

To Uphold the World: A Call for a New Global Ethic from Ancient India

Bruce Rich

*ePub | *DOC | audiobook | ebooks | Download PDF*

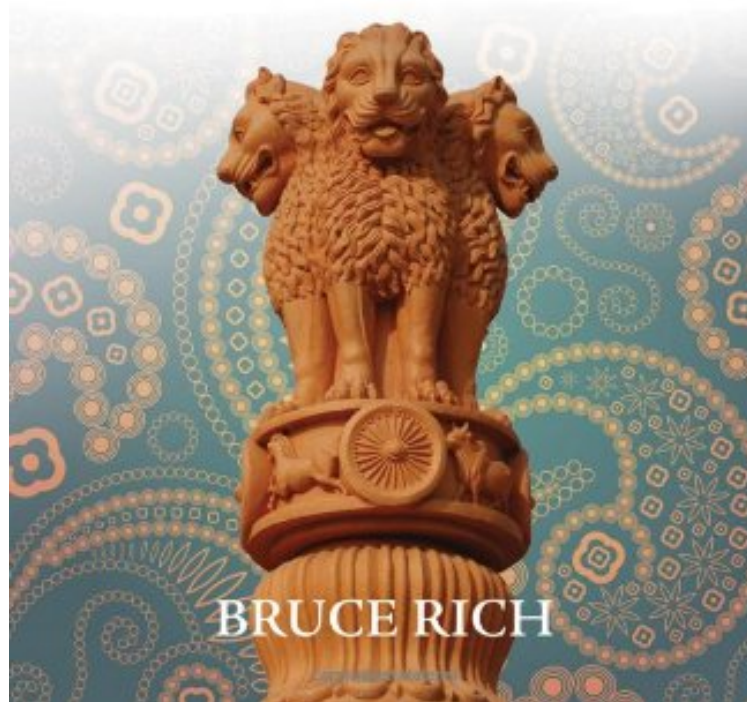
Copyrighted Material

Foreword by **AMARTYA SEN**, winner of the Nobel Prize in Economics

Afterword by His Holiness the **DALAI LAMA**

TO UPHOLD THE WORLD

A Call for a New Global Ethic
from Ancient India



 Download

 Read Online

#1088196 in Books Beacon Press 2010-03-01 2010-03-01 Original language: English PDF # 1 8.95 x .65 x 5.951, .83 #File Name: 0807006130256 pages | File size: 34.Mb

Bruce Rich : To Uphold the World: A Call for a New Global Ethic from Ancient India before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised To Uphold the World: A Call for a New Global Ethic from Ancient India:

2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. Is Bolivian democracy and rights of mother earth the answer the

author is looking for? By Susan Nash I enjoyed this book very much. I would also recommend Robert Thurman's Inner Revolution which has more faith in democracy than does Bruce Rich. I also was saddened that he talks about resolutions before the UN for world justice and peace, but he does not mention the several resolutions put forth by Bolivia under the leadership of Eva Morales for the Rights of Mother Earth and indigenous peoples everywhere. It seems that when we are talking about the history of the world and the Axial Age that we must revisit, we include some parts of the southern hemisphere (India), but forget about Central and South America and Africa.... not only for what they did in the past, but what they are doing today to lead us into Axial Age II. What's wrong with including capitalism and our not democratic USA as a major cause of our current lack of Respect for All Living Beings? I do not agree that we need to balance the Axial Age belief in basic goodness with a materialistic belief in basic badness and that somehow we can blend the two together and still have respect for all living beings... except the bad ones? Unless we assume we are all one and all basically good, I do not see justice and respect for all living beings in the human species' future; and I see a very short future for the human species. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful.

