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An edible history of humanity pdf

This article requires additional quotes for authentication. Please help improve this article by adding quotes to trusted sources. Un sources of material can be challenged and removed. Find sources: An edible history of humanity – news - newspapers - books - 1.1 Films JSTOR (December 2011) (Learn how and when to remove this template message) An Edible History of Humanity is a book written by Tom Standage that encompasses the history of the world from prehistoric to contemporary times by detecting food and agricultural techniques used by humans. The six divisions are: 1: Edible Foundations of Civilization (Neolithic Revolution change hunter-gatherers to agronomists.) 2: Food and social structure (Food as wealth: even societies that store food create inequalities in wealth and power.) 3: Global highways of food (Luxury goods such as spice Energy, and Industrialization (New World Crops and Fossil Fuels Expand Agricultural Productivity and Non-Farm Occupations Leading to Industrial Revolution , but monoculture leads to starvation.) 5: Food as a weapon (Military and political leaders benefit from power over food supply to mobilize armies and crush dissent.) 6: Food, Population and Development (The Green Revolution of the 20th century solves some problems, but then creates new ones.) The first section introduces hunting and gathering to the reader, but moves on quickly to agricultural and farming techniques, which have enabled a large expansion of population. Standage defends his thesis that farming is a man-made, unnatural system. He does this by discussing the history of maize, a changed, man-made harvest. Maize is an important topic in this book as it has become a major staple around the world today. Standage also cites wheat and rice, which were also important grains of grain, often involved in certain religious beliefs of people. In the second section, Standage claims that oathry (farming) communities with the ability to store food have given rise to economic and political inequality, and thus to government, social structure, laws, culture and almost every aspect of the life people own today. In the third section, Standage describes the European desire for spices that purchase only by way of Arabia from Asia. Because of the high (and rising) cost of spice, European governments are investing in exploration, such as the travels of Columbus and Magellan. The theories of Thomas Malthus (that the world’s growing population could not be supported by the agricultural-based food supply) are a recurring theme throughout this book. In section four, Standage shows how two specific innovations of the 18th century (New World crops the replacement of wood with coal for fuel) enabled increased agricultural productivity and industrialisation. This section also displays a darker side of innovation than potato monoculture led to the Great Famine in Ireland beginning in 1845. Control of the food supply is, as Standage shows, a key source of power for military and political leaders. In Section Five (Food as a Weapon), Standage talks about the strategies, including developing food conservation techniques, which Napoleon uses to feed its troops. However, providing armies is just one side of this use of power. Standage also describes the death of hunger of people whose leaders chose to deprive them of food. In the final section of the book, Standage discusses the Green Revolution, a breakthrough in farming technologies and techniques that occurred in the 1940s to about the 1970s that significantly increased crop yields. Standage told an NPR interviewer he thinks of food, not as the central motivational power of human history, but as an invisible fork prods humanity. After all, Standage says, everything every person has ever done, throughout history, has literally been fueled by food. [1] Receiving an edible history of humanity generally received positively[2] and mixed reviews. [3] Tom Jaïne of The Guardian says Tom makes a brilliant stab at bringing sense to the table. [4] Howard Schneider, writing in The Humanist, regrets that the book no longer treats food topics in depth, but calls it overall enlargement, thoughtful and thoughtful. [5] Other criticisms were made about the author’s position on the agricultural revolution. [6] References Standage.[7] An Edible History of Humanity. New York: Walker & Co., 2009. Press. ^ E2%60%94or-how-food-has-influenced-our-history/^ ^ Jaine, Tom (13 June 2009). Cherchez le pain. The Guardian. London. Retrieved 22 December 2011. ^ Schneider, Howard. Book review: An edible history of humanity. The Humanist. Retrieved 6 February 2014. ^ ^ Further reading reviews of an edible history of humanity retrieved from There are many ways to look at the past: as a list of important dates, a conveyor belt of kings and queens, a series of rising and realm, or a narrative of political, philosophical or technological progress. This book looks at history history another way entirely: if a series of transformations are caused, activated or influenced by food. Throughout history, food has done more than simply being susceptible. It acted as a catalyst for social transformation, societal organisation, geopolitical competition, industrial development, military conflict and economic expansion. From prehistoric to the present, the stories of these transformations form a narrative that envelopes all of human history. Food’s first transformative role was as a foundation for entire civilizations. The adoption of agriculture has made possible new established lifestyles and