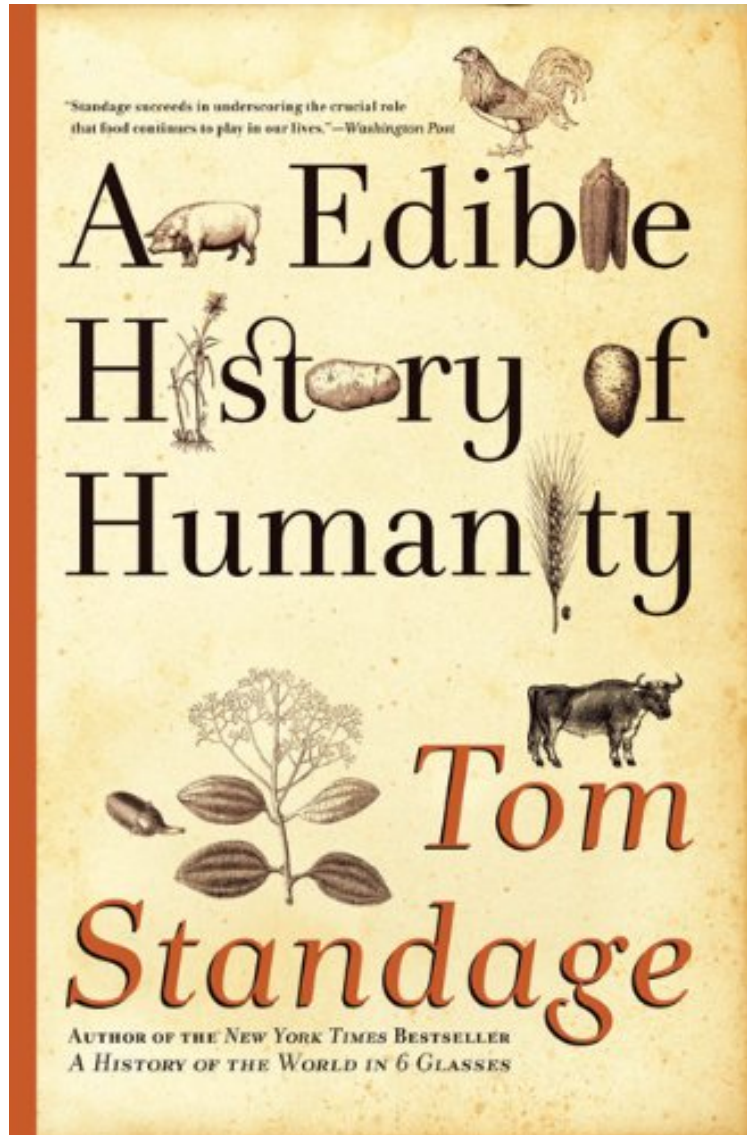


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## An Edible History of Humanity

Tom Standage

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**Tom Standage : An Edible History of Humanity** before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised An Edible History of Humanity:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Interesting to a teen!By Michele C.Bought for my teen's summer homework assignment. Overheard him telling his friends that it's "interesting" and the content has sparked dinnertime conversation for over a week.0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. An interesting read which presents the topic in an engaging manner.By Dotan DvirA great book about the connection between men and his nutrition. A

historical view of mankind's evolution as a mirror of the food stuff consumes and how modernising food production made industry possible. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Interesting page turner  
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More than simply sustenance, food historically has been a kind of technology, changing the course of human progress by helping to build empires, promote industrialization, and decide the outcomes of wars. Tom Standage draws on archaeology, anthropology, and economics to reveal how food has helped shape and transform societies around the world, from the emergence of farming in China by 7500 b.c. to the use of sugar cane and corn to make ethanol today. *An Edible History of Humanity* is a fully satisfying account of human history.

From Publishers Weekly Standage provides an intriguing history of how hunger has shaped civilizations and prompted technological advancements. Starting with hunter-gatherer societies, Standage traces the evolution of cuisines and addition of new ingredients to the current debates over organic and industrialized food systems. With a gentle and deep voice, George K. Wilson guides listeners through the thought-provoking theses with the tone of a knowledgeable and sincere tour guide. His emphasis and deliberate delivery help keep the prose engaging while giving sufficient aural direction for listeners to understand the relevance of a particular sentence or paragraph. A Walker hardcover. (July) Copyright Reed Business Information, a division of Reed Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved. From School Library Journal Standage's previous book, *A History of the World in 6 Glasses*, theorized that the titular six drinks were reflections of the eras in which they were created. In this new work, he instead shows how one of humanity's most vital needs (hunger) didn't simply reflect but served as the driving force behind transformative and key events in history. Dividing the vast subject into six general sections (such as food's role in the development of societies and social hierarchies, its impact on population and industrialization, and its uses as a weapon both on the battlefield and off), Standage illustrates each section with historical examples and observations. Some topics, like the spice trade's encouragement of exploration, are fairly obvious choices, but the concise style and inclusion of little-known details keep the material both entertaining and enlightening. Perhaps the most interesting section is the final one, which looks at the ways in which modern agricultural needs have acted as a spur for technological advancement, with Standage providing a summary of the challenges still faced by the green revolution. Recommended for both public and academic libraries. Kathleen McCallister, Univ. of South Carolina Lib., Columbia Copyright Reed Business Information, a division of Reed Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved. From Booklist Humanity's most basic need, along with water, is food. Earliest civilizations appeared on earth when farmers banded together and exploited their excess crops as a means of trade and currency. This allowed some people to abandon agriculture for specialized occupations such as architecture or soldiering. These settlers then organized communities and built history's earliest cities. Standage traces this ever-evolving story through Europe, Asia, and the Americas and casts human progress as an elaboration and refinement of this foundation. As food supplies stabilized, people developed tastes for items such as spices that made daily sustenance more palatable. This impetus led to interaction among cultures and civilizations and opened up the New World and its gifts of corn, potatoes, peppers, and other novelties. Standage also uncovers the aspects of food distribution that underlay such historic events as the Napoleonic Wars and the fall of the Soviet empire. --Mark Knoblauch