duh the stupid history of the human race

#human history mistakes #mankind blunders #societal failures timeline #human folly examples #historical errors

The long and often bewildering narrative of human existence is frequently punctuated by remarkably foolish decisions and repetitive errors. From ancient empires to modern societies, a consistent thread of irrationality and self-sabotage runs through our collective past, making one ponder the very nature of progress and learning from experience.

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Duh!

" ... a hilarious collection of the stupid things that people do, divided up into topics."--- back cover.

Duh! the Stupid History of the Human Race

Offering a compilation of the stupid things that people do, this three-part study of humankind descibes human idiocy within such areas as politics, history, science, and sports, and offers advice on how to avoid doing stupid things.

Well, Duh!

In a world of bumbling idiots, stupidity is a growth industry. One smart strategy is to laugh at it all with this outrageous collection of hilarious tales about the stupid things people do in every field of human activity. Bob Fenster has combed the world of the intellectually challenged searching for more tales of stupidity to entertain us with.......and he's hit the jackpot! After the success of his first two books, Duh! and They Did What!?, Fenster has struck again with Well, Duh! Our Stupid World, and Welcome to It. More tales of the dim-witted and simpleminded are incorporated in chapters such as: * Food for Thoughtlessness: The All-Turnip Diet and Other Loony Meals at the Mindless Cafe * Hollyweird: Bird Brains in Tinsel Town * Dumb Ways to Die: Buried Alive but Not for Long * Government by the Idiots: How to Get Elected to Anything

The Big Book of Duh

If you are stupid, then you're too dumb to know it. If you're smart, then you are no doubt smart enough to doubt yourself. --Bob Fenster The Big Book of Duh! is the perfect read regardless of where you happen to be sitting--think Uncle John's Bathroom Reader meets The Darwin Awards (without any of the dreary dead stuff). Proving there is a lot of reading going on in suburbia's smallest room, more than 1.5 million copies of Uncle John's Bathroom Reader have been sold since its first publication in 1988. As the new water-closet contender, Bob Fenster continues his romp into areas of idiot intrigue by chronicling the folly and reckless abandon of the human race. * Covering such topics as My Favorite Morons, It Seemed Like a Good Idea at the Time, The Surprising Things People Don't Know, and Dumb Plays in the Face of Fate, this compendium chronicles the densely inept and decidedly ignorant. * Featuring

outrageous new stories plus the best material from the previous Duh! books, this compilation is the ultimate collection of human stupidity.

The Duh Awards

From the genius of funnyman Bob Fenster, who brought you Duh!, They Did What!?, and Well, Duh!, comes another in real-life idiocy. The Duh Awards honors the intellectually challenged and utterly inept. From historical explorers to politicians to celebrities to everyday people, no one is spared from lampoon. Ever notice there seems to be an award show for just about everything? And that everyone who wins is rich, beautiful, and brilliant? Good-looking, intelligent winners are everywhere. The Duh Awards is for the rest of us. These awards are handed out to the not-so-smart, the underworked, the overpaid, the wacky, the weird, and the downright stupid. And it's about time! Chapters include such ridiculousness as: Boss of the Year and Other Slave Driver Awards; Champion Scoffers, Scorners, Insulters, and Other All-Star Wise Guys; and Only in Hollywood-The Anti-Oscars. Here are just a excerpts from this hilarious book: The Know-a-Little, Talk-a-Lot Society presents the Anti-Expert Awards: In 1931 President Herbert Hoover somehow missed the impact of the Great Depression when he offered this solution: "If someone could get off a good joke every ten days, I think our troubles would be over." Winning Mind Games: All-Star Shockers, Psych-Outs, and Gross Champs: During the halftime show of the 2004 Super Bowl, singer Justin Timberlake removed part of singer Janet Jackson's shirt to reveal one of her star breasts on national TV. This upset viewers who had tuned in to watch rapper Nelly grab his crotch. The Spin Awards for Fooling Most of the People Enough of the Time: In 2003 Secretary of Defense Donald Rumsfeld told the press: "As we know, there are known knowns; there are things we know we know. We also know there are known unknowns; that is to say we know there are some things we do not know. But there are also unknown unknowns--the ones we don't know we don't know." The Duh Awards celebrates the moments that some would rather we forget.

Duh!

