



## *Guns, Germs, and Steel* by Jared Diamond

Reviewed by Dhruv



Historical, Non Fiction

### **Give a summary without spoilers!**

While this book may be traditional nonfiction, it is not a history textbook in the traditional sense. While it contains plenty of historical facts, it does not solely focus on spitting boring facts in a chronological order. Rather, it sets the stage by asking a very specific question: How did people from Eurasia come to dominate the world? To us humans living in the twenty-second century, this fact may seem very obvious and logical. All of the world's most successful civilizations were located in Europe and Asia. Why is this true? Why didn't a civilization comparable to Egypt or Rome arise in Argentina or Australia. How did one half of the world come to completely dominate the other? Why are there rich and poor countries, have and have-nots? In this book, Jared Diamond uses his experience to answer these questions in a very entertaining and engaging way. The answers may surprise you.

### **What drew you to this book?**

I was introduced to this book by my history teacher. We were watching a documentary that was inspired by this book. This made me want to read the book as well. Though I was familiar with the concepts presented in the book, I found the book to be a lot more detailed than the documentary and most books are. It did not disappoint and answered these questions a lot more thoroughly. I am also interested in history in general and tend to seek out historical material outside the classroom. This book answered questions I always had and some that I didn't even think about asking.

### **Did it remind you of something that you've previously read?**

This book and a lot of the concepts presented in it reminded me of some Youtube videos on the channel CGP Grey. One of these intriguing ideas is the fact that no New World diseases ravaged Europe after Columbus while Old World diseases decimated the New World. The reasons for this fact are very interesting. I will not reveal why this is true. But there are many videos on this subject online and a lot of the same ideas came from this book. When reading this book, a lot of these were very familiar, except it seemed like this book explained them in the most detailed and thorough way possible.

**To whom would you recommend this book?**

I would recommend this book to anyone who is remotely interested in history and has some level of curiosity about the world. This person does not have to be a big history buff with a lot of knowledge. Anybody with just a little bit of curiosity will enjoy this book. It will be hard to put it down once one gets started.

**Overall, did you like it and would you recommend it to others?**

I overall did like the book and would certainly recommend it to others. The theories that Diamond presents are original, unique, and well-presented. The book is written in a way that is engaging. It is a little long and time-consuming to read though. It also incorporates diagrams and visuals as well to better explain the subject. The only reason it doesn't get five stars is because of the theories themselves. While Diamond's ideas and theories are well-supported and presented, they are still controversial in some sense. They are not water-tight and there is room for debate and discussion. Since the book is written by Diamond, it does not offer a varied perspective. This means that one should not take everything written in it as historical fact and truth. Other than that though, it is a very good read.

**Anything else that you would like to add to this review? What made you choose it? Did you like the cover? Was it recommended to you? Did you find it at the library?**

I actually just bought a copy of the book so I could keep it. I specifically enjoyed the use of diagrams and images in the book. Those were very helpful. This book also made heavy use of anecdotes and real world examples. Unlike most historical texts, this book used language and examples that were relevant and relatable. It was a very unique read and I have not found anything really like it. I would recommend everyone read it once to gain a new perspective on the world.