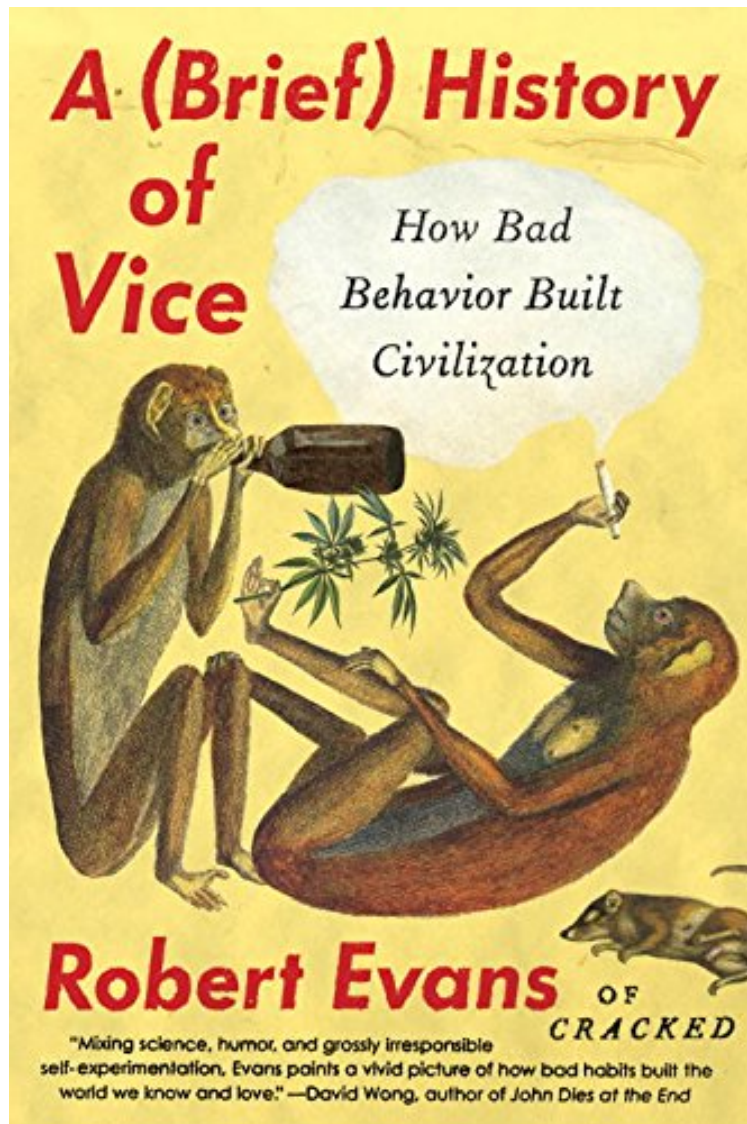


(Download free ebook) A Brief History of Vice: How Bad Behavior Built Civilization

A Brief History of Vice: How Bad Behavior Built Civilization

Robert Evans

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#60664 in Books Evans Robert 2016-08-09 2016-08-09Original language:EnglishPDF # 1 7.98 x .69 x 5.30l, .48 #File Name: 0147517605272 pagesA Brief History of Vice How Bad Behavior Built Civilization | File size: 37.Mb

Robert Evans : A Brief History of Vice: How Bad Behavior Built Civilization before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised A Brief History of Vice: How Bad Behavior Built Civilization:

13 of 13 people found the following review helpful. A bizarre (but wonderful) blend of sociobiology, gonzo journalism, and Betty Crocker.By CustomerIn "A (Brief History of Vice" author Robert Evans employs his mordant

wit to apply the principles of sociobiology to a study of civilization's origins. He explains how a host of otherwise bizarre human behaviors (like foot fetishes) make sense when understood as adaptive responses to dangers and threats. Of course this isn't a sociobiological textbook (though it is a very intelligent book) so Evans' insights are presented with a sense of irony and humor (he IS a "Cracked.com" editor after all). He reminds me very much of Mary Roach, another author who popularizes scientific ideas with a combination of humor and research.

