



# RESEARCH METHODS

## Guns Germs and Steel

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# YALI's Ultimate Question



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**Why Eurasia colonized the world and why the reverse did not happen?**

# Aztecs and Spanish Conquistadors

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Why did Spanish Conquistadors conquered South-America?



# Native Indians and British Colonies

Why did North-America colonized by Western European countries?



Why American Indians did not land on Portugal and looted European cities?

Why Africans did not enslaved Eurasians?

Why did Africa colonized by Eurasia?

# Aboriginals and Venetians

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Why did Oceanic continents of Australia and Guinea are conquered by Eurasia?



Why Aborigines did not decimate Europe but Europeans exterminated them?

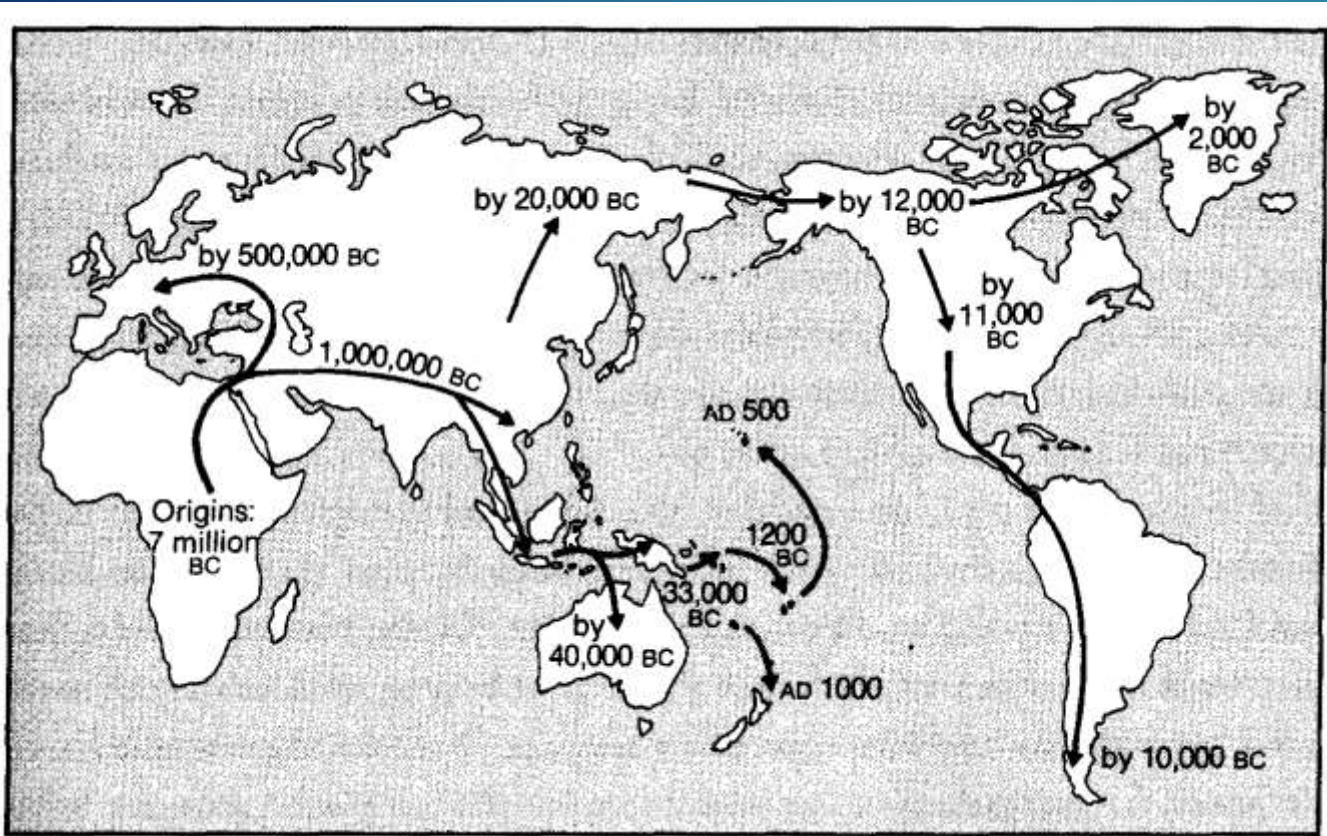
# Answer: Guns Germs and Steel

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# Understanding YALI's question

