

A History Of Progress

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the idea of progress from the enlightenment to postmodernism is still very much with us in intellectual discourse journals popular magazines and radio and talk shows the debate between those who are progressivists and those who are declinists is as spirited as it was in the late seventeenth century in history of the idea of progress robert nisbet traces the idea of progress from its origins in greek roman and medieval civilizations to modern times it is a masterful frame of reference for understanding the present world nisbet asserts there are two fundamental building blocks necessary to western doctrines of human advancement the idea of growth and the idea of necessity he sees christianity as a key element in both secular and spiritual evolution for it conveys all the ingredients of the modern idea of progress the advancement of the human race in time a single time frame for all the peoples and epochs of the past and present the conception of time as linear and the envisagement of the future as having a utopian end google books

palaeolithic hunters who learnt how to kill two mammoths instead of one had made progress those who learnt how to kill 200 by driving a whole herd over a cliff had made too much many of the great ruins that grace the deserts and jungles of the earth are monuments to progress traps the headstones of civilisations which fell victim to their own success the twentieth century s runaway growth has placed a murderous burden on the planet a short history of progress argues that this modern predicament is as old as civilisation only by understanding the patterns of progress and disaster that humanity has repeated since the stone age can we recognise the inherent dangers and with luck and wisdom shape its outcome

excerpt from the story of human progress a brief history of civilization the earnest demand for a closer study of social progress and societal relations is the reason for writing this book to attempt to understand present conditions or to advocate social reforms without an adequate conception of the elements of progress or a fair knowledge of the road over which man has traveled to reach his present position is to lead to wrong conclusions the present volume is an elementary treatise on the history of civilization especially designed for those who desire a brief survey of the whole field such a brief

survey of the progress of man must of necessity refrain from any attempt to recount the history of the tribes nations or races to which it refers but rather must dwell upon the philosophy of civilization and the judgments of history yet within this little volume are recorded all of the principal steps of human progress and a presentation of the best results of the study of philosophy and history in order not to appear too philosophical for the purpose of the book the history of progress is approached so far as it may be from the concrete side every branch of knowledge has its own particular charms but the story of mans progress from a state of savagery to that of culture and learning engages the attention and arouses sympathetic interest like no other about the publisher forgotten books publishes hundreds of thousands of rare and classic books find more at forgottenbooks.com this book is a reproduction of an important historical work forgotten books uses state of the art technology to digitally reconstruct the work preserving the original format whilst repairing imperfections present in the aged copy in rare cases an imperfection in the original such as a blemish or missing page may be replicated in our edition we do however repair the vast majority of imperfections successfully any imperfections that remain are intentionally left to preserve the state of such historical works

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