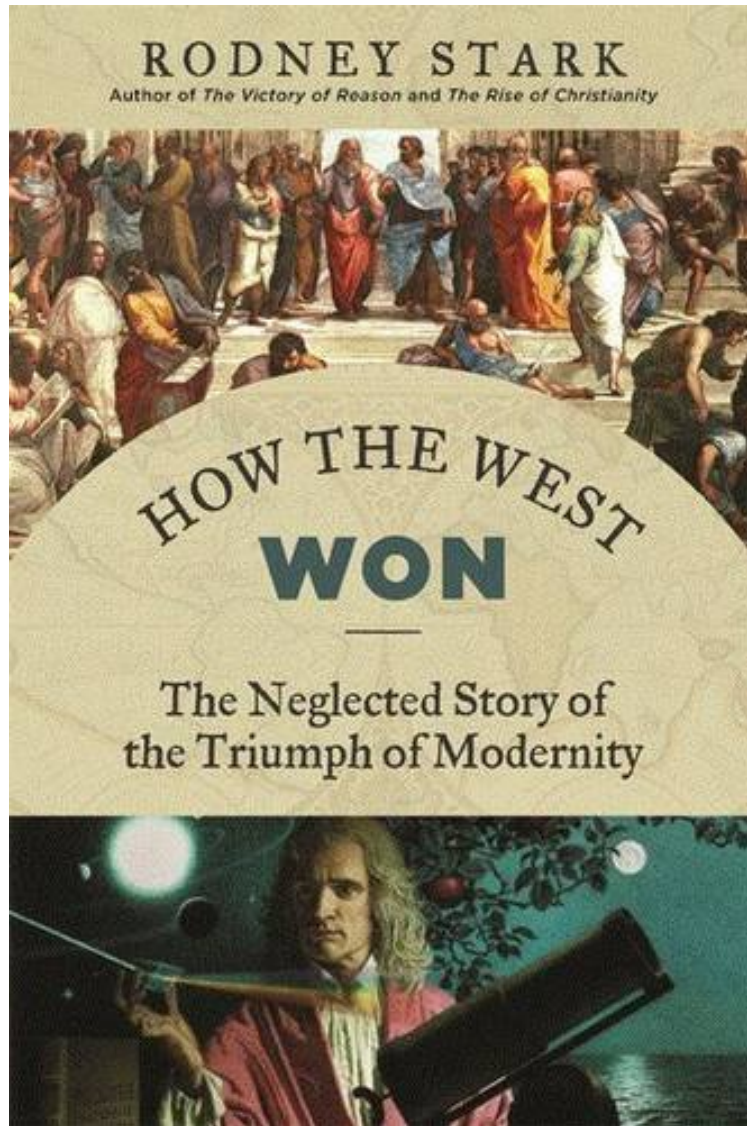


[Pdf free] How the West Won: The Neglected Story of the Triumph of Modernity

# How the West Won: The Neglected Story of the Triumph of Modernity

*Rodney Stark*

*ebooks / Download PDF / \*ePub / DOC / audiobook*



[Download](#)

[Read Online](#)

#122065 in Books 2015-10-15 Original language: English PDF # 1 9.00 x 1.30 x 6.001, 1.38 #File Name: 161017139X464 pages | File size: 17.Mb

**Rodney Stark : How the West Won: The Neglected Story of the Triumph of Modernity** before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised How the West Won: The Neglected Story of the Triumph of Modernity:

201 of 216 people found the following review helpful. Groundbreaking. Persuasive. Passionate. Yes, you need to buy this book! Now! By Jeri Anyone who has taken a history course at a university lately can attest to the rigid, doctrinaire

