

COMPARING CIVILIZATIONS: AN UNCONSENSUAL VIEW

by Roger Williams Wescott

A distinguished scholar describes how and why he deviates from consensus on several key issues in the fields of paleontology, anthropology, linguistics, and culture-history.

A few of many theorists addressed and interpreted in this volume:

Nicolai Danilevsky - civilizations have specific *linear determinate* life spans or *destinies*; **Gunnar Heinsohn** - civilizations have been *synchronous* and simultaneously *interactive* around the globe; **Sigmund Freud** - being civilized and transmitting the culture may be seen as a *servitude*, causing unrest and anxiety; *fear of collective demise* brings about compulsive rules, roles and rituals; **Gordon Childe** - human achievement is a result of deliberate *decision* and *voluntary effort*;
Henry Adams - we impose our own *patterns of perception* on history - what can be trusted?

Some of the unconsensual views this book discusses:

The theories of **Alister Hardy** and **Elaine Morgan** that hominids became different from great apes because of a sojourn in shallow-water habitats -- which lead to *ponticism*, i.e., humans migrating over water at least as often as over land; the **Alfred Trombetti** view (*monogenism*) that language-families are ultimately derived from a single spoken language; **Heinsohn's** chronology *abridging ancient history* by about two millennia; **Wescott's** suggestion that globalization was incipient in the early 13th century Mongolian empire and has reached a *post-civilizational* phase.