Never kiss a rattlesnake. Put on the parachute before jumping from the plane. Don't bring your dog along if you're going to rob a bank. These seem like obvious pieces of advice, but there's apparently no shortage of rattlesnake kissers, as evidenced by this hilarious calendar. Offering another hilarious collection of the truly dumb things people say and do, the Duh! 2013 Day-to-Day Calendar features celebrities, politicians, athletes, criminals, and regular Joes, all caught in extreme (and funny) stupidity.

Duh!the Dumbest Things Ever Said Or Done

Stupidity seems to be everywhere--government, prisons, schools, Hollywood, business--and, truth be told, most of us even have a questionable neighbor or two. Presenting a daily example of one of the dumbest things ever said or done--like the guy who tried to rid his house of spiders with a blowtorch, but rid himself of a house instead; or the bank robber who used a holdup note written on the back of his own account balance receipt--theDuh! The Dumbest Things Ever Said or Done 2012 Day-to-Day Calendarmakes known what we've suspected all along: stupidity is everywhere, and it's hysterically funny.

Twisted

Telling hundreds of true stories about the weird and wacky stuff that happens when people operate outside of the box, author Bob Fenster proves that life is funny when you least expect it but need it the most, in his hilarious book, Twisted: Tales from the Wacky Side of Life. Filled with tales of outlandish human endeavors, Twisted will have you shaking your head and laughing out loud. For example, the 18th-century lawyer Hugh Brackenridge had a unique response when challenged to a duel: "If you want to try your pistols, take some object, a tree or a barn door, about my dimensions. If you hit that, send me word; and I shall acknowledge that if I had been in the same place, you might also have hit me." Celebrating the crazy things people do and their strange accomplishments in all fields of human activity, Twisted covers a wide range of subjects such as history, the arts, pop culture, sports, and science. The book also investigates entertaining oddities of nature, such as fish that change sex in polluted rivers. Enjoy these other hilarious Twisted tales: When he was a guest on the Tonight Show, movie star Tom Hanks and host Jay Leno chatted about uncomfortable moments in public restrooms. "Do you ever want to ask the guy next to you to leave so you can go?" Leno asked. "No," Hanks said. "I usually say, 'Come here. I want to show you something." It often happens that I wake at night and begin to think

about a serious problem and decide I must tell the Pope about it," Pope John XXII reported. "Then I wake up completely and remember I am the Pope."

They Did What!?

Whether they're actors or singers, politicians or statesmen, famous folks have no choice but to stand squinting in the limelight as their odd and offbeat exploits become fodder for scrutiny. Author Bob Fenster has captured all their hilarious, behind-the-scenes antics in They Did What!? Consider, for example: The Beach Boys originally wanted to call their group the Pendletons, so they could get free shirts from the Oregon clothing manufacturer; At her wedding, movie star Lana Turner had "I love you" spelled out in pimentos in the sides of baked hams; Before they hit it big in the movies, Angelina Jolie studied to be a funeral director and Sean Connery polished coffins. Filled with hundreds of fascinating escapades and interesting idiosyncrasies, They Did What!? also looks at issues associated with fame, such as "Why do famous people marry other famous people?" and includes tongue-in-cheek lessons we can learn from celebrities, like "How to become famous and still get into heaven."

Laugh Off

Truth, as any good reporter knows, is stranger than fiction. It's often funnier as well. Bob Fenster provides proof of that in his latest hilarious collection, Each Laugh Off chapter presents a collection of true-life anecdotes and professional comic material covering subjects such as funny money; on-the-job laughs; show biz glory; jokes for jocks; and doctors without pants, lawyers without briefs. The mix provides a plethora of funny stories, and readers get the chance to judge for themselves which scores higher on the Laugh Meter. Whichever way they lean, Laugh Off proves that life never lacks for hilarious material. Packed with hundreds of whimsical and witty stories, sayings, and observations, Laugh Off is arranged in a three-part format: part 1 presents the everyday vs. comic showdowns, part 2 explores comedy through the regular lives of executives, teachers, surfers, politicians, and others, and part 3 delivers bonus laughs for the humor-deprived. Together it all makes Laugh Off one big hoot!

The Comic Natural History of the Human Race

This witty and entertaining book provides a humorous look at the history of humanity, exploring our various foibles, quirks, and idiosyncrasies. From the dawn of time to modern civilization, it covers everything from art and literature to science and technology. With colorful illustrations and sharp wit, it is a must-read for anyone interested in the lighter side of human history. This work has been selected by scholars as being culturally important, and is part of the knowledge base of civilization as we know it. This work is in the "public domain in the United States of America, and possibly other nations. Within the United States, you may freely copy and distribute this work, as no entity (individual or corporate) has a copyright on the body of the work. Scholars believe, and we concur, that this work is important enough to be preserved, reproduced, and made generally available to the public. We appreciate your support of the preservation process, and thank you for being an important part of keeping this knowledge alive and relevant.