multiculturalism taught. Textbook after textbook downplays the achievements of the west. "How the West Won" is a brisk slap in the face to the current animus against western civilization. Take the Dark Ages, which are always portrayed as an age of utter barbarism in our textbooks, a time when society declined and all that was worthy in the ancient world vanished. Stark points out that "serious historians have known for decades that these claims are a complete fraud. Even the respectable encyclopedias...now define the Dark Ages as a myth" (p 71). He pulls out fact after fact to prove his position. Close to Stockholm, "an elaborate industrial community known as Helgo flourished from about 250 through 700." (p 82), and archaeologists have found a "bronze Buddha figure made in India" (p 81) in the ruins of Helgo, revealing how wide the trade was at the time. Not only did trade flourish, but "Within several centuries of the fall of Rome, Europeans have developed military technology that far surpassed not the the Romans' but that of every other society on earth" (p 84). Military might was important in the era. Islam was on the rise. In 1095 "The Byzantine emperor Alexius...appealed for Western forces to defend Constantinople from the threat of Turkish invaders" (p 102). Already, the entire of North Africa, which had once been solidly Christian, had fallen to Muslim armies. Stark asks us to "Compare Shakespeare's tragedies with those of the ancient Greeks" (p 119) For example, Oedipus is at the mercy of a blind, unfeeling fate. The ancient gods were without virtue; they were petty, vengeful, and vain. But Christianity imbued western culture with a belief in conscience. "It created a tendency for people not to be resigned to things as they are but rather to attempt to make the situation better" (119). It also meant an absolute truth existed, and could be rationally sought. Christianity pushed society to abolish slavery, that economic pillar of the ancient world. Even though the west had inherited a civilization from ancient Rome that was based on slavery, by the end of the eighth century Charlemagne opposed slavery, as did the pope. Within a century it was generally agreed upon Christian principle that slavery was against divine law. Although Max Weber claimed Protestantism invented capitalism, Stark points out that, rather, "The rise of capitalism in Europe proceeded the Reformation by centuries" (p 129). The key to western civilization was the belief in the rationality of God. During the Middle Ages, the church created universities, and paid for priests to take classes. "The first university was founded in... 1088" (p 163). "By 1200...the University of Paris...had 2,550 to 5,000 students" (p 166). One result was science - long before the Enlightenment. "Just as...eighteenth-century philosophers invented...the 'Dark Ages' to discredit Christianity, they labeled their own era the 'Enlightenment' on grounds that religious darkness had finally been dispelled by secular humanism" (p 309). I loved how Stark acidly noted how not even one of these 'Enlightened' men, such as Voltaire, had anything to do with science. No, the people who were "scientific stars were members of the clergy, nine of them Roman Catholics" (p 309). You really need this book! Stark is a marvelous writer, brisk and fun to read. But it is his ideas which are important. He argues brilliantly, and persuasively, that western civilization, so maligned in our current culture, is worthy of regard. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Stark Does it Again By J Mo 21 Stark once again attempts to set the record straight with regard to Europe and its colonies. He jousts with multiple opposing historians per chapter and is persuasively able to sustain nearly all of his points with the relevant and often neglected evidences. Stark seems most comfortable asserting the common sense but politically incorrect idea that not all cultures and societies are equal and then explicating what were the primary difference makers instead of running to self-flagellating, xenophilic progressive tropes. Relentlessly honest and willing to dig into uncomfortable data that has been systematically ignored or edited out, How the West was Won is a must read for anyone who wants the neglected other half of first world history that isn't the common, simplistic, myopic exploitation "explanation" alone. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. A Must Read Book By Customer A must read book. Well researched and documented as well as well written. Stark takes on many 'modern myths' and 'accepted beliefs' and dashes them against facts. A very enlightening book.

Finally the Truth about the Rise of the West Modernity developed only in the West in Europe and North America. Nowhere else did science and democracy arise; nowhere else was slavery outlawed. Only Westerners invented chimneys, musical scores, telescopes, eyeglasses, pianos, electric lights, aspirin, and soap. The question is, Why? Unfortunately, that question has become so politically incorrect that most scholars avoid it. But acclaimed author Rodney Stark provides the answers in this sweeping new look at Western civilization. How the West Won demonstrates the primacy of uniquely Western ideas among them the belief in free will, the commitment to the pursuit of knowledge, the notion that the universe functions according to rational rules that can be discovered, and the emphasis on human freedom and secure property rights. Taking readers on a thrilling journey from ancient Greece to the present, Stark challenges much of the received wisdom about Western history. How the West Won shows, for example: Why the fall of Rome was the single most beneficial event in the rise of Western civilization Why the Dark Ages never happened Why the Crusades had nothing to do with grabbing loot or attacking the Muslim world unprovoked Why there was no Scientific Revolution in the seventeenth century Why scholars recent efforts to dismiss the importance of battles are ridiculous: had the Greeks lost at the Battle of Marathon, we probably would never have heard of Plato or Aristotle Stark also debunks absurd fabrications that have flourished in the past few decades: that the Greeks stole their culture from Africa; that the West's discoveries were copied from the Chinese and Muslims; that Europe became rich by plundering the non-Western world. At the same time, he reveals the woeful inadequacy of recent attempts to attribute

the rise of the West to purely material causes favorable climates, abundant natural resources, guns and steel. How the West Won displays Rodney Stark's gifts for lively narrative history and making the latest scholarship accessible to all readers. This bold, insightful book will force you to rethink your understanding of the West and the birth of modernity and to recognize that Western civilization really has set itself apart from other cultures.

Praise for How the West Won Fortunately, a few unapologetic defenders of Western civilization can still be found. In How the West Won, Rodney Stark details how and why the vital aspects of modernity defined here as a combination of sensible economic arrangements, political freedoms and scientific knowledge developed in the West rather than elsewhere. In the process he adds considerably to the content of the old Western Civ courses, which would often discreetly ignore the contribution of Christianity and neglect practical matters such as advances in technology and banking. Wall Street Journal Stark's lively and absorbing new work beheads the academy's dictatorship of relativism and enthrones in its place concrete and fact-based understanding in order here to give Western civilization the credit it richly deserves.... Along the way he upsets one politically correct apple cart after another.... Stark's book should have as wide an audience as possible. Catholic World Report Exposes gaping holes in the prevailing narrative... Stark sets out to critique, and, in some instances, demolish several widespread mythologies about the West's development.... In making these points, Stark is happy to engage in the deeply politically incorrect exercise of comparing developments in the West to that of other civilizations. Crisis What sets How the West Won apart from similar histories, and what makes it a sheer delight to read, is Stark's wit, his elegant writing and, most especially, his reinterpretation of various historical events.... Nearly every chapter of How the West Won breaks some widely held opinion.... If you are looking for lively, erudite history, you'll find How the West Won a splendid companion. Smoky Mountain News