set humanity on the path to the modern world. But the stacking crops that supported the first civilizations — barley and corn in the Near East, millet and rice in Asia and corn and potatoes in the Americas — were not merely discovered by chance. Instead, they emerged through a complex process of co-evolution, as desirable properties were chosen and propagated by early farmers. These pile crops are, in effect, inventions: deliberately cultivated technologies that exist only as a result of human intervention. The story of how ancient genetic engineers developed powerful new instruments that enabled civilization itself. In the process, humanity changed plants and those plants, in turn, changed humanity. After providing the platform on which civilisations could be established, food subsequently acted as a tool of social organisation and helped shape and structure the complex societies that emerged. The political, economic and religious structures of ancient societies, from hunter-gatherers to first civilizations, are based on the systems of food production and distribution. The production of agricultural food surpluses and the development of common food storage and irrigation systems promoted political centralisation; agricultural fertility rituals develop into state believers; food has become a medium of payment and tax; festivals were used to gain influence and demonstrate status; food handouts were used to define and strengthen power structures. Throughout the ancient world, long before the invention of money, food was wealth — and control over food was power. Once civilizations emerged in various parts of the world, food helped connect them together. Food trade routes acted as international communications networks that promoted not only commercial exchange but also cultural and religious exchanges. The spice trails that stretched across the Old World led to cross-cultural conception in fields as diverse as architecture, science and religion. Early geographers began to have an interest in the and take people from distant countries and have put together the first attempts at world maps. By far the biggest transformation caused by food trade was a result of the European desire to byss the Arab spices This led to the discovery of the New World, the opening of maritime trade routes between Europe, America and Asia, and the establishment by European nations of their first colonial outposts. Along the way, it also revealed the true layout of the world. As European nations vied to build global empires, food helped to achieve the next major shift in human history — a surge in economic development through industrialization. Sugar and potatoes, as much as the steam engine, underscored the industrial revolution. The production of sugar on plantations in the West Indies was arguably the earliest prototype of an industrial process, relying though it was on slave labor. Potatoes, meanwhile, overt came across initial suspicion among Europeans to become a staple that produced more calories than grain crops could have come from a given area of land. Together, sugar and potatoes provided cheap susceptible to the workers in the new factories of the industrial age. In Britain, where this process first began, the vexed question of whether the country’s future was laid in agriculture or in the industry had been unexpectedly and decisively resolved by the Irish Potato Famine of 1845. The use of food as a weapon or war is timeless, but the large-scale military conflicts of the 18th and 19th centuries have increased it a new level. Foods played an important role in determining the outcome of the two wars that defined the United States: the Revolutionary War of the 1770-80s and the Civil War of the 1860s. In Europe, Napoleon’s rise and fall meanwhile, has been intimately connected with his ability to feed his large armies. The mechanisation of warfare in the 20th century meant that for the first time in history, feeding machines with fuel and ammunition became a more important consideration than nutritional soldiers. But food then took on a new role, as an ideological weapon, during the Cold War between capitalism and communism, and ultimately helped determine the outcome of the conflict. And in modern times food has become a battleground for other issues, including trade, development and globalization. During the 20th century, the application of scientific and industrial methods led to agriculture a dramatic expansion in the food supply and a corresponding boom in the global population. The so-called green revolution caused environmental and social problems, but without it there would likely have been widespread famine in much of the developing world during the 1970s. And by growing the food supply faster than the population, the green revolution has paved the way for the astonishing rapid industrialization of Asia as the century ends 2007. Since people in industrial societies tend to have fewer children than those in agricultural societies, this in turn means that the peak in the human population, by the end of the 21st century, is now in sight. The of many individual foods, food-related uses and traditions, and of the development of specific national cuisines, have already been told. Less attention has been paid to the issue of food’s world historical impact. This account does not claim that any single food holds the key to understanding history; nor does it try to sum up the whole history of food, or the whole history of the world. Instead, by drawing a variety of disciplines, including genetics, archaeology, anthropology, etobotany and economics, it specifically