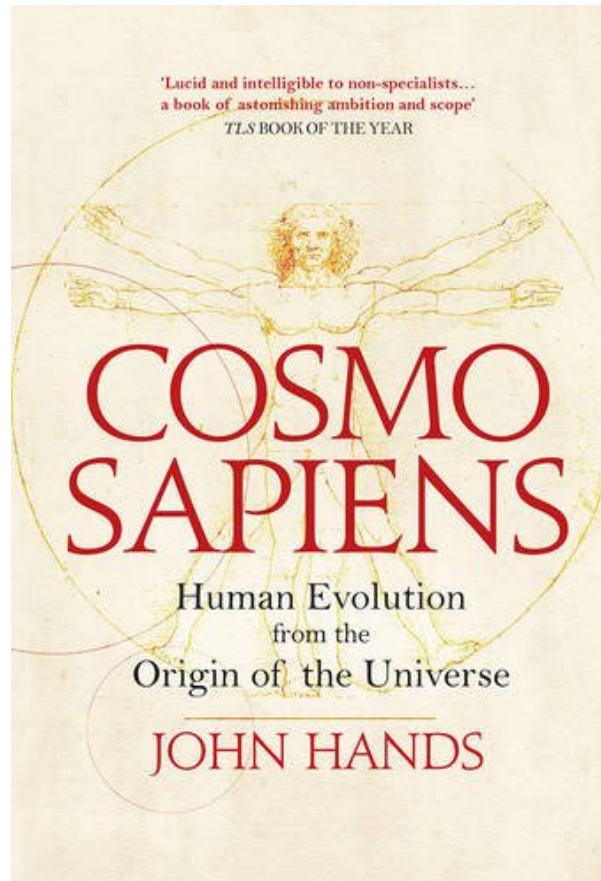


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COSMO SAPIENS

Human Evolution
from the
Origin of the Universe

JOHN HANDS

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Who are we, and how did we get here? These are two of the most fundamental questions facing scientists and cosmologists alike and have rested at the center of human intellectual endeavor since its beginning. They are questions that stretch across numerous disciplines. But with many groups seeking answers using different methods, it can be difficult to tell what progress has been made without stepping back and looking at the whole interdisciplinary picture. John Hands does exactly that. His synthesis of ideas, ten years in the making, reveals underlying patterns of cooperation, complexity, and convergence that begin to tell the story of human emergence and consciousness.

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Most helpful customer reviews

8 of 8 people found the following review helpful.

Very, very intriguing. A must-read for those who enjoy this sort of "stuff."

By Bruce Oksol

Update, posted August 27, 2016. I have read this book once full-through. I re-read most of it a second time. I am now reading portions of it for the third time. The more I read it, the better it gets. One really has to read

this carefully, questioning Hands as much as he questions Richard Dawkins, et al. It's very difficult to find flaws in his arguments or observations. It turns out that much of what we learned as "dogma" in high school biology or college Biology 101 is simply not entirely accurate. As with any subject, there are a lot of "myths," and half-truths. John Hands points these out. He just points them out. He seems to be looking for answers like the rest of us, and the more he reads, the more unsure he becomes. But to enjoy this book, read it quickly through the first time, and then go back and re-read slowly the parts that interest you the most. I think you will be pleasantly surprised if you truly try to understand what Hands is saying.

Update, posted July 19, 2016, see first comment:

Wow! Thanks for the comment; it reminded me I needed to go back and rate the book after finishing it. It's still a 5+. I finished it and have gone back several times and re-read portions. I'm sure Richard Dawkins would love it.

Original Post:

Wow! The first 20 pages have me very, very intrigued. The negative reviews (one, two, and three stars at Amazon) have me perplexed with regard to my enthusiasm.

But if you are the kind of person who loves this kind of "stuff," this is a must-read, or at least something to explore. For now, a 5-star recommendation and then come back and expand. For those who suggest this book is too long, I can't imagine it being shorter and still having the necessary "gravitas" for such a subject.