A Brief History of Vice: How Bad Behavior Built Civilization As interesting and entertaining as his explanations of the history of various vices are (and they are VERY entertaining), I enjoyed just as much his re-creations of a variety of ancient vices – mostly the drinkable kind. In these re-creations, Evans documents his experiments with ancient intoxicants, chronicling their effects on him, his friends, and his fiancée Magenta (who evidently has the patience of a saint). He also provides the recipes for these ancient head trips. Oddly, this is the point where the book veers deeper into philosophical waters, as Evans reflects on the cultural and psychological value of intoxicants and their role in making life better and (as Evans would certainly argue) more fun.

A (Brief) History of Vice is a bizarre (but wonderful) blend of sociobiology, gonzo journalism, and Betty Crocker. Author Robert Evans elucidates the connection between behaviors and attitudes society frowns on (vices) and the ancient and robust underpinnings of our advanced civilization.

14 of 16 people found the following review helpful. **A Brief History of Vice** is a brilliant mix of history and comedy and a definite must-read

By Vladimir **A Brief History of Vice** mixes the history of how different 'vices' throughout history shaped the world we live in today and the science of how our ancestors got high and drunk - even testing many of those same methods on himself. It's a unique combination of the tireless research of great historians like Nathaniel Philbrick and the experimentation of Hunter S. Thompson. Some methods will shock and others may horrify, but in the end Robert Evans paints a compelling picture in that things we normally associate as being lewd, risqué or shameful have actually helped make us stronger and make society better. You're going to learn, laugh and leave understanding the world a little better. And you'll probably want to try a few of those ancient vices yourself.

1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. but also an empathy-building tale of what it was like to be our ancestors

By Ethan Bennett **An illuminating, irreverent, well-researched Anthropological survey of marginal human behavior.** The opinion theses are well-supported, the moral stance of the author is adequately defrayed as *Vox Publici*, and supporting information is all generally consensus-accepted, or failing that, broadly-accepted alternative-controversy. An extremely interesting read that gives a very vivid window into not only our history exploring the boundaries of the human condition, but also an empathy-building tale of what it was like to be our ancestors, giving a great understanding of the origins of folklore and a window into the stability of the human condition over time.

A celebration of the brave, drunken pioneers who built our civilization one seemingly bad decision at a time, **A Brief History of Vice** explores a side of the past that mainstream history books prefer to hide. History has never been more fun—or more intoxicating. Guns, germs, and steel might have transformed us from hunter-gatherers into modern man, but booze, sex, trash talk, and tripping built our civilization. Cracked editor Robert Evans brings his signature dogged research and lively insight to uncover the many and magnificent ways vice has influenced history, from the prostitute-turned-empress who scored a major victory for women's rights to the beer that helped create—and destroy—South America's first empire. And Evans goes deeper than simply writing about ancient debauchery; he recreates some of history's most enjoyable (and most painful) vices and includes guides so you can follow along at home. You'll learn how to:

- Trip like a Greek philosopher.
- Rave like your Stone Age ancestors.
- Get drunk like a Sumerian.
- Smoke a nose pipe like a pre-Columbian Native American.

"Mixing science, humor, and grossly irresponsible self-experimentation, Evans paints a vivid picture of how bad habits built the world we know and love."—David Wong, author of *John Dies at the End*

"Mixing science, humor, and grossly irresponsible self-experimentation, Evans paints a vivid picture of how bad habits built the world we know and love."—David Wong, author of *John Dies at the End*

"Evans's goal is to investigate and illuminate the human tradition of merriment and debauchery, which he does with tact, humor, and insight."—Publishers Weekly

"An engaging and compelling assemblage of pop culture and cultural anthropology (pop cultural anthropology?), an exploration of the growth of civilization via things that our own culture has in many ways declared taboo. This is one of the more entertaining books, fiction or nonfiction, or whatever, that you'll read this year."—Allen Adams, *The Maine Edge*

About the Author Robert Evans is an editorial manager at Cracked.com. His articles rack up an average of sixty-four million views a year. He was a contributor to the bestselling *You Might Be a Zombie* and *The De-Textbook*.