concentrates on the intersections between food history and world history, to ask a simple question: what food did the most to shape the modern world, and how? Taking a long-term historical perspective also provides a new way to alleviate modern debates about food, such as the controversy surrounding genetically modified organisms, the relationship between food and poverty, the rise of the local food movement, the use of crops to make biofuels, the effectiveness of food as a way to mobilize political support for various causes, and the best way to mobilize the environmental impact of the environmental impact. In his book The Wealth of Nations, first published in 1776, Adam Smith compared the invisible influence of market forces and acted on participants all on the lookout for their own best interests, to an invisible hand. Food’s influence on history can similarly be compared to an invisible fork that, at various important points in history, prodded humanity and changed its fate, even though people were generally unaware of its influence at the time. Many food choices made in the past appear to have far-reaching consequences, and to have helped shape the world we now live in. For the discerning eye, food’s historical influence can be seen all around us, and not just in the kitchen, at the dining table or in the supermarket. That food was such an important ingredient in human affairs may seem odd, but it would be far more surprising if it didn’t: after all every person has ever done, throughout history, was literally fueled by food. A fascinating history of the role of food in causing, energizing and influences successive transformations of human society. It’s an extraordinary and well-told story, a very neglected dimension of history. - Financial Times Denny in revelations, ‘An Edible History of Humanity’ demonstrates how food constantly and often radically affected the human story... Standage demonstrates brilliantly how food has changed society, unestimated wars and facilitated the re-population explosion. - The Independent It is called you can sink your teeth into... - Los Angeles Times Standage manages to undercut the pivotal role food still plays in us Thousands of years ago, the invention of agriculture formed early societies. Today, it connects us with global debates about trade and the environment. - Washington Post It’s a Smart Book. It shows how many hidden forces are at work — politically, socially, economically — when you sit down for dinner. - Sunday Times [Standage] writes with an eye toward understanding and a sure touch with anecdote and illustration... his account of moving hunter-gathering to established agriculture [is] a masterpiece of summary and explanation. - The Guardian The author did a first-class job of collaborating available sources and describing complex information in a coherent and easily understandable way... a well-researched and written book. - Time Out Tom Standage does an admirable job of showing the ‘invisible fork’ behind the fate of nations. - Nature Standage has some diverse stories to tell about food’s place in history, and makes them all interesting, whether he explains how the human reproduction of genetic mutations in maize and corn, delineates why and how the European desire for spices inspired world exploration and the realm of geography, or writing about the wide-ranging implications on world events of the - The Globe and Mail Standage’s highly readable, thought-provoking essay approaches the subject with a longer perspective and with a little more detached than the norm was. Such a viewpoint shows how fundamentally food production has underpinned our existence — everything from settlement patterns and social hierarchy to military strategy — and the ways we, economically, really are what we consume. - Scotsman Tom Standage’s erudite and thoughtful examination of the role of food in history is a timely dose of context for many of the problems facing the world. The power of Standage’s history is in the detail and in the way he persuades the reader to look at historical events through an alternative prism... Standage’s case for food as the root of all human development is hard to refute... a great job worthy of closer inspection. — Scotland on Sunday Instead of shed backwards for one thread to stitch everything together, Standage sensately throws a net, writing not a history of any one food but a history through food. The emphasis on food as a cultural catalyst distinguishes Standage from Michael Pollan, whose plants’ point of view of the world keeps the consumption restrictions central. With Standage, it’s not what changes in food that matter, but rather what changes food. And it’s not just one foodfiting and leading history, but what Adam Smith may have called the ‘invisible fork’ of food economy. - New Scientist revelation after revelation about his too-often-taken-for-granted subject... enlarged, thoughtful and thoughtful. - The Humanist This meat small volume... ‘concentrates specifically on the intersections between food history and world history.’ But history isn’t Standage’s only concern. He takes the long view to alleviate and contextualize such contemporary issues as genetically modified foodstuffs, the complex relationship between food and poverty, the local food movement, the politization of food and the environmental outcomes of modern methods of agriculture... Cogent, informative and informative. - Kirkus Reviews An interesting history of how hungry civilizations formed and prompted technological advances. - Publishers Weekly Weekly

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