The font, font size, and pitch are very, very appealing. It was first published in hardcover in 2016, but has a 2015 copyright by the author. Again, a British author, specifically English, which doesn't surprise. The Brits, Irish, and Scots simply do the best when it comes to this kind of writing.

4 of 4 people found the following review helpful.

A Powerful Argument for a New Scientific Paradigm

By Philip L. Comella

In 1956, Thomas Kuhn published one of the most influential science books of all time, *The Structure of Scientific Revolutions*. This book introduced the concept of paradigms and how they change. In essence, when an existing scientific paradigm (or theoretical structure) begins to fail at explaining observations and those failures add up, the existing paradigm eventually collapses, and a new one rises to take its place. For a time, the advocates of the existing paradigm marshal their forces to defend and protect it; after all, the paradigm underpins the science curriculum and defines what it means to be a scientist.

Cosmosapiens is a significant contribution to a new era in scientific writing. The shelves are filled with books that trumpet the advances of science, the wonders of cosmology, the mysteries of quantum theory, and the power of Darwinian evolution. These books make it appear as if the current theories of science, from the Big Bang to the origin of life and Darwinian evolution, are now engraved in stone, forever to form part of the Scientific Curriculum.

But it turns out that when the power of critical thinking is used not to defend dutifully the existing scientific paradigm, but is instead used to challenge the assumptions and logical consistency of these theories, something remarkable happens: the old theories start falling apart.

John Hands is an outsider to the orthodox scientific community but possesses a sharp, critical mind, a clear writing style and unparalleled thoroughness. Some of the most mind-opening passages in the book concern his interaction with scientists he consulted for peer review. In one section he writes about a preeminent scientist who was so put off by the first sentence of his book, that he read no farther, thereby managing to

pre-judge 550 pages of analysis filled with original and thought-provoking insights. The book, like *The Trouble with Physics*, *Science Set Free*, (and I hope my own book, *The Collapse of Materialism*), clearly and unequivocally shows that many of today's leading scientists are not practicing science, if by that term we mean the open-minded search for truth. Instead, they are defending and protecting a belief system that they call a scientific paradigm. A paradigm, riddled with flaws and deep mysteries, including the gross assumptions of the Big Bang, the wild speculations of inflationary theory and the multiverse, and the unknown forces making up most of the universe that theorists have given names ? "dark matter" and "dark energy" ? but cannot explain.

When scientists stop criticizing their own theories, when they are not candid in revealing their assumptions, when they do not tell us what they don't know, disclose the gaps in their theories, or reveal their uncertainties, they do a disservice to both science and the world at large. People depend on scientists to not only find the truth, but to tell the truth.

Cosmosapians should form part of a new curriculum in science classes as it is written in the true spirit of science: critical review of assumptions, rigorous reliance on logic and authority, and open-mindedness. Scientific truth cannot be reached by the stubborn insistence that any new theory will only be discovered through computer modeling or by the use of a multi-billion dollar scientific instrument. Nor is the search advanced by fooling ourselves that only in a particle will we find God.

It is time the leaders of modern science woke up and realized that the end is near for the existing paradigm. They can choose to hang on and go down with the ship, or take a few minutes and consider whether alternate viewpoints, which give mind, not matter, a predominant role in the formation of the cosmos, make more sense and do something their existing theories do not, which is to explain the world we live in. *Cosmosapiens* is necessary reading for anyone who doubts that the existing paradigm is nearing the point of collapse.

2 of 2 people found the following review helpful.

Have to read book

By Amazon Customer

John Hands took on the nearly impossible task to summarize and evaluate the today's scientific knowledge and thus show where we are in our quest to understand the world and ourselves. It is an excellent book that should be read by every college educated person to appreciate the difficulties it takes to advance our knowledge of the complexities of the world, to be more open minded to new ideas, and recognize that the development of our understanding of the world is a work in progress, far from being completed.

Peter Kos,Ph.D.

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