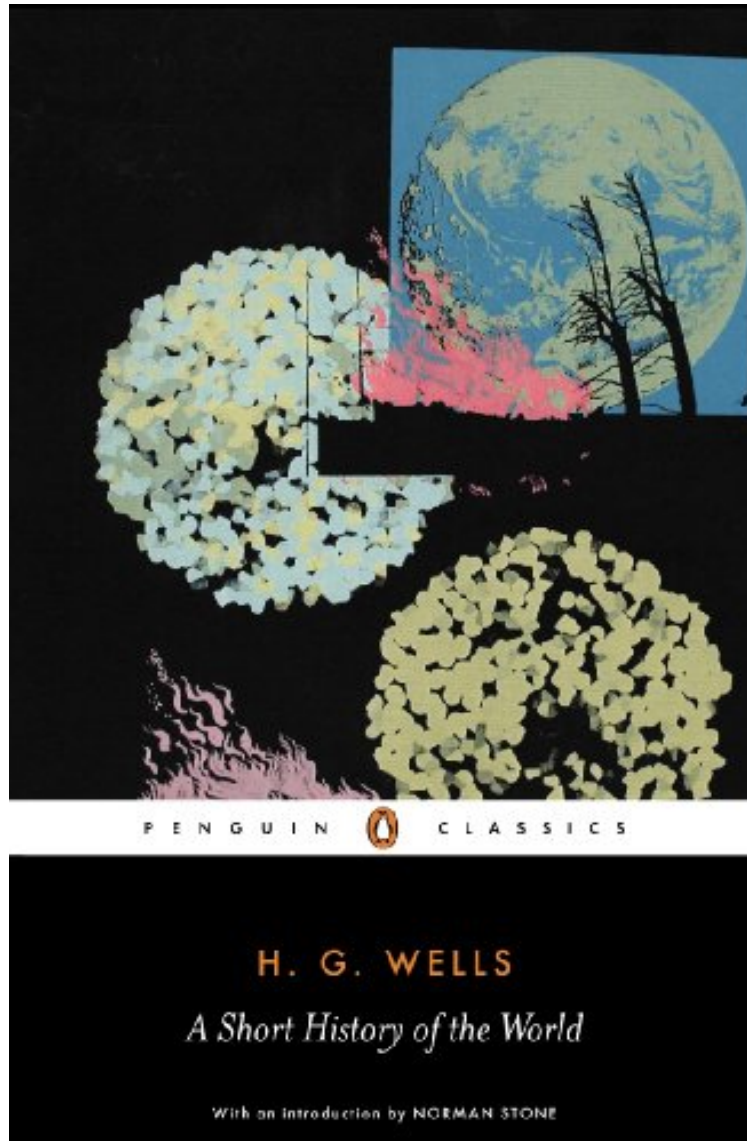


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A Short History of the World (Penguin Classics)

H.G. Wells

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H.G. Wells : A Short History of the World (Penguin Classics) before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised A Short History of the World (Penguin Classics):

4 of 4 people found the following review helpful. Excellent Writing, But Somewhat DatedBy Alan Dale DanielThis is a review of the Kindle version of this product which does NOT have drawings, pictures, maps etc. This detracts from the book tremendously.The writing is excellent and pretty easy to follow. The chapters are well arranged to take the reader progressively through history. His analysis of history is normally spot on. Here is an example of the author's

comments on the Treaty of Versailles: "The treaty of Versailles was intended to be exemplary and vindictive; it provided tremendous penalties for the vanquished; it sought to provide compensations for the wounded and suffering victors by imposing enormous debts upon nations already bankrupt, and its attempts to reconstitute international relations by the establishment of a League of Nations against war were manifestly insincere and inadequate." (Kindle Locations 5473-5475). That is about as good an analysis of the Treaty of Versailles in one sentence as you could ever get. Mr. Wells also lets us know when he is speculating about history. Note: "And now let us indulge in a very interesting speculation; how did it feel to be a man in those early days of the human adventure? How did men think and what did they think in those remote days of hunting and wandering four hundred centuries ago before seed time and harvest began." p.24 Kindle Edition. H.G. Wells clearly labels his comments as speculation. This is not usual for writers of history. Historians often tell us what happened in an era long before writing as if it were taken off of live film footage. Wells, at least, tells us we are guessing. The author's discussion of Socialism, page 152 - 156, is excellent and worth the price of the book. The book ends before the great depression, but that is OK as other books can take us from the 1920's to the present day. The writing is a bit out of date as there has been significant historical progress in many areas since Wells wrote; however, just keep in mind that some of the facts recited by the author may be dated. His conclusions of where history has been and where it may be headed are still excellent. Of course, Wells does not adopt the view that history is random with no overarching themes. He writes from the point of view that people have progressed from the early days of scratching in the ground for a living to a modern and very complex world. Progress is assumed and the theme of man's progress from primitive to modern is put forth without question. The reader should be aware that this reviewer has the same viewpoint; however, the newer views of history have changed this assumption dramatically. (See: Jeff Rigenbach, *Why American History Is Not What They Say It Is* - available on Kindle). Overall, an excellent work but I would advise buying the hard copy version for the maps and drawings. They are really first rate and help the reader follow the flow of history. AD20 of 0 people found the following review helpful. A truly inspired look at our history thus far. By Mark Wiechert This is an extremely well written book which takes a look at all of history as a single process, and evokes such a profound appreciation of the facts of history as much as it results in a profound appreciation of the true genius of its author, H. G. Wells, as well as his witty, entertaining, and even amusing writings. I have read this book in bits at a time just while traveling for a couple of years, and now that I've finished it, I can look back on the experience with sincere appreciation and warm affections for it. 1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. A Good Victorian look at History By David D. Lawson Mr. Wells is one of my all time favorite authors. My parents being a lot smarter than I ever hope to be gave me this book many decades ago. From it, I developed a love of history. While it is a old book and lacks a non eurocentric view it is a good history book none the less. I used it a lot at University and found it to be very useful resource tool. But I would not recommend it for any light reading very soon.

Of the more than one hundred books that H. G. Wells published in his lifetime, this is one of the most ambitious. Spanning the origins of the Earth to the outcome of World War I, *A Short History of the World* is an engrossing account of the evolution of life and the development of the human race. Wells brings his monumental learning and penetrating historical insight to bear on the Neolithic era, the rise of Judaism, the Golden Age of Athens, the life of Christ, the rise of Islam, the discovery of America, the Industrial Revolution, and a host of other subjects. Breathtaking in scope, this thought-provoking masterwork remains one of the most readable and rewarding of its kind. For more than seventy years, Penguin has been the leading publisher of classic literature in the English-speaking world. With more than 1,700 titles, Penguin Classics represents a global bookshelf of the best works throughout history and across genres and disciplines. Readers trust the series to provide authoritative texts enhanced by introductions and notes by distinguished scholars and contemporary authors, as well as up-to-date translations by award-winning translators.

About the Author H.G. Wells was a professional writer and journalist, who published more than a hundred books, including novels, histories, essays and programmes for world regeneration. Wells's prophetic imagination was first displayed in pioneering works of science fiction, but later he became an apostle of socialism, science and progress. His controversial views on sexual equality and the shape of a truly developed nation remain directly relevant to our world today. He was, in Bertrand Russell's words, 'an important liberator of thought and action'.