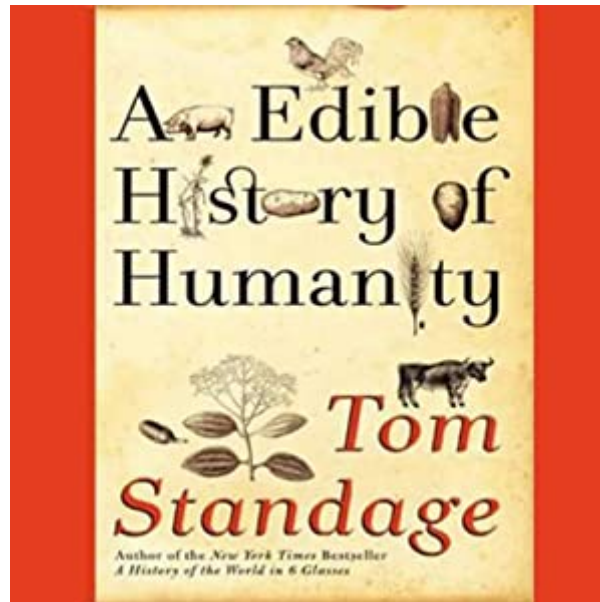




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An Edible History Of Humanity



Synopsis

Throughout history, food has acted as a catalyst of social change, political organization, geopolitical competition, industrial development, military conflict, and economic expansion. *An Edible History of Humanity* is a pithy, entertaining account of how a series of changes—caused, enabled, or influenced by food—has helped to shape and transform societies around the world. The first civilizations were built on barley and wheat in the Near East, millet and rice in Asia, and corn and potatoes in the Americas. Why farming created a strictly ordered social hierarchy in contrast to the loose egalitarianism of hunter-gatherers is, as Tom Standage reveals, as interesting as the details of the complex cultures that emerged, eventually interconnected by commerce. Trade in exotic spices in particular spawned the age of exploration and the colonization of the New World. Food's influence over the course of history has been just as prevalent in modern times. In the late eighteenth century, Britain's solution to food shortages was to industrialize and import food rather than grow it. Food helped to determine the outcome of wars: Napoleon's rise and fall was intimately connected with his ability to feed his vast armies. In the twentieth century, Communist leaders employed food as an ideological weapon, resulting in the death by starvation of millions in the Soviet Union and China. And today the foods we choose in the supermarket connect us to global debates about trade, development, the environment, and the adoption of new technologies. Encompassing many fields, from genetics and archaeology to anthropology and economics—and invoking food as a special form of technology—*An Edible History of Humanity* is a fully satisfying discourse on the sweep of human history. --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Bought for my teen's summer homework assignment. Overheard him telling his friends that it's "interesting" and the content has sparked dinnertime conversation for over a week.

I loved this book it was very entertaining. It was a real page turner

I purchased this book for my dad, whom in his retirement became a naturalist. He really enjoyed the book. To quote the email he sent to me after reading it: "That is an incredibly informative book that puts a lot of history and the present world condition into perspective." High praise coming from my dad.

My daughter liked it

Informative but boring as heck. Took 10 pages to explain what he could have said in 2 paragraphs. Read it with my son for world history class.

Great quality!

I could not make it through this book. Who knew food could be so boring?!

An intense and interesting study, tying many aspects, cities, religious centers and even words of modern life to the real reasons from thousands of years of...food.Excellent perspective.

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