BEYOND GODS AND SCRIPTURES

Religion has been the biggest divisive force in history. This book examines the irrational and harmful beliefs of religious people, which lead to religion becoming a destructive force. Religion can be and has been a force for good too. What are the aspects of religion that make it meaningful? Does God exist? The book details the scientific and philosophical arguments adduced for God's existence and how valid they are. In the last section, we look at five luminaries of science who either had close encounters with religious establishments or had strong views on religion and God. We look at the lives of Copernicus, Galileo, Newton, Einstein and Hawking, not so much as scientists, but as human beings with their own kinks and idiosyncrasies. The author brings to this book his extensive knowledge of physics, philosophy, religion and the behavioural sciences.

Reading Reasons

In Reading Reasons: Motivational Mini-Lessons for Middle and High School, author and teacher Kelly Gallagher offers a series of mini-lessons specifically tailored to motivate middle and high school students to read, and in doing so, to help them understand the importance and relevance reading will take in their lives. This book introduces and explains in detail nine specific "real-world" reasons

why students should be readers. The book contains 40 practical, classroom-tested and reproducible mini-lessons that get to the heart of reading motivation and that can be used immediately in English and other content-area classrooms. These easy-to-use motivational lessons serve as weekly reading "booster shots" that help maintain reading enthusiasm in your classroom from September through June. The mini-lessons, ranging from 5-20 minutes in length, hit home with adolescents, and in turn, enable them to internalize the importance reading will play in their lives. Rather than telling students reading is good for them, the lessons in this book show them the benefits of reading.

Bjarki, Not Bjarki

Set mostly in rural Maine, Bjarki, Not Bjarki is an expansive book. It is a standard work of journalism, describing with nuance and humanity the people and processes that transform the forest into your floor. It is also a meditation on what it means to know another person and to connect with them, especially in an increasingly polarized America. And it is a ghost story about marriage. It is an inquiry into the limits of language and certainty, a rumination on North American colonization, masculinity, gift cards, crab rangoon, bald eagles, and wood, all of it told in an exciting, energized, and original prose.

Laugh Off

Truth, as any good reporter knows, is stranger than fiction. It's often funnier as well. Bob Fenster provides proof of that in his latest hilarious collection, Laugh Off. The author of the successful Duh! The Stupid History of the Human Race has a sharp eye for the funny side of the human condition. This time around Fenster creates an extremely entertaining showdown between real life and the funniest people in show business. Each Laugh Off chapter presents a collection of true-life anecdotes and professional comic material covering subjects such as funny money; on-the-job laughs; show biz glory; jokes for jocks; and doctors without pants, lawyers without briefs. The mix provides a plethora of funny stories, and readers get the chance to judge for themselves which scores higher on the Laugh Meter. Whichever way they lean, Laugh Off proves that life never lacks for hilarious material. Packed with hundreds of whimsical and witty stories, sayings, and observations, Laugh Off is arranged in a three-part format: part 1 presents the everyday vs. comic showdowns, part 2 explores comedy through the regular lives of executives, teachers, surfers, politicians, and others, and part 3 delivers bonus laughs for the humor-deprived. Together it all makes Laugh Off one big hoot!

The Comic Natural History of the Human Race

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On Loss and Losing

All people suffer instances of personal loss that cause distress. All too often, their discomfort is treated as a medical issue requiring treatment-usually through medication. Melvyn L. Fein argues for a broader understanding of loss and losing that offers another approach, which he characterizes as "resocialization." Indeed, how a person thinks, feels, and acts may all need to be reorganized if personal distress is to be overcome. Fein urges that we distinguish between the loss of something we once possessed and losing something that never came to fruition. Thus, it is possible never to achieve vital social roles, social statuses, and/or personal bonds, despite our individual efforts. While some of these losses are not necessarily problematic, others are extremely painful. Unfortunately, rather than investigate the source of this discomfort, distraught individuals frequently seek refuge in simplistic solutions. As a consequence, one of the reasons the medical model remains dominant is that the alternative is imperfectly understood. Fein presents a compelling case for a sociological interpretation of personal distress. Although he acknowledges that some personal suffering derives from biological sources, and that mental illnesses can spill over to cause social dysfunctions, he argues that it is important to recognize the social causes of human suffering. In thereby recognizing the limitations of the human condition, most of us can do better than blindly accept an inherited dedication to the medical model. On Loss and Losing offers a legitimate option without denying the reality of human suffering.