## Spread of Humans



- ▶ Humans have settled nearly everywhere on the globe
- ▶ They had abundant amount of time after last ice age to develop
- ▶ Genetically and Physiologically we are all similar
- ▶ Two distinct living:
  - ▶ Sedentary
  - ▶ Hunter-Gatherer style



# Genetics-Environment-Resistance

## Old World

- ▶ Genetically similar with new world, no evidence for genetic superiority
- ▶ Domesticated animals
- ▶ Farming culture
- ▶ Literate
- ▶ Complex authority
- ▶ Deeper history
- ▶ Denser population
- ▶ Relatively more educated

## New World

- ▶ No domesticated animals (especially horses)
- ▶ Hunter-gatherers
- ▶ Not literate
- ▶ Simpler bureaucracy
- ▶ Simple history
- ▶ Sparse isolated locations
- ▶ Not resistant to many diseases
- ▶ Simpler education
- ▶ Geographical and geo-biological barriers



# Domestication

## Domestic Plants

<i>Area</i>	<i>Number of Species</i>
West Asia, Europe, North Africa	33
Mediterranean zone	32
England	1
East Asia	6
Sub-Saharan Africa	4
Americas	11
North America	4
Mesoamerica	5
South America	2
Northern Australia	2
<b>Total:</b>	<b>56</b>

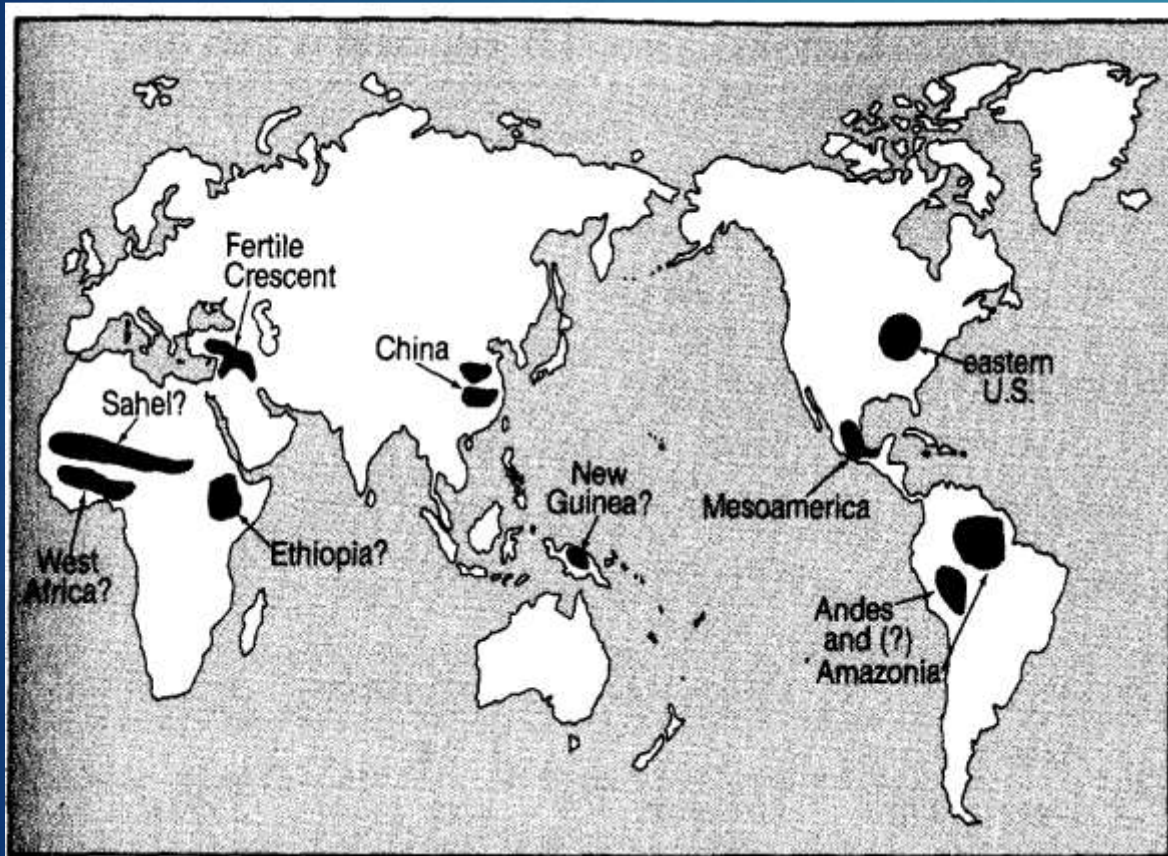
## Domestic Animals

	<i>Continent</i>			
	<i>Eurasia</i>	<i>Sub-Saharan Africa</i>	<i>The Americas</i>	<i>Australia</i>
Candidates	72	51	24	1
Domesticated species	13	0	1	0
Percentage of candidates domesticated	18%	0%	4%	0%

