

A BRIEF HISTORY  
OF CIVILIZATION



By J. S. HOYLAND

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OF  
Civilization

by

JOHN S. HOYLAND

M.A. (Cantab.)

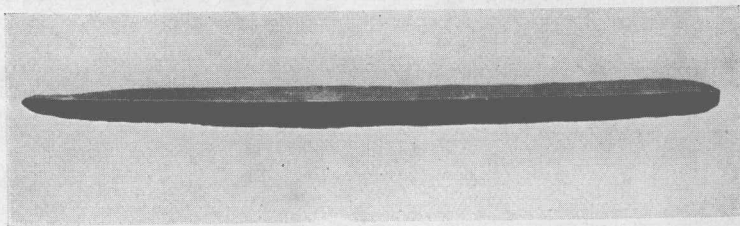


OXFORD UNIVERSITY PRESS  
LONDON : HUMPHREY MILFORD

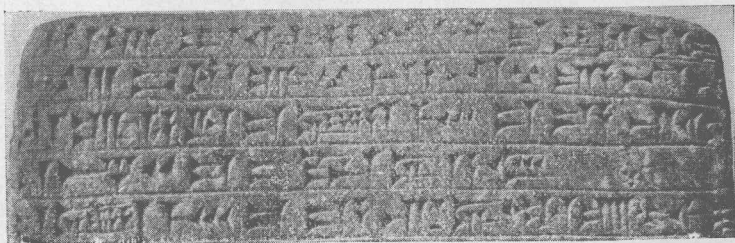
1925



THE EARLIEST PICTURE WRITING ; about 4000 B. C. An engraved stone from Kish in Sumeria



THE EARLIEST PEN. A bone instrument for writing cuneiform (wedge-shaped) signs. About 2000 B. C.



CUNEIFORM WRITING

Oxford University Press

*London    Edinburgh    Glasgow    Copenhagen*

*New York    Toronto    Melbourne    Cape Town*

*Bombay    Calcutta    Madras    Shanghai*

Humphrey Milford Publisher to the UNIVERSITY

Printed in England



## FOREWORD

DURING the meetings, in 1921, of a Committee for the Revision of the Curriculum in Secondary Schools, the need was expressed for the inclusion in the school course of a brief history of civilization. The author of this book, who was a member of the Committee, has tried to meet the need. To Mr. Wells's *Outline of History* he owes a great deal, as every writer must who attempts to survey the life of the peoples throughout the ages. The names of some of the other books from which help has been taken will be found in the Note on Books ; especial acknowledgements are due to Professor Davis's masterly little book on *Mediaeval Europe*.

In a book of this description, dealing with movements, tendencies, and influences, the precise dates of the lives, reigns, or events referred to are of secondary importance. Such dates have been inserted in brackets in the following pages, not that they may be committed to memory, but for the convenience of the reader, that they may be readily available if required.

J. S. H.

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*We owe a large debt throughout to Messrs. B. ASHMOLE, L. H. DUDLEY BUXTON, S. CASSON, R. GORBOLD, and P. HART, who have allowed us to draw freely on collections of photographs which they have themselves taken.*

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## NOTE ON BOOKS

THE following books will, among very many others, be found useful for further study in the subjects dealt with in the chapters named :

### I

Thomson, *The Outline of Science*.  
Thomson and Geddes, *Evolution*.  
Gregory, *The Making of the Earth*.  
Moore, *The Origin and Nature of Life*.  
Goodrich, *Evolution of Living Organisms*.  
Marett, *Anthropology*.  
Myres, *The Dawn of History*.  
Hogarth, *The Ancient East*.  
Monro, *Prehistoric Britain*.  
Breasted, *Ancient Times*.

### II

Thompson, *History of India*.  
Smith, V., *Oxford History of India* (for reference).  
Farquhar, *Outline of the Religious History of India* (for reference).  
Tagore, *Kabir's Poems*.  
Tagore, *Gitanjali*.  
Arnold, *The Light of Asia*.  
Davids, *Buddhism*.  
Giles, *The Civilization of China*.  
Giles, *History of Chinese Literature* (for reference).