Attempting to call upon the wisdom of past thought leaders for guidance for today's challenges By Glenn A. Carleton I had low expectations of this book as I expected it to be mostly history about Ashoka than substantive regarding guidance for today's modern society. I was not looking for its message to be profound, just content of Ashoka as a character and that historical time period I have been studying. The author went far deeper than I expected, truly attempted to translate his broad studies into something politicians today could benefit from - use for Guidance. Unlikely that this book will be read by a large audience, or ever have a following to make a difference; my guess is in 5 years there might be 5 comments left on . If I was in charge of forcing our politicians to read a set of books over the next year, this would be one of them. In spite of their rhetoric, few politicians seem to have any guiding principles to follow, and certainly do not follow the false ones they claim to. For a thoughtful politician, this book could provide considerable content to reflect upon and guidance on how we should govern ourselves. What surprised me was the additional, more contemporary material than just Ashoka, that he included. His discussion on Adam Smith's Theory of Moral Sentiments I felt was deep and highly relevant to the topic at hand, such that I found the wisdom of Adam Smith to be greater and more relevant than the other historical players he brings as having wisdom worth considering for today's challenges. Adam Smith, the so called father of capitalism, has not been widely read for his Wealth of Nations (superficial reading at best done merely to promote Capitalism/Invisible Hand theories). Those who understand Smith's views on the benefits and dangers of capitalism and the so-called foundation of the Invisible Hand understand Smith is at present poorly understood and often mis-quoted, that he in fact felt the laws of nature require government action and oversight to ensure Capitalism did not go a muck (Capitalism appeals to the self-love side of human nature, which he saw as good, but potentially very dangerous if not dominated by sympathy-for-others capacity also part of our human nature). Theory of Moral Sediments was Smith's final thinking after completing his Wealth of Nations - the WoN book was his warm up for his final thoughts, ToMS requiring 6 editions to get his final thoughts completed. Rich does an excellent job of extracting from Adam Smith of what he really was promoting, and in my view, Adam Smith and Ashoka can both be viewed as important historical players we can learn from today. Those who read this book will become more depressed about the ability of our government to function. Dysfunctional seems generous. As Adam Smith says, do what is praiseworthy and do not seek praise - and all will work out. The problems we have in America today are our own fault. We put the present batch of politicians into office, we allowed them to seek and achieve personal gain, and we allowed them to pay attention to those who contribute money versus the whole of society. We deserve what we are getting, and the only way I see it changing is for our citizens to become educated on many of the principles articulated in this book. Because I have no optimism that our citizens will get educated or our politicians self-correct, I see Change only coming from protest movements like OWS. Those who see America potentially returning once again to its past glory (and exceptionalism) are either deluding themselves, or trying to write a book on how we can get there. I see none of them having any chance of materializing. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Insightful book on contemporary dilemmas By PShomeA very timely book providing insight on the global problems and dilemmas, that we are facing now.

In 1991, Bruce Rich traveled to Orissa and gazed upon the rock edicts erected by the Indian emperor Ashoka over 2,200 years ago. Intrigued by the stone inscriptions that declared religious tolerance, conservation, nonviolence, species protection, and human rights, Rich was drawn into Ashoka's world. Ashoka was a powerful conqueror who converted to Buddhism on the heels of a bloody war, yet his empire rested on a political system that prioritized material wealth and amoral realpolitik. This system had been perfected by Kautilya, a statesman who wrote the world's first treatise on economics. In this powerful critique of the current wave of globalization, Rich urgently calls for a new global ethic, distilling the messages of Ashoka and Kautilya while reflecting on thinkers from across the ages from Aristotle and Adam Smith to George Soros. Bruce Rich discusses Universal Health Care in Ancient India:

The reader is drawn powerfully into a long-gone world . . . with ingenious political analysis . . . [It's] a highly readable book. Amartya Sen "It is my hope and prayer that readers today may be inspired by this tale." His Holiness the Dalai

Lama "I am in awe of what Bruce Rich does in this wonderful book reaching back through the millennia to provide an inspiring account of the ethical consciousness so urgently needed today. A wise and profound book that could hardly be timelier." James Gustave Speth, former Dean, Yale School of Forestry and Environmental Studies, and former Administrator, United Nations Development Program "In Bruce Rich's brilliant and accessible study, Ashoka emerges as a figure from whom all political and spiritual leaders can learn much. Rich engagingly and skillfully presents ancient India's political issues in a way that actually illumines contemporary debates. A fascinating account." Rabbi Michael Lerner, editor of Tikkun and author of *The Left Hand of God* "The only era when change was as profound as it is now was roughly 2,400 years ago, a time of defining prophets and the unification of the West, India, and China. No one then contributed more for the good than Ashoka. No one ever has brought Ashoka and his relevance so much to life as Bruce Rich in this wonderful volume." Bill Drayton, Founder and Chair, Ashoka "Bruce Rich finds in ancient Indian wisdom the roots of a new global ethic for the 21st century. Compelling, deeply researched and insightfully argued, *Richs* is a book that deserves a wide and thoughtful readership." Shashi Tharoor, author *The Elephant, the Tiger, and the Cell Phone* and *Nehru: the Invention of India* "Bruce Rich's imaginative and engaging work, linking the world of Ashoka and Kautilya to some of the fundamental predicaments of our age, has many merits, not the least of which is forcing us to rethink conventional ideas about modernity and globalization. A timely and critical contribution to the literature on global governance, the book should command considerable appeal across a variety of disciplines in the social sciences and the humanities. It will find a wide audience especially in courses in international relations and world order studies." Don Babai, lecturer in international political economy and research associate, Center for Middle Eastern Studies, Harvard University "This book will be popular in undergraduate- and graduate-level courses in international relations theory, globalization, political theory, and global ethics, among others. Rich is a master at bringing ideas to life, and placing them in both a historical and modern context. As always, his work will provoke and inspire students." Tamar Gutner, director, International Politics Program and International Economic Relations Program, American University

About the Author The author of *Mortgaging the Earth*, Bruce Rich is a Washington, D.C., attorney who has worked to promote environmental and social standards for international finance, for which he received the United Nations Global 500 Award.