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## **ESTRELLA BENITEZ**

*Horrors of History:*

*People of the Plague*

University of Chicago  
Press

Schools have taught us to expect that people should live in separate national states. But the historical records shows that ethnic homogeneity was a barbarian trait; civilized societies mingled peoples of diverse backgrounds into ethnically plural and hierarchically ordered polities. The exception was northwestern Europe. There, peculiar circumstances permitted the preservation of a fair simulacrum of national unity while a complex civilization developed. The ideal of national unity was enthusiastically

propagated by historians and teachers even in parts of Europe where mingled nationalities prevailed. Overseas, European empires and zones for settlement were always ethnically plural; but in northwestern Europe the tide has turned only since about 1920, and now diverse groups abound in Paris and London as well as in New York and Sydney. Age-old factors promoting the mingling of diverse populations have asserted this power, and continue to do so even when governments in the ex-colonial lands of Africa and Asia are trying hard to create new nations within what are sometimes quite arbitrary boundaries. In demonstrating how

unusual and transitory the concept of national ethnic homogeneity has been in world history, William McNeill offers an understanding that may help human minds to adjust to the social reality around them.

*The Hinge of Europe, 1081-1797* University Press of Kentucky

Plagues and Peoples Anchor

*A Bird's-eye View of World History*

Universidad De Puerto Rico

5 Green Forest, red Hills

**Past, Present, and Future** Oxford

University Press

A fascinating work of detective history, *The Black Death* traces the causes and far-reaching consequences of this infamous outbreak of plague that spread across the

continent of Europe from 1347 to 1351.

Drawing on sources as diverse as monastic manuscripts and

dendrochronological studies (which

measure growth rings in trees), historian

Robert S. Gottfried

demonstrates how a

bacillus transmitted by rat fleas brought on an

ecological reign of

terror -- killing one

European in three,

wiping out entire

villages and towns, and

rocking the foundation

of medieval society

and civilization.

*A Historian's Memoir*

Princeton University

Press

In this magnificent

synthesis of military,

technological, and

social history, William

H. McNeill explores a

whole millennium of

human upheaval and

traces the path by

which we have arrived at the frightening dilemmas that now confront us. McNeill moves with equal mastery from the crossbow--banned by the Church in 1139 as too lethal for Christians to use against one another--to the nuclear missile, from the sociological consequences of drill in the seventeenth century to the emergence of the military-industrial complex in the twentieth. His central argument is that a commercial transformation of world society in the eleventh century caused military activity to respond increasingly to market forces as well as to the commands of rulers. Only in our own time, suggests McNeill, are command economies

replacing the market control of large-scale human effort. The Pursuit of Power does not solve the problems of the present, but its discoveries, hypotheses, and sheer breadth of learning do offer a perspective on our current fears and, as McNeill hopes, a ground for wiser action. No summary can do justice to McNeill's intricate, encyclopedic treatment. . . .

McNeill's erudition is stunning, as he moves easily from European to Chinese and Islamic cultures and from military and technological to socio-economic and political developments. The result is a grand synthesis of sweeping proportions and interdisciplinary character that tells us

almost as much about the history of butter as the history of guns. . . . McNeill's larger accomplishment is to remind us that all humankind has a shared past and, particularly with regard to its choice of weapons and warfare, a shared stake in the future.--Stuart Rochester, Washington Post Book World Mr. McNeill's comprehensiveness and sensitivity do for the reader what Henry James said that Turgenev's conversation did for him: they suggest 'all sorts of valuable things.' This narrative of rationality applied to irrational purposes and of ingenuity cannibalizing itself is a work of clarity, which delineates mysteries. The greatest of them,

to my mind, is why human beings have never learned to cherish their own species.--Naomi Bliven, The New Yorker

### **Keeping Together in Time** Heritage

A study on human patterns, interactions, and conflict from the earliest periods in history considers such topics as the evolution of religion, the western world's dominance in the world market, and the creation of ancient agriculture.

