



Civilization One: The World Is Not as You Thought it Was

Christopher Knight

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This is the extraordinary story of how the quest to try to crack the mystery of the Megalithic Yard - an ancient unit of linear measurement - led to the discovery of compelling evidence pointing to the existence of an unknown, highly advanced culture which was the precursor to the earliest known civilizations such as the Sumerians and the Egyptians. There must have been a Civilization One. The authors show how this very precise unit of 82.966656cm, proven to have been used in the construction of thousands of megalithic structures in Britain and France, was derived from observing the rate of the spin of the Earth - based on a form of geometry that had 366 degrees to match the 366 rotations of the Earth in a year. They reveal how this is part of an integrated system, far more advanced than anything used today, which forms the basis of both the Imperial and the Metric systems. The ancient scientists understood the dimensions, motions and relationships of the Earth, Moon and Sun - they measured the solar system and even understood how the speed of light was integrated into the movements of our planet. The implications of these revelations go far beyond the fascination of discovering

Civilization One: The World Is Not as You Thought it Was Details

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Jennifer Linsky says

While I am willing to be convinced that there was an ice age civilization which passed knowledge of stoneworking techniques and so on down to successor civilizations, this book does little to support the argument. It's like unto a philosopher who says, "let's imagine a world where..." and then proceeds to try producing observations about the real world from this imaginary data set.

Graham Hancock makes better arguments.

Tom says

This book was a very interesting read, and particularly the math in the first half was very convincing.

I think it was right that the author flirted with the "external teachers" theory without just declaring "aliens", but like many books on esoteric science without much in the way of peer review, it drifted around and got lost at the end.

They spend some time lamenting how mainstream science and archaeology won't ever agree with them because the system is flawed, but they just need to inspire popular interest for popular research to follow. Unfortunately, this book won't fly off the shelves because:

- 1) They drift around a lot of ideas - clearly trying to make the argument seem more persuasive by making the evidence more empirical, but ultimately diluting the argument with trivia. They need to stick to their strongest points because clutching for every hint of the Megalithic numbers makes it look weaker.
- 2) Concluding the book by outright declaring they'd found evidence of God was a complete turn-off. Readers can make their own theories and speculate on where the evidence leads, and I think the authors should focus on the practical possibilities without the bias.

I'm rating the book rather than the theory, which is why the score is lower. It really is worth a read, but don't expect the second half of the book to rock your world.

David says

The attempt to bring to light the original civilization by an examination of the Megalithic Yard.

Those interested in fringe theories and alt history will find this one interesting, but, in the end, the arguments fails to convince.

Rating: 3 out of 5 stars

Susie says

It was poorly written, poorly researched, and full of mistakes. As a scientist, I can say that several statements made were completely wrong. The supposed precision of their measurements makes no sense and their understanding of uncertainty in measurements is seriously lacking. Also, the authors made the common mistake of assuming that something is related, making calculations based on the assumption, and then being surprised and amazed to see a relationship coming out of the calculations. Of course the relationship is there...you put it there to begin with!

Ian says

Numbers games, November 3, 2009

A most disappointing book. The authors theorize about possible relationships between various planetary and solar system dimensions and the 'megalithic yard' which appears to have been used to lay out various neolithic monuments. They offer no tangible evidence to support the thesis that this measure is evidence of a prehistoric super-civilization. While there is lots of relevant archaeological evidence, this book does not discuss that evidence nor provide more than an interesting conjecture about possible numerical links. A waste of time.

Jonathan says

The first half of the book is very interesting and presents some new ideas that I haven't seen presented anywhere else before. I am by no means an engineer, nor am I particularly good at math, but I was able to comprehend the maths that were presented, it was simple and easy to understand and as far as i can tell should all be easily verifiable by people trained in engineering, surveying, and also probably astronomy.

I know that isn't very helpful for the average reader but it is important because of what the second half of the book ends up being like. The authors start wandering into realms of speculation with little or no connection to the evidence presented earlier in the volume.

I gave the book three stars because I think there are some interesting ideas with real merit that deserve some honest review by archeologists, historians, and engineers. Unfortunately the end of the book was a let down for me. I don't know if the authors wanted to say that they think aliens or angels or whatever taught us how to do the things that are proposed but they may as well have gone ahead rather than beating around the bush.

Anthony Yvonnica says

Excellent book. Very though provoking. Very believable. Easy to read.

Robert Stewart says

A case for revising human history.

Definitely a very eye opening and informative book. It outlines in a very logical and verifiable fashion the origin and rational for our existing systems of measuring time and space - simply amazing how it is all connected. A very good case is made for a very advanced civilization existing prior to the Sumerian and Egyptian cultures. A very strong case in deed for the need to revise human history.

Nelson says

very interesting stuff. it's a book about the history of civilizations told from the standpoint that there's a single common measurement, such as a yardstick, that shows up in the engineering and building of widely separated totally isolated and divergent peoples. this yardstick, all these peoples had in common and indeed many of the systems of measurement we use today are derived from it, yet these civilizations lived thousands of miles from other with no way to communicate and no knowledge of the other's existence.

Gwen says

Started out interesting, but went downhill fast when the authors kept exclaiming every other page how unbelievable everything they found was, and that while it could have been a coincidence it was obviously not the case. Also the point where the book went from scientific facts to ascribing it all to God was not really my favourite part.

Claudia says

As stated earlier, I found this book extremely difficult to read.

The initial start regarding the "Wall of History" and everything that occurs before or after the creation of writing made it sound all the more interesting. Then was the introduction of what the authors and initial researchers called the Megalithic Rods, Megalithic inches and Megalithic yards which are measurements supposedly used throughout prehistory in the construction of megalithic structures like Stonehenge.

Then there are short visits to ancient civilizations and their forms of measurements in lengths and volume and how they compare to the Megalithic ones. And the imperial weights and measures... And astronomic distances and the use of Venus....

Seriously, I've read books on cosmology and astrophysics that were easier to understand and didn't have to repeatedly go back to the Megalithic measurements and how this progenitor culture is the basis of all measurements.

Admittedly, the authors could be right but their book just didn't manage to convince me.

Tom Kenis says

There is no way to easily explain the relationship between the modern meter, imperial units and the circumference of the planet earth, or how a supposedly primitive society knew and used knowledge of the shape and size of our world to establish a uniform measurement system, one seemingly shared by the Minoan culture, Sumer, the old Indus valley culture, and pre-modern Japan.

A true eye-opener albeit one written in a manner conducive to shuteye syndrome.

There must be a better way to write about this astonishing topic. For masochists only.

John Lucy says

Read this immediately. That's all.

Frobisher says

This is a very well researched book, Knight and Butler have made some interesting discoveries. There interpretations and conjectures, however, are pretty weak. I suppose they wanted to stay roughly within scientific consensus with this book; however, its not that any "scientist" is going to pay attention to it anyway, so it seems like a lost opportunity to create a stronger thesis than "the megalithic yard is real." I understand that their research is ongoing, its just a shame because the material in this book would work much better as a scholarly article, but who would publish it? Alternative research is always going to suffer in this manner I think, until the community coalesces in such a way so that alternative scholarly journals can exist and thrive. My advice is to read Knight and Butler's latest works as this one is more of a stepping stone than a monograph.

Justyna Staro?-Kajkowska says

Playing with numbers - level elementary school. Boring, so cannot even read as fiction.