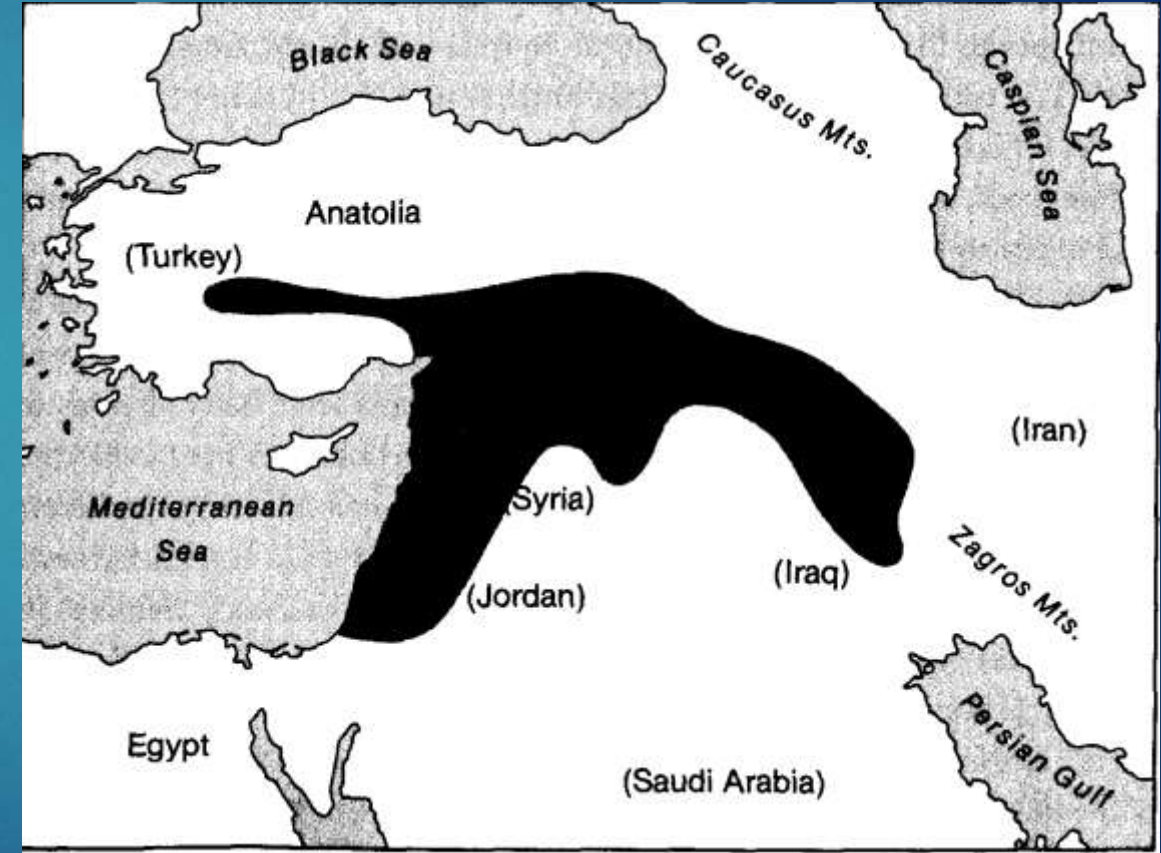


# Food Production

## Rise of Food Production



## Fertile Crescent



# GERMS



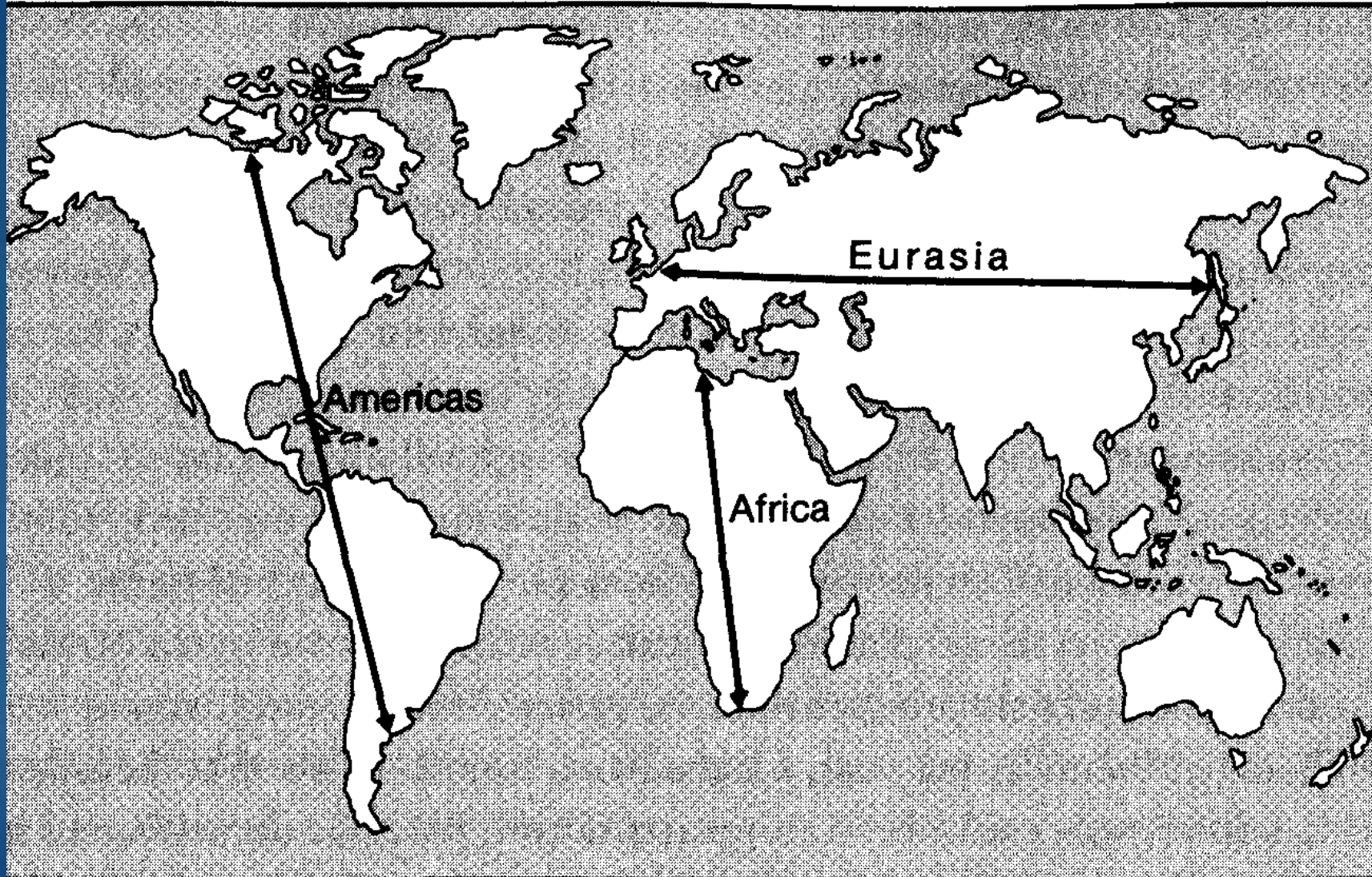
95% of America Died from these diseases originated from Eurasia

<i>Human Disease</i>	<i>Animal with Most Closely Related Pathogen</i>
Measles	cattle (rinderpest)
Tuberculosis	cattle
Smallpox	cattle (cowpox) or other livestock with related pox viruses
Flu	pigs and ducks
Pertussis	pigs, dogs
Falciparum malaria	birds (chickens and ducks?)