### Keeping Together in Time Harvard

University Press

In this magnificent synthesis of military, technological, and social history, William H. McNeill explores a whole millennium of human upheaval and traces the path by which we have arrived at the frightening

dilemmas that now confront us. McNeill moves with equal mastery from the crossbow—banned by the Church in 1139 as too lethal for Christians to use against one another—to the nuclear missile, from the sociological consequences of drill in the seventeenth century to the emergence of the military-industrial complex in the twentieth. His central argument is that a commercial transformation of world society in the eleventh century caused military activity to respond increasingly to market forces as well as to the commands of rulers. Only in our own time, suggests McNeill, are command economies replacing the market control of large-scale

human effort. The Pursuit of Power does not solve the problems of the present, but its discoveries, hypotheses, and sheer breadth of learning do offer a perspective on our current fears and, as McNeill hopes, "a ground for wiser action."

### **A History of the Human Community**

Charlesbridge Publishing  
Environmental articles from the Berkshire encyclopedia of world history, 2nd ed.

### **Migrants and the State in the Highlands of Vietnam**

Acis History E-Book Project  
This book is for families--for grandparents to read aloud to their grandchildren, for beginning readers to read to their parents,

and for parents and children to read together. It is also for teachers and young students who want to know what life was like on a family farm before furnaces, running water, and electricity changed housekeeping and before cars, trucks, and tractors changed work in the fields, a time when cows had to be milked by hand every day and when almost all of what chickens, pigs, cows, horses, and people ate came directly from the farm. These stories of a city boy's learning to fish for trout in the brook, gather wild blueberries and mushrooms in the back pasture, and dig clams on the shore are an introduction to a distant but still emotionally vibrant aspect of the human

past. Long Ago, in the 1920s, a little boy called Billy spent summers with his grandparents on Prince Edward Island off the Atlantic coast of Canada. In those days the island, famous then and now for its potatoes, remained very much the way that Lucy Maud Montgomery portrayed it a generation earlier in her book *Anne of Green Gables*. (Lucy, who was raised on the island by her grandparents, Alexander and Lucy MacNeill, was the second cousin of the boy's grandmother.) Young William McNeill, named for his P. E. I. grandfather, was a city boy, but during long summer days on his grandparents' farm he learned to pitch hay, harvest grain, and

hammer down roof shingles. He caught trout in the brook, dug clams at the seashore, and picked mushrooms in the meadow. Once he caused his mother to be badly stung by hornets in the back pasture. Life on the farm taught him about cows and horses, pigs and chickens; they, together with the experience of helping his grandparents in the house and fields, taught him about himself. The boy grew up to be an historian whose books are read all over the world. He wrote about the role of disease in human history, about how we learn to cooperate, and even about potatoes. An old man now, he lives in Connecticut and every year plants a vegetable garden; when his children and

grandchildren visit he feeds them from it just as his grandmother fed him. In the garden he spent many mornings remembering what farm life was like when he was a boy. He wrote this book for those who in the twenty-first century wonder how their own not-so-distant ancestors lived, worked, and played. World Environmental History Chicago U. of Chicago P  
 Could something as simple and seemingly natural as falling into step have marked us for evolutionary success? In Keeping Together in Time one of the most widely read and respected historians in America pursues the possibility that coordinated rhythmic movement--and the shared feelings it evokes--has been a

powerful force in holding human groups together. As he has done for historical phenomena as diverse as warfare, plague, and the pursuit of power, William McNeill brings a dazzling breadth and depth of knowledge to his study of dance and drill in human history. From the records of distant and ancient peoples to the latest findings of the life sciences, he discovers evidence that rhythmic movement has played a profound role in creating and sustaining human communities. The behavior of chimpanzees, festival village dances, the close-order drill of early modern Europe, the ecstatic dance-trances of shamans and dervishes, the goose-stepping Nazi formations, the

morning exercises of factory workers in Japan--all these and many more figure in the bold picture McNeill draws. A sense of community is the key, and shared movement, whether dance or military drill, is its mainspring. McNeill focuses on the visceral and emotional sensations such movement arouses, particularly the euphoric fellow-feeling he calls "muscular bonding." These sensations, he suggests, endow groups with a capacity for cooperation, which in turn improves their chance of survival. A tour de force of imagination and scholarship, *Keeping Together in Time* reveals the muscular, rhythmic dimension of human solidarity. Its