### III

The Bible.  
Blunt, *Israel in World History*.  
Ottley, *History of the Hebrews*.  
Sarson and Phillips, *History of the People of Israel*.  
Stalker, *Life of Jesus Christ*.  
Bate, *History of the Church to A. D. 325*.  
Robinson, *The Conversion of Europe* (for reference).  
The Koran.  
Margoliouth, *Mohammedanism*.

### IV

Bury, *History of Greece*.  
Warde Fowler, *The City-State of the Greeks and Romans*.  
Zimmern, *Greek Commonwealth*.  
Caird, *Plato's Four Socratic Dialogues*.  
Murray, *Ancient Greek Literature*.

- Harrison, *Ancient Art and Ritual*.  
 Church, *Homer*.  
 Murray, *The Plays of Euripides*.  
 Livingstone, *The Legacy of Greece*.  
 Livingstone, *The Pageant of Greece*.  
 Casson, *Ancient Greece*.  
 James, *Our Hellenic Heritage*.

## V

- How and Leigh, *History of Rome*.  
 Warde Fowler, *Rome*.  
 Matheson, *Growth of Rome*.  
 Mackail, *Latin Literature*.  
 Wight Duff, *Writers of Rome*.  
 Bailey, *The Legacy of Rome*.  
 Bosworth Smith, *Carthage and the Carthaginians*.  
 Bigg, *The Church's Task in the Roman Empire*.  
 Dill, *Roman Society in the last century of the Western Empire*.  
 Smith, *Student's Edition of Gibbon's Decline and Fall of the Roman Empire* (for reference).  
 Hubbard, *The Fate of Empires*.

## VI

- Davis, *Mediaeval Europe*.  
 Barry, *The Papacy and Modern Times*.  
 Bateson, *Mediæval England*.  
 Bryce, *The Holy Roman Empire*.  
 Bell, *A Short History of the Papacy*.  
 Masterman, *The Dawn of Mediaeval Europe*.  
 Lees, *The Central Period of the Middle Age*.  
*Mediaeval England*, ed. Barnard and Davis.  
 Lodge, *The End of the Middle Age*.  
 Ilbert, *Parliament*.  
*Cambridge Mediaeval History* (for reference).

## VII

- Hollings, *Europe in Renaissance and Reformation*.  
 Johnson, *The Age of the Enlightened Despot*.  
 Marriott, *The Remaking of Modern Europe*.  
 Mowat, *The European States System*.  
 Robinson and Beard, *The Development of Modern Europe*.  
 Mowat, *A New History of Great Britain*.  
 Marriott and Robertson, *The Evolution of Prussia*.  
*Cambridge Modern History* (for reference).  
 Pollard, *A Short History of the Great War*.

## VIII

- Williamson, *Expansion of Christendom*.  
 Harris, *The Peace in the Making*.

Seeley, *The Expansion of England*.  
 Kermack, *Expansion of Britain*.  
 Bagehot, *The English Constitution*.  
 Morris and Wood, *The English-speaking Nations*.  
 Bradley, *Canada*.  
 Ramsay Muir, *Growth of the British Commonwealth*.  
 Channing, *Student's History of the United States*.  
 Bryce, *The American Commonwealth*.  
 Chesterton, *History of the United States*.  
 Charnwood, *Abraham Lincoln*.  
 Paxson, *The American Civil War*.

IX

Sichel, *The Renaissance*.  
 Froude, *Life and Letters of Erasmus*.  
 Lindsay, *Life of Luther*.  
 Dark, *The Quest of the Indies*.  
 Prescott, *The Conquest of Peru*.  
 Bruce, *Polar Exploration*.  
 Johnston, *The Opening-up of Africa*.  
 Thomson, *Introduction to Science*.  
 Belloc, *The French Revolution*.  
 Fisher, *Napoleon*.  
 Jenks, *History of Politics*.  
 Harrison, *William the Silent*.  
 Trevelyan, *Garibaldi and the Making of Italy*.  
 Macgregor, *The Evolution of Industry*.

In compiling the above list the attempt has been made to confine attention to subjects actually touched on in this book, and to name so far as possible works which are cheap, short, and easily accessible.