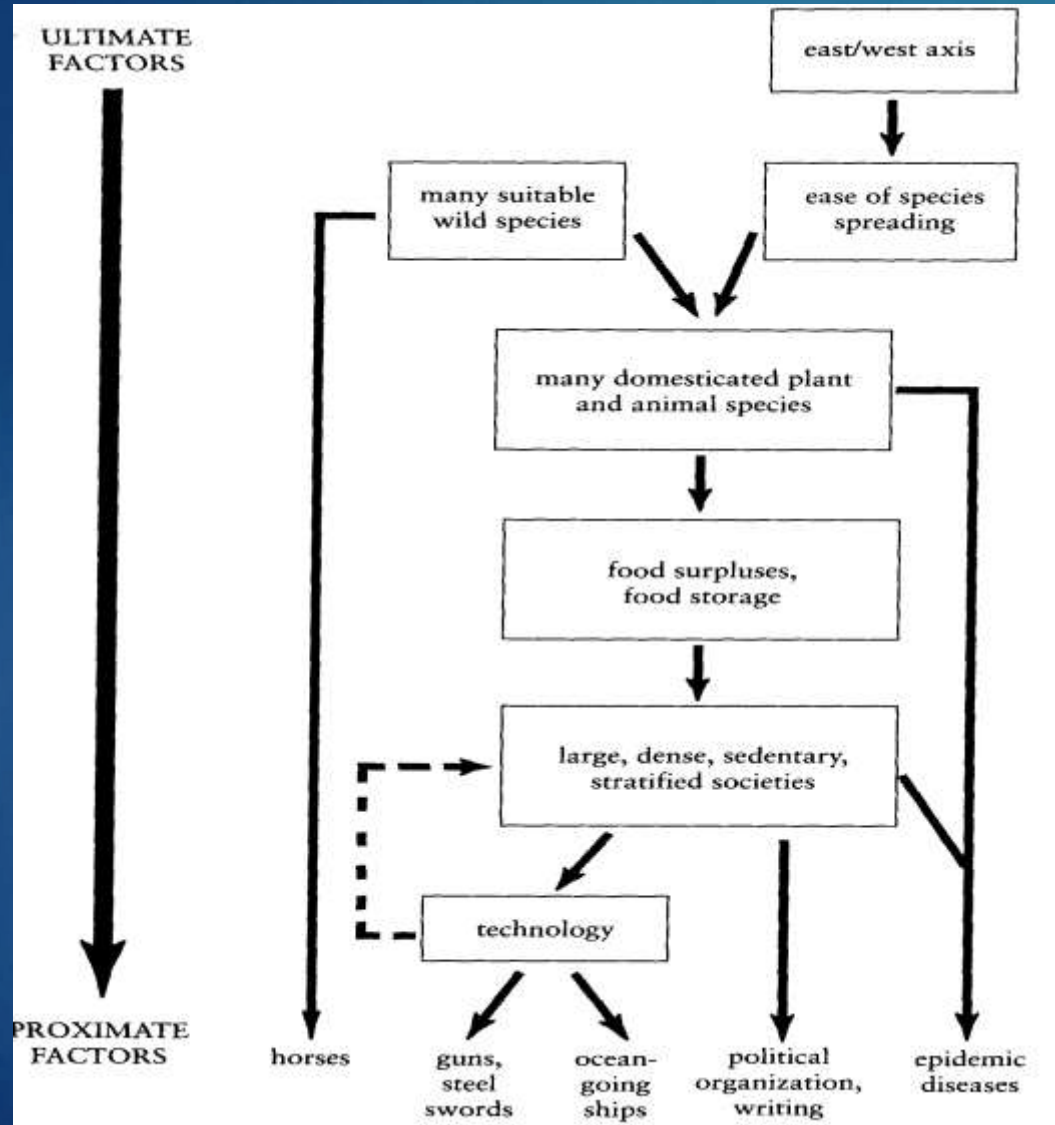
# Geography



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# Contributing factors to civilization



## Some Factors

- ▶ Geography
- ▶ Biomass
- ▶ Domestication of animals
- ▶ Food production
- ▶ Dense population
- ▶ Technology
- ▶ Literacy
- ▶ Isolation vs Expansion
- ▶ Fast extinction caused by hunter-gatherer tradition

# Few Figures



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- ▶ North America had around **20 million population**
- ▶ **95%** of North American natives died 100 years before any settlers settled in west coast
- ▶ Spanish conquistadors won against immense odds like **1:200**
- ▶ Aborigines are near extinction
- ▶ Less than 10,000 people are still practicing hunter gatherer styles in America
- ▶ Inca and Aztec Empires had population around millions
- ▶ Until 1942 (Second World War) the germs had highest kill count even in wartime and in battlefields
- ▶ An acre of land can sustain 100 times more settled farmers and herders than hunter-gatherers

# Society

## Types of Societies

TABLE 14.1 Types of Societies

	<i>Band</i>	<i>Tribe</i>	<i>Chiefdom</i>	<i>State</i>
<b>Membership</b>				
Number of people	dozens	hundreds	thousands	over 50,000
Settlement pattern	nomadic	fixed: 1 village	fixed: 1 or more villages	fixed: many villages and cities
Basis of relationships	kin	kin-based clans	class and residence	class and residence
Ethnicities and languages	1	1	1	1 or more
<b>Government</b>				
Decision making, leadership	"egalitarian"	"egalitarian" or big-man	centralized, hereditary	centralized
Bureaucracy	none	none	none, or 1 or 2 levels	many levels
Monopoly of force and information	no	no	yes	yes
Conflict resolution	informal	informal	centralized	laws, judges
Hierarchy of settlement	no	no	no → paramount village	capital