lessons will serve us well as we contemplate the future of the human community and of our various local communities. Table of Contents: Muscular Bonding Human Evolution Small Communities Religious Ceremonies Politics and War Conclusion Notes Index Reviews of this book: "In his imaginative and provocative book...William H. McNeill develops an unconventional notion that, he observes, is 'simplicity itself.' He maintains that people who move together to the same beat tend to bond and thus that communal dance and drill alter human feelings." DD--John Mueller, New York Times Book Review "Every now and then, a slender, graceful,

unassuming little volume modestly proposes a radical rethinking of human history. Such a book is Keeping Together in Time...Important, witty, and thoroughly approachable, [it] could, perhaps, only be written by a scholar in retirement with a lifetime's interdisciplinary reading to ponder, the imagination to conceive unanswerable questions, and the courage, in this age of over-speculation, to speculate in areas where certainty is impossible. Its vision of dance as a shaper of evolution, a perpetually sustainable and sustaining resource, would crown anyone's career." DD--Penelope Reed Doob, Toronto Globe and Mail "McNeill is one of our

greatest living historians...As usual with McNeill, *Keeping Together in Time* contains a wonderfully broad survey of practices in other times and places. There are the Greeks, who invented the flute-accompanied phalanx, and the Romans, who invented calling cadence while marching. There are the Shakers, who combined worship and dancing, and the Mormons, who carefully separated the functions but who prospered at least as much on the strength of their dancing as their Sunday morning worship." DD--David Warsh, *Boston Sunday Globe* "[A] wide-ranging and thought-provoking book...A mind-stretching exploration of the

thesis that 'keeping together in time'--army drill, village dances, and the like--consolidates group solidarity by making us feel good about ourselves and the group and thus was critical for social cohesion and group survival in the past." DD--*Virginia Quarterly Review* "[This book is] nothing less than a survey of the historical impact of shared rhythmic motion from the paleolithic to the present, an impact that [McNeill] finds surprisingly significant...McNeill moves beyond Durkheim in noting that in complex societies divided by social class muscular bonding may be the medium through which discontented and oppressed groups can

gain the solidarity necessary for challenging the existing social order." DD--Robert N. Bellah, *Commonweal* "The title of this fascinating essay contains a pun that sums up its thesis" keeping together in time, or coordinated rhythmic movement and the shared feelings it evokes, has kept human groups together throughout history. Most of McNeill's pioneering study is devoted to the history of communal dancing...[This] volume will appeal equally to scholars and to the general reader." DD--Doyne Dawson, *Military History* "As with so many themes [like this one], whether in science or in symphonies, one wonders (in retrospect) why it has not been

invented before...[T]he book is fascinating." DD--K. Kortmulder, *Acta Biotheoretica* (The Netherlands) "This scholarly and creative exploration of the largely unresearched phenomenon of shared euphoria aroused by unison movement moves across the disciplines of dance, history, sociology, and psychology...Highly recommended." DD--Choice

**Compassion** Anchor One of the most remarkable thinkers of this century, Arnold Toynbee won world-wide recognition as the author of the monumental ten-volume *A Study of History*. Its publication and phenomenal success brought him fame and the highest praise, as the reading public proclaimed him

the most renowned scholar in the world. This thought-provoking, engaging study of Toynbee, written by one of today's most eminent historians, weaves together Toynbee's intellectual accomplishments and the personal difficulties of his private life. Providing both an intimate portrait of a leading thinker and a judicious evaluation of his work and his legacy for the the study of history, William H. McNeill offers both a biography and a commentary on how to write and understand history. Along with an illuminating discussion of the strengths and weaknesses of *A Study of History* and the countless other works written by Toynbee, McNeill offers a

