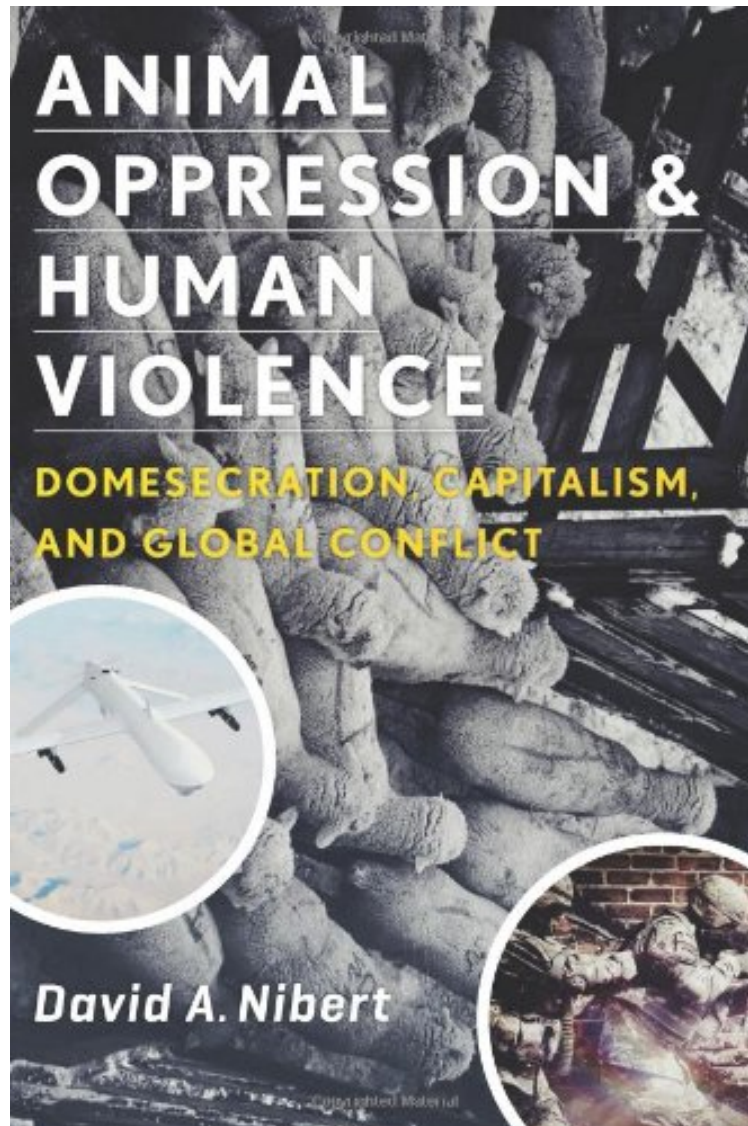


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12 of 12 people found the following review helpful. RelentlessBy RichardThis book offers a relentless look at how a divergent strain within our species has utilized animals to aid in their domination and outright destruction of other human beings. I'm no academic but Mr. Nibert appears to have been very thorough in his historical research. I've had to take the book in chunks in order to get my head wrapped around the immensity of the onslaught portrayed between its covers. Most who have looked beneath the covers of our current food system seek something to help make sense of what they have seen or at least to get a footing before moving forward with action. A historical perspective can provide that. If you are concerned that our treatment and use of animals today has become macabre, then I urge you to read this book. By providing my understanding of today's horror show with a historical context this book helps me to keep moving forward with compassionate choices and to work deliberately within my chosen profession towards bringing about a shift in consciousness. I hope you will find it beneficial as well.3 of 3 people found the following review helpful. Excellent!By Marcelo GalliThorough description of the history of domestication and how it shaped the course of history. Once humans learned to subjugate animals, he learned how to dominate other humans with the use of violence. A practice in use even today.0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. This book gave me a different and informative take on ...By Janice R. ClarkThis book gave me a different and informative take on history. My only complaint was that the facts were summarized at the end of chapters which seemed redundant.

Jared Diamond and other leading scholars have argued that the domestication of animals for food, labor, and tools of war has advanced the development of human society. But by comparing practices of animal exploitation for food and resources in different societies over time, David A. Nibert reaches a strikingly different conclusion. He finds in the domestication of animals, which he renames "domeseccration," a perversion of human ethics, the development of large-scale acts of violence, disastrous patterns of destruction, and growth-curbing epidemics of infectious disease. Nibert centers his study on nomadic pastoralism and the development of commercial ranching, a practice that has been largely controlled by elite groups and expanded with the rise of capitalism. Beginning with the pastoral societies of the Eurasian steppe and continuing through to the exportation of Western, meat-centered eating habits throughout today's world, Nibert connects the domeseccration of animals to violence, invasion, extermination, displacement, enslavement, repression, pandemic chronic disease, and hunger. In his view, conquest and subjugation were the results of the need to appropriate land and water to maintain large groups of animals, and the gross amassing of military power has its roots in the economic benefits of the exploitation, exchange, and sale of animals. Deadly zoonotic diseases, Nibert shows, have accompanied violent developments throughout history, laying waste to whole cities, societies, and civilizations. His most powerful insight situates the domeseccration of animals as a precondition for the oppression of human populations, particularly indigenous peoples, an injustice impossible to rectify while the material interests of the elite are inextricably linked to the exploitation of animals. Nibert links domeseccration to some of the most critical issues facing the world today, including the depletion of fresh water, topsoil, and oil reserves; global warming; and world hunger, and he reviews the U.S. government's military response to the inevitable crises of an overheated, hungry, resource-depleted world. Most animal-advocacy campaigns reinforce current oppressive practices, Nibert argues. Instead, he suggests reforms that challenge the legitimacy of both domeseccration and capitalism.

... A book with great cross-disciplinary appeal. Highly recommended. (CHOICE)An impressive and extensive historical analysis of key intersections between the exploitation of animals and the oppression of human beings. (The Year's Work in Critical and Cultural Theory)A profoundly important book and should be widely read and discussed. (AAG of Books)One of the great virtues of *Animal Oppression and Human Violence* is that it holds the potential for providing the expanding but vastly interdisciplinary field of Animal Studies with a unifying theory, and is therefore a highly significant contribution to this field. (Brian M. Lowe Society Animals)About the AuthorDavid A. Nibert worked as a tenant organizer and community activist before becoming a professor of sociology at Wittenberg University in Springfield, Ohio. He teaches courses on animals and society and global change and is the author of *Animal Rights/Human Rights: Entanglements of Oppression and Liberation*.