Dead Composers, Living Audiences

In this well-written work, the author argues that the present situation regarding the music of the classical tradition is fundamentally untenable. While change is, of course, inevitable, the author posits that teachers of the classical music tradition, nonetheless, have a moral responsibility to do as much as possible to advocate and work toward goals that will hasten and most positively influence the direction of change. The author believes that the present relationship between the music of the Western classical tradition and the culture of the present is an unhealthy one. The music of dead composers comprises the overwhelming preponderance of music heard today, especially in the larger venues such as symphony halls and opera houses. Specifically, the author argues that we must promote and provide for (at least) an equal place in our teaching, recordings, and performances for the music of composers who are living at the time we undertake these activities. He further advocates that this is not simply a matter of currency, it is a matter of cultural vibrancy even survival and it is an ethical and aesthetic concern toward which we must direct our most serious attention and effort. As both a singer and a teacher, the author delivers a resounding perspective in this book. He also brings the important insights of others from other fields such as literature, philosophy, and theater. The author's discussions revolve around the situation of classical music, a situation that in many ways exemplifies the gradual transformation of the rationalization of the world, into the radical commodification of the world. This outcome will be shown to be intimately linked to ethical and aesthetic issues, which will be developed by means of an extended consideration of the conflict between the rational and the a-rational as it plays itself out in contrasts between music, art, and literature, and science and philosophy. The book delves into the problem of teaching music, particularly the problems commonly dealt with in the teaching studio. Teachers of the Western music tradition have developed tried and true techniques for dealing with these problems as they occur in teaching, generally by helping students toward an understanding of historical, musical, technical and stylistic problems, among a host of others. These common problems of teaching are, however, symptomatic of very deep, complicated, and endemic philosophical issues that have, so far, been insufficiently discussed in a form that might be useful to teachers, performers, and lovers of the music of the Western classical music tradition. The most unique contribution of these discussions is the investigation into what is not discussed to any depth in pedagogy books what lies behind or beneath these commonly experienced problems. This is a critical book for collections in music."

Humans

'This book is brilliant. Utterly, utterly brilliant. Apart from the epilogue, which is idiotic' Jeremy Clarkson 'F*cking brilliant' Sarah Knight AN EXHILARATING JOURNEY THROUGH THE MOST CREATIVE AND CATASTROPHIC F*CK-UPS OF HUMAN HISTORY In the seventy thousand years that modern human beings have walked this earth, we've come a long way. Art, science, culture, trade - on the evolutionary food chain, we're real winners. But, frankly, it's not exactly been plain sailing, and sometimes - just occasionally - we've managed to really, truly, quite unbelievably f*ck things up. From Chairman Mao's Four Pests Campaign, to the American Dustbowl; from the Austrian army attacking itself one drunken night, to the world's leading superpower electing a reality TV mogul as President... it's pretty safe to say that, as a species, we haven't exactly grown wiser with age. So, next time you think you've really f*cked up, this book will remind you: it could be so much worse... FURTHER PRAISE FOR HUMANS: 'Very funny' Mark Watson 'A light-touch history of moments when humans have got it spectacularly wrong... Both readable and entertaining' The Telegraph 'Chronicles humanity's myriad follies down the ages with malicious glee and much wit ... a rib-tickling page-turner' Business Standard 'A timely, irreverent gallop through thousands of years of human stupidity' Nicholas Griffin, Ping-Pong Diplomacy: The Secret History Behind the Game That Changed the World

The Human Race

From ancient history to contemporary culture, this comprehensive book tells the story of humanity in all its richness and diversity. With fascinating insights into everything from biology to sociology, this is a must-read for anyone interested in understanding what it means to be human. This work has been selected by scholars as being culturally important, and is part of the knowledge base of civilization as we know it. This work is in the "public domain in the United States of America, and possibly other nations. Within the United States, you may freely copy and distribute this work, as no entity (individual or corporate) has a copyright on the body of the work. Scholars believe, and we concur, that this work is important enough to be preserved, reproduced, and made generally available to the public.

We appreciate your support of the preservation process, and thank you for being an important part of keeping this knowledge alive and relevant.