compelling examination of the responses of other historians (including the devastating attack launched by Hugh Trevor-Roper) and Toynbee's attempts to modify his *Study* to answer these criticisms. McNeill also explores his tormented personal life, including his troubled marriage to Rosalind Murray and the suicide of his son, Anthony. In this sympathetic depiction of a life, both triumphant and tragic, McNeill brings his skills to bear on one of the greatest figures in his field, illuminating a career of rare accomplishment. Conquerors, Catastrophes, and Community University of Hawaii Press  
A distinguished historian probes the

critical impact of infectious diseases on the development of world civilizations

The Great Frontier  
Doubleday Books

A distinguished scholar and the well-known author of *The Rise of the West and Plagues and Peoples*, William McNeill has won widespread recognition for his ideas on the role of disease in history. In this elegantly and incisively written work, originally delivered as the Bland-Lee Lectures at Clark University, he provides a provocative interpretation in world history using the concept of parasitism. By comparing the biological organisms that compete with human beings for food or feed directly upon them ("microparasites") with those people or groups

who seize goods or compel services from other human beings ("macroparasites"), Professor McNeill shows how changes in the patterns of parasitism have affected human populations in different regions of the world throughout history. The author identifies three landmarks of human ecological history when systematic changes in the balances between microparasites and macroparasites occurred: the advance of our ancestors to the apex of the food chain, the human penetration of the colder and dryer zones of the earth, and the establishment of the agriculture. In an especially revealing discussion of this last landmark, he shows how human efforts to achieve successful

farming increased human vulnerability to infection. Irrigation and the use of the plow created sewage and water supply problems that in turn brought on new and intensified forms of parasites. In addition, food harvested and store for use throughout the year became vulnerable to rats, mice, insects, and molds. These advances not only increased the number and variety of microparasites; they also opened the way for macroparasites, that is, the transfer of food by those who produce it to those who consume it without themselves having worked in the fields. What then began as a symbiotic relationship quickly became an exploitative one. As the

author points out, the high yield and dependability of irrigation plowing tied farmers to the land quite effectually and made such populations easy targets for tax and rent collectors. Hence human society in its civilized form came to be fundamentally divided between hosts and parasites, the ruled and the rulers. Against this conceptual background of the enveloping balances between microparasites and macroparasites that have limited human access to food and energy, Profesor McNeill draws a new historical picture of the human condition. In doing so, he considers the development of command versus market economics in

the mobilization of human and material resources, and speculates about the direction in which these resources are coordinated today. William H. McNeill is Robert A. Millikan Distinguished Service Professor of History at the University of Chicago. Originally published in 1980. The Princeton Legacy Library uses the latest print-on-demand technology to again make available previously out-of-print books from the distinguished backlist of Princeton University Press. These editions preserve the original texts of these important books while presenting them in durable paperback and hardcover editions. The goal of the Princeton Legacy Library is to

vastly increase access to the rich scholarly heritage found in the thousands of books published by Princeton University Press since its founding in 1905. Technology, Armed Force, and Society since A.D. 1000 American Historical Assn  
A review of the original edition of *The Burdens of Disease* that appeared in *ISIS* stated, "Hays has written a remarkable book. He too has a message: That epidemics are primarily dependent on poverty and that the West has consistently refused to accept this." This revised edition confirms the book's timely value and provides a sweeping approach to the history of disease. In this updated volume, with revisions and additions

to the original content, including the evolution of drug-resistant diseases and expanded coverage of HIV/AIDS, along with recent data on mortality figures and other relevant statistics, J. N. Hays chronicles perceptions and responses to plague and pestilence over two thousand years of western history. Disease is framed as a multidimensional construct, situated at the intersection of history, politics, culture, and medicine, and rooted in mentalities and social relations as much as in biological conditions of pathology. This revised edition of *The Burdens of Disease* also studies the victims of epidemics, paying close attention to the relationships among

poverty, power, and disease.