For the whole subject the following may be recommended :

Wells, *The Outline of History*.  
 Thomson, *The Outline of Science*.  
 Fairgrieve, *Geography and World Power*.  
 Bury, *A History of Freedom of Thought*.  
 Marvin, *The Living Past*.  
 Robinson, *History of Western Europe*.  
 Marvin, *The Unity of Western Civilization*.  
 Marvin, *Progress and History*.

Constant help may be had from the *Encyclopaedia Britannica*. The use of a good historical atlas, e. g. C. G. Robertson and J. G. Bartholomew's *Historical Atlas of Modern Europe*, published by the Oxford University Press, or Ramsay Muir's *New Historical Atlas*, published by Messrs. Phillips, is essential.

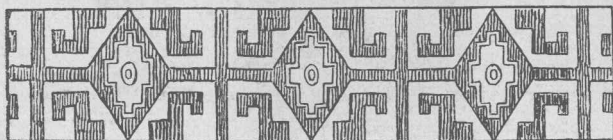




THE ART OF PRIMITIVE MAN

Bushman Paintings from South Africa. (*Miss Helen Tongue*)





## I

### *The Beginnings of History*

*The Making of the Earth.* Countless ages ago the Sun, the Earth, and all the planets, with their moons, formed one huge mass of flaming gas. As it gradually cooled, this mass of incandescent gas, which was revolving rapidly, threw off fragments, which, gradually solidifying, became the planets and their moons. Being very much smaller than the parent-mass, these outlying members of the Solar System (as the whole is called) cooled much more rapidly than the Sun in the centre. Thus in time our Earth reached its present state. It has a hot interior with a hard and cool surface; and it receives light and heat from the central mass (the Sun), which is still intensely hot. At first, whilst the earth was itself still very hot, all the water of the oceans was held in the atmosphere in the form of vast clouds of steam; but, as the process of cooling went on, the steam was condensed in rain, and thus the oceans were formed.<sup>1</sup>

*The Beginnings of Life.* It was probably on the shores of these warm oceans that, after many ages, Life first appeared. The manner of that appearance is still a complete mystery. The first living matter was probably a soft, jelly-like substance, without shell or bones, multiplying by means of subdivision. Later on, at the bottom of the sea, there were developed from this substance sea-weeds, shell-fish, crabs, worms, and at last fishes. Of many of these early forms of life we have fairly

<sup>1</sup> Some scientists now hold that the earth, together with the other planets, was formed by the violent coming together of immense numbers of cold meteorites (very small, wandering members of the Solar System, which when they enter the earth's atmosphere form what are called 'shooting stars'). The collisions of these meteorites caused great heat.

accurate knowledge to-day; for when the shell-fish (for instance) died, they left their hard shells embedded in the mud on the sea-floor. Then, as the rivers washed sand and silt down into the sea from the land, fresh layers of mud were formed above the remains of the old shell-fish. This mud was gradually hardened by the continually growing weight above, till it became rock. Then, after many ages, either some sudden earthquake, or slow changes in the distribution of weight elsewhere on the earth's crust, caused the mud-formed rocks at the bottom of the sea to be heaved up, so as to form part of the dry land, or even high mountain ranges. In this position the rocks were cut away by rivers and rain: and so in time the remains of the ancient shell-fish were disclosed. In this way we can find in large numbers the shells and bones of ancient creatures, embedded in the rocks. Such remains are called 'fossils'.

It is probable that at least a thousand million years have passed since, as the earth cooled, the first rocks were formed. Of this vast length of time at least half passed before any form of living creature was developed with parts hard enough to be preserved as fossils in the rocks.

*The Evolution of Life.* It is now generally believed that there has been one steady process of continuous development leading from the first minute beginnings of life right up to mankind. From time to time slight variations in the form and shape of individual creatures have given those individuals a better chance of defending themselves from their enemies, of obtaining food, and of rearing their young. Weaker and worse-equipped individuals on the other hand have tended to be killed or starved, and have failed to leave offspring. Thus, as a rule, the next generation has been chosen from the stronger and better equipped members of the previous generation; and so steady progress has taken place. New species of creatures may have come into existence either through sudden and great variations (called 'sports'), or through an accumulation of the slight variations mentioned