## Egalitarianism-Kleptocracy

	<i>Band</i>	<i>Tribe</i>	<i>Chiefdom</i>	<i>State</i>
<b>Religion</b>				
Justifies kleptocracy?	no	no	yes	yes → no
<b>Economy</b>				
Food production	no	no → yes	yes → intensive	intensive
Division of labor	no	no	no → yes	yes
Exchanges	reciprocal	reciprocal	redistributive ("tribute")	redistributive ("taxes")
Control of land	band	clan	chief	various
<b>Society</b>				
Stratified	no	no	yes, by kin	yes, not by kin
Slavery	no	no	small-scale	large-scale
Luxury goods for elite	no	no	yes	yes
Public architecture	no	no	no → yes	yes
Indigenous literacy	no	no	no	often

# Society



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## Kleptocrats

- ▶ Disarm the populace arm the elite
- ▶ Redistributing wealth
- ▶ Monopoly of force
- ▶ Maintain public order
- ▶ Curb violence
- ▶ ideology or religion justifying kleptocracy

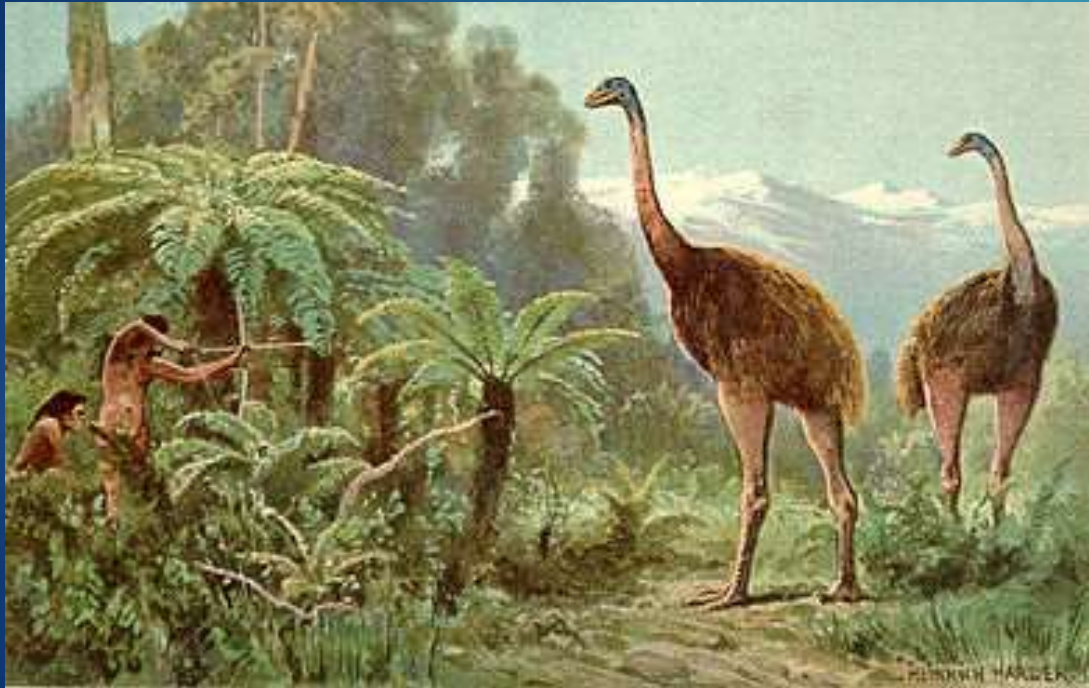




# Some Extinct animals



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# Criticism About the Book

- ▶ Basically a must read for everyone
- ▶ Delivers facts and argues against well known wrongs, especially racists approaches
- ▶ Does not focus only on the Europe and European countries
- ▶ Does not discriminate anyone for their actions and stays neutral
- ▶ Author is a quite educated World citizen with multicultural and multilingual ancestry
- ▶ Agriculture is underrated
- ▶ Gives to much detail on seemingly unimportant facts about natives
- ▶ Does not promote ideas, instead gives the reader to analyze the raw data
- ▶ Describes whole world and compares continents individually
- ▶ Provides figures and numbers to reinforce the reading
- ▶ Easy to read even without domain knowledge
- ▶ Germs are underrated