*The Age of Gunpowder Empires, 1450-1800* W

Norton & Company Incorporated

A leading American historian examines the character of the frontiers of European expansion throughout the modern age, questioning a notion of frontier freedom popular since Turner. William McNeill argues that social hierarchy characterized the frontier more often than pioneer equality. As Europeans traveled to various lands, bringing new diseases to vulnerable natives, formerly isolated populations died in great numbers, creating an "open" frontier where labor was scarce. European efforts to develop frontier areas involved

either a radical leveling of the hierarchies common in Europe itself or, alternatively, their sharp reinforcement by resort to slavery, serfdom, peonage, and indentured labor. Juxtaposing national and transnational experiences and illuminating the complex interchange of peoples (and illnesses) in the modern era, Professor McNeill brings the history of the United States into perspective as an example of a process that encircled the globe. His book clarifies both the experience of the global frontier and the processes that now mark the end of hundreds of year of expansion of the European center. William H. McNeill is

Robert A. Millikan Distinguished Service Professor of History at the University of Chicago. His numerous books include *The Rise of the West* (Chicago); *Plagues and Peoples* (Doubleday); and *The Human Condition* (Princeton). Originally published in 1983. The Princeton Legacy Library uses the latest print-on-demand technology to again make available previously out-of-print books from the distinguished backlist of Princeton University Press. These editions preserve the original texts of these important books while presenting them in durable paperback and hardcover editions. The goal of the Princeton Legacy Library is to vastly increase access to the rich scholarly

heritage found in the thousands of books published by Princeton University Press since its founding in 1905.

*A World History*  
University of Chicago Press

A leading American historian examines the character of the frontiers of European expansion throughout the modern age, questioning a notion of frontier freedom popular since Turner. William McNeill argues that social hierarchy characterized the frontier more often than pioneer equality. As Europeans traveled to various lands, bringing new diseases to vulnerable natives, formerly isolated populations died in great numbers, creating an "open" frontier where labor was scarce. European

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vastly increase access to the rich scholarly heritage found in the thousands of books published by Princeton University Press since its founding in 1905.

### **A History of the Human Community**

*Plagues and Peoples*  
William H. McNeill is known for his ability to portray the grand sweep of history. *The Global Condition* is a classic work for understanding the grand sweep of world history in brief compass. Now with a new foreword by J. R. McNeill, this book brings together two of William Hardy McNeill's popular short books and an essay. *The Human Condition* provides a provocative interpretation of history as a competition of parasites, both

biological and human; The Great Frontier questions the notion of "frontier freedom" through an examination of European expansion; the concluding essay speculates on the role of catastrophe in our lives.

*Polyethnicity and National Unity in World History* Princeton

University Press  
This is a curated and comprehensive collection of the most important works covering matters related to national security, diplomacy, defense, war, strategy, and tactics. The collection spans centuries of thought and experience, and includes the latest analysis of international threats, both conventional and asymmetric. It also

includes riveting first person accounts of historic battles and wars. Some of the books in this Series are reproductions of historical works preserved by some of the leading libraries in the world. As with any reproduction of a historical artifact, some of these books contain missing or blurred pages, poor pictures, errant marks, etc. We believe these books are essential to this collection and the study of war, and have therefore brought them back into print, despite these imperfections. We hope you enjoy the unmatched breadth and depth of this collection, from the historical to the just-published works.

**The Rise of the West**  
University of Illinois Press

In this magisterial history, National Book Award winner William H. McNeill chronicles the interactions and disputes between Latin Christians and the Orthodox communities of eastern Europe during the period 1081–1797.

Concentrating on Venice as the hinge of European history in the late medieval and early modern period, McNeill explores the technological, economic, and political bases of Venetian power and wealth, and the city's unique status at the frontier between the papal and Orthodox Christian worlds. He pays particular attention to Venetian influence upon southeastern Europe, and from such an angle of vision, the familiar pattern of

European history changes shape. "No other historian would have been capable of writing a book as direct, as well-informed and as little weighed down by purple prose as this one. Or as impartial. McNeill has succeeded

admirably."—Fernand Braudel, *Times Literary Supplement* "The book is serious, interesting, occasionally compelling, and always suggestive."—Stanley Chojnacki, *American Historical Review*  
*Past and Future*  
Princeton University Press

An intellectually and stylistically unified overview of world history, this text draws a global portrait of the human past – showing how each part of the world fits into the overall balance in each

successive age