Human Race

We are an astonishing species. Over the past millennium of plagues and exploration, revolution and scientific discovery, woman's rights and technological advances, human society has changed beyond recognition. Sweeping through the last thousand years of human development, Human Race is a treasure chest of the lunar leaps and lightbulb moments that, for better or worse, have sent humanity swerving down a path that no one could ever have predicted. But which of the last ten centuries saw the greatest changes in human history? History's greatest tour guide, Ian Mortimer, knows what answer he would give. But what's yours?

The Comic Natural History of the Human Race

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The So-Called Human Race

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Stupid History

A treasury of historical hilarity from the New York Times-bestselling coauthor of America's Dumbest Criminals! Why exactly is Paul Revere revered when it was Samuel Prescott who made the famous ride? Was the lightbulb really Thomas Edison's bright idea? Bestselling author and former Saturday Night Live writer Leland Gregory employs his masterful wit to expose historical myths, faux "facts," strange events, and tales of human stupidity throughout history. You'll learn that: * Magellan didn't actually make it around the world * As a member of Parliament, Isaac Newton spoke only once, and it wasn't exactly a statement of political brilliance for the ages * On April 24, 1898, Spain declared war on the U.S., thus starting the Spanish-American War—and then the U.S. declared war the very next day, but not wanting to be outdone, had the date on the declaration changed from April 25 to April 21 With these and many more stories, Leland Gregory once again highlights the funny side of history.

Off the Books

Head Off the Books in this collection of newspaper columns, where J. Peder Zane uses classic and contemporary literature to explore American culture and politics. The book review editor for the Raleigh, North Carolina News & Observer from 1996 to 2009, Zane demonstrates that good books are essential for understanding ourselves and the world around us. The one hundred and thirty columns gathered in Off the Books find that sweet spot where literature's eternal values meet the day's current events. Together they offer a literary overview of the ideas, issues, and events shaping our culture—from 9/11 and the struggle for gay rights to the decline of high culture and the rise of sensationalism and solipsism. As they plumb and draw from the work of leading writers—from William Faulkner, Knut Hamsun, and Eudora Welty to Don DeLillo, Lydia Millet, and Philip Roth—these columns make an argument not just about the pleasure of books, but about their very necessity in our lives and culture.

"A strikingly original . . . collection of essays, which places the work and broad intellectual interests of Lynne Margulis in a variety of contexts." —Stacy Alaimo, author of Exposed: Environmental Politics and Pleasures in Posthuman Times Exploring the broad implications of evolutionary theorist Lynn Margulis's work, this collection brings together specialists across a range of disciplines, from paleontology, molecular biology, evolutionary theory, and geobiology to developmental systems theory, archaeology, history of science, cultural science studies, and literature and science. Addressing the multiple themes that animated Margulis's science, the essays within take up, variously, astrobiology and the origin of life, ecology and symbiosis from the microbial to the planetary scale, the coupled interactions of earthly environments and evolving life in Gaia theory and earth system science, and the connections of these newer scientific ideas to cultural and creative productions. "Altogether, Earth, Life, and System offers a series of often fascinating, always stimulating . . . invariably enriching essays in an incisive and unruly science and its existential repercussions. It is a fitting tribute to one of modern science's most generative and productive independent spirits, a gadfly like Socrates whose ultimate concern was to ensure that enquiry and debate were never stifled by received opinion and 'normal' expectations." —The British Society for Literature and Science "A vital contribution to interdisciplinary knowledge about life, evolution, and the planetary imaginary." —Tyler Volk, award-winning author of Quarks to Culture "Contributors include biologists, philosophers, historians, and even Margulis's son, a science writer who sets the tone for the rest of the text in an intimate first chapter about his mother. Clarke's sought-after interdisciplinarity shines in the finished product." —Isis Review

Mankind

It takes more than 10 billion years to create just the right conditions on one planet for life to begin. It takes another three billion years of evolving life forms until it finally happens, a primate super species emerges: mankind. In conjunction with History Channel's hit television series by the same name, Mankind is a sweeping history of humans from the birth of the Earth and hunting antelope in Africa's Rift Valley to the present day with the completion of the Genome project and the birth of the seven billionth human. Like a Hollywood action movie, Mankind is a fast-moving, adventurous history of key events from each major historical epoch that directly affect us today such as the invention of iron, the beginning of Buddhism, the crucifixion of Jesus, the fall of Rome, the invention of the printing press, the Industrial Revolution, and the invention of the computer. With more than 300 color photographs and maps, Mankind is not only a visual overview of the broad story of civilization, but it also includes illustrated pop-out sidebars explaining distinctions between science and history, such as why there is 700 times more iron than bronze buried in the earth, why pepper is the only food we can taste with our skin, and how a wobble in the earth's axis helped bring down the Egyptian Empire. This is the most exciting and entertaining history of mankind ever produced.

