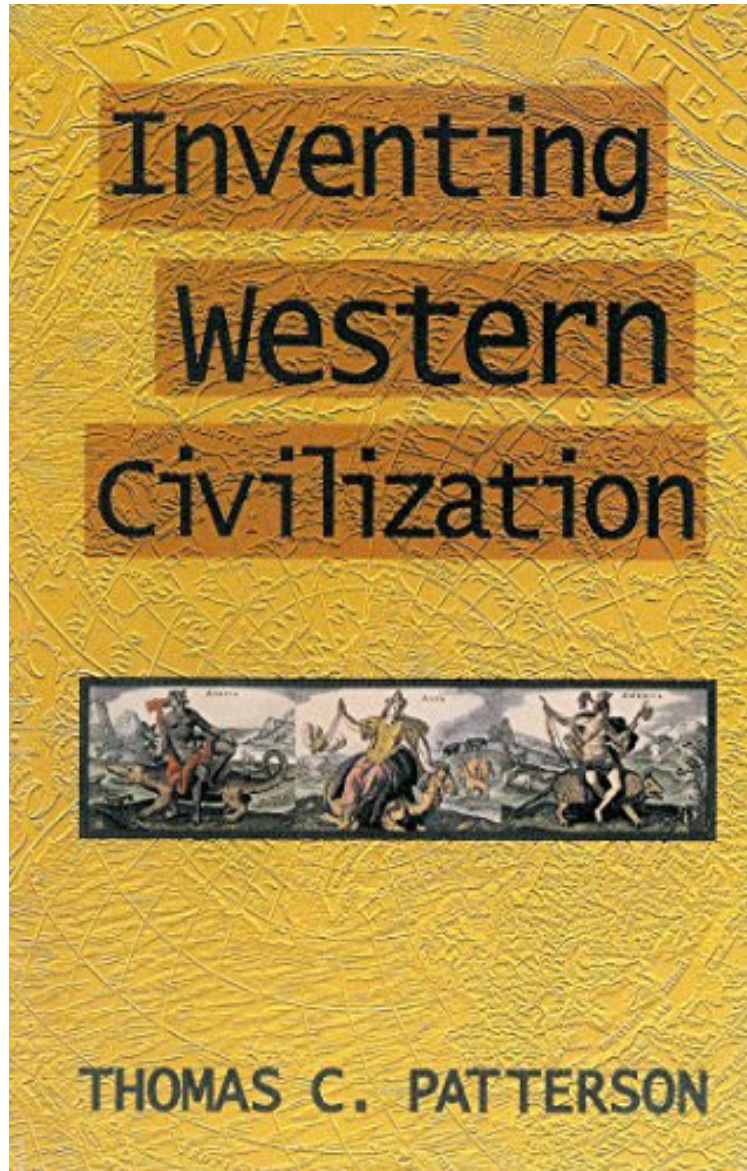


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## Inventing Western Civilization (Cornerstone Books)

*Thomas C. Patterson*

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#274965 in Books Thomas C Patterson 1997-01-01 1997-01-01 Original language: English PDF # 1 8.50 x .37 x 5.511, .45 #File Name: 0853459614156 pages Inventing Western Civilization | File size: 61.Mb

**Thomas C. Patterson : Inventing Western Civilization (Cornerstone Books)** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Inventing Western Civilization (Cornerstone Books):

6 of 6 people found the following review helpful. Marvelous achievement! Quick, clear, and powerful! By Quickhappy In the short span of 123 pages, Thomas Patterson delivers a stunning and succinct overview of "Western civilization" and its encounters with "savages," different "races," and the Other. He recounts briefly yet movingly the

Spanish onslaught of Native Americans, ancient Greek notions of barbarism, the British colonization of Ireland, and more. But Patterson only gives the briefest sketch of these meetings--he is more concerned with the ever-changing ideologies with which some Europeans justify the wholesale looting, enslavement, murder, and colonization of others around the globe. He portrays conservative and liberal ideas, as well as racial and economic notions. He sketches the involvement of science with racism and colonialism, and he brings to life the deeply classist and sexist hatreds of European elites--hatreds which easily translated into colonialism (inferiors and feminine types around the world "needed" to be ruled). Remarkably, Patterson manages to find space for critiques of "civilization," both from within European societies and from those they encountered. In this way agency is not restricted to a few rich, White Europeans, and the dialogue is constant and contested. I assigned this book to my upper division college students, and they comprehended and thrived on this book. It is quick, clear, and powerful--truly a marvelous contribution. I will surely assign it again. Highest recommendation! 4 of 4 people found the following review helpful. THIS BOOK MAY SHATTER YOUR PERSPECTIVE! By Roy Wilson If you truly believe that Western civilization is the worldwide and most complete civilization, while all others are parochial, then this book may shatter your perspective. In "Inventing Western Civilization," Thomas C. Patterson suggested that "civilized people are obsessed with their uncivilized kin and neighbors--[so] they call them savages, barbarians or the 'masses' who lack their polish, refinement, and sophistication; who... have moved en masse into their midst." Patterson develops his argument and explores the idea of civilization in only five short chapters. He examines the constantly changing "social and political conditions in which civilization is produced and deployed." The work questions conventional knowledge about the idea of western civilization created by white, male, elites to preserve and perpetuate their power in society. 3 of 3 people found the following review helpful. this really makes you think By Kev This book was an assigned book in my Introduction to Cultural Anthropology course. Although the premise of the book has nothing to do with the field of cultural anthro, reading it helped me put the notion of "civilization" and such ideas as "culture" and "race" into perspective. Definitely not a book to take to the beach, but a good read for those looking to expand their knowledge of political institutions.

"In this wonderful book, Thomas Patterson effectively dethrones the concept of 'civilization' as an abstract good, transcending human society." --Martin Bernal Drawing on his extensive knowledge of early societies, Thomas C. Patterson shows how class, sexism, and racism have been integral to the appearance of "civilized" societies in Western Europe. He lays out clearly and simply how civilization, with its designs of "civilizing" and "being civilized," has been closely tied to the rise of capitalism in Western Europe and the development of social classes.

What is civilization? How has the word come to take on a hierarchical meaning -- the "civilized" versus the "primitive"? Inventing Western Civilization is about the idea of civilization and how the concept has been appropriated by different groups at different times in order to defend their status. Anthropologist Tom Patterson shows how classism, sexism, and racism were as integral to the appearance of "civilized" society in Western Europe as inequality and alienation. He explains, clearly and simply, how civilization (and the process of "civilizing" and "being civilized") has been closely tied to the rise of capitalism in Western Europe, the development of social classes, and the creation of "others" who are distinguished by their socially constructed appearances, behaviors, or essences. -- Midwest Book About the Author Thomas C. Patterson is Professor and Chair of Anthropology, University of California at Riverside.