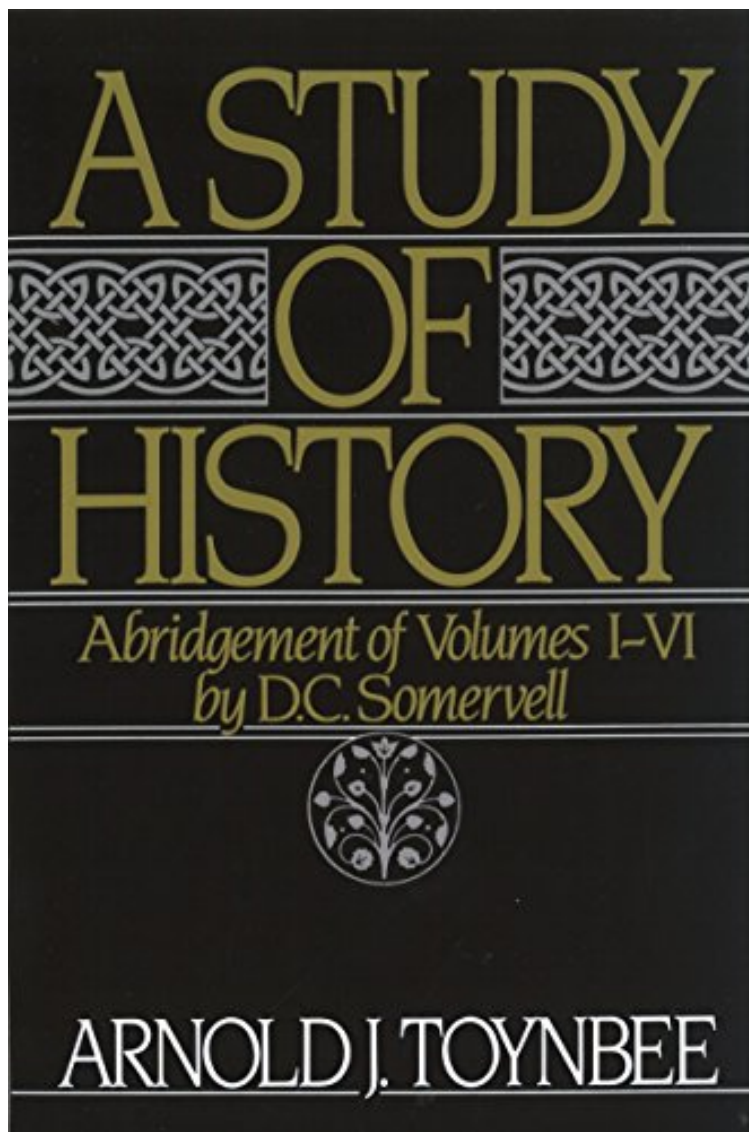


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Description :

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Originally published in 1947 and 1957, these two volumes are themselves a great historical achievement. Volume 1, which abridges the first six volumes of Toynbee's study, includes the Introduction, The Geneses of Civilizations, and The Disintegrations of Civilizations. Volume 2, an abridgement of

Volumes VII-X, includes sections on Universal States, Universal churches, Heroic Ages, Contacts Between Civilizations in Space, Contacts Between Civilizations in Time, Law and Freedom in History, The Prospects of the Western Civilization, and the Conclusion. Of Somervell's work, Toynbee wrote, "The reader now has at his command a uniform abridgement of the whole book, made by a clear mind that has not only mastered the contents but has entered into the writer's outlook and purpose." *Revue de presse* It is safe to say that there

can be few people for whom the reading of Mr Toynbee's work will not be a deeply significant event. It would have struck the imagination of any age by its originality, its range, its learning and its power ... here the reader is offered not some clever and arresting adaptation of the latest novelty in psychology or biology to politics but a large, measured, tranquil and philosophical examination of history by a writer who adds to the rare intellectual equipment needed for so Herculean a task the advantage of experience of public life and contact with foreign scholars and politicians ... nobody can doubt its immense importance to an age that is in disorder because men's habits of mind keep them in a small world while their economic life puts them in a large. (*The Guardian, Books of the Day* from June 26, 1934, in on 30/10/99) `By far the most audacious and imaginative view of man's time on earth yet undertaken by any historian... Reading it is a major intellectual adventure.' *Time Magazine* `Anyone interested in the meaning of history, the life and death of civilizations, and the part now being played by our own culture in the whole story of mankind will surely find something in these magnificently fertile studies by one of the very greatest intellects of our day.' *The New Yorker* `McNeill's book will be read, and enjoyed, for its own sake. I hope it will revive interest in Toynbee.'

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