The Plurality of the Human Race

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History Gone Mad

"Readers can enjoy a MAD rush through history as they witness the descent of man. A hilarious, non-stop look at best--and worst--moments of the human race."--Google Books.

Zen Master Tova Tarantino Toshiba

This fictional short-story collection challenges perceptions and illusions about religious masters, spiritual teachers, gurus, charlatans and holy men and women of all persuasions, while simultaneously tickling our funny bone and exercising the muscles our faces rely on for laughter. Zen Master Tova

Tarantino Toshiba takes liberty with questionable material from the living sea, near Egypt; tofu paper, in Okinawa: a tomb. in Italy: a shaman, in Ethiopia: and a half-sister, in India, The words, guotes, koans and stories, of this soon to be classical work, include the timeless insights of Let the Worm's Go, Dead Food, Reality Bites, Stealing the Buddha, Drip After Drip, Sound of One Eye, Catching Wind, Looking Good, My Cat's Enlightened, Chocolate Box, and Sex, Drugs and Sushi Rolls. "Enlightenment or laughs? With Gabriel Constans' book you don't have to choose. Zen masters usually have a sense of humor, or need one. Gabriel's got it, and he gives us a world of illusions to laugh about." - Bob Fenster, author of Duh: The Stupid History of the Human Race "This is a blessed book that can be read during the rapture or while burning in hell." - Rev. Paat Robertson "World leaders and politicians could learn a thing or two from the teachings of Master Tova Tarantino Toshiba. She understood and transformed the inspiring, Yes. No. Maybe, into Yes, we can, long before its use in politics." - President Ohlama "Zen Master Tova Tarantiono Toshiba is a splendid collection of wit, women and wine. It reminds me of a night on the town with Mohammad Ali in drag." - Lady GaGaGa "There are no teachings that are outside of you, except the ones inside this book. Unless, of course, you've eaten this book." - Bob Tzu, guru, avatar, wisdumb teacher at duhism.com "An incredible onslaught of insight and universal truth - like Yoda on estrogen." - George Lucus "An endearing and soul searching work that reveals hidden treasures of this infamous master and hysterically questionable abbess. My brother loves it." - Llama KanChew, Sister of the Dalai Lama "Gabriel Constans' divine book about the humble Abbess can be used as a book of prayer, inspiration or before communing with the poor or the filthy rich." - Pope Fransis, Bishop of Romen "For those who are old enough to remember, the original Golden Girls sitcom was based on the real life teachings of that zany grand lady of Zen, Master Tova Tarantino Toshiba." - Bettie Whyte

They Did What!? Hallmark Edition

Readers can enjoy a MAD rush through history as they witness the descent of man. A hilarious, non-stop look at best--and worst--moments of the human race.

History Gone Mad

A Short History of the World is a period-piece non-fictional historic work. The book was largely inspired by Wells's earlier 1919 work The Outline of History. It summarises the scientific knowledge of the time regarding the history of Earth and life and begins with its origins, goes on to explain the development of the Earth and life on Earth, reaching primitive thought and the development of humankind from the Cradle of Civilisation.

The Story of the Human Race

In a narrative beginning almost 1.5 million years ago with the emergence of Homo erectus, Frank Welsh takes the reader from the Middle Ages to the Enlightenment, from the Industrial Revolution to the age of terrorism. Using his masterly storytelling skills, he recounts the epic story of human growth, survival and achievement across all continents and ages. Providing insight into the lives of ordinary people in every corner of the globe, this comprehensive book is the perfect introduction to the human history of our planet.

A Short History of the World

Van Loon recounts history as living news, relating everything in the past to the present. He writes informally, making world history wonderfully alive and exciting. Of this book the author writes, "The entrance of America upon the scene of international politics as the most important actor, destined to 'play the lead' for the next five hundred years, convinced me that proper and reasonable understanding of historical cause and effect was the most important factor in the lives of the rising generation. And so my book treats the entire history of the human race as a single unit. It begins with the dim and hardly understood realm of the earliest past; it can be continued forever."

The History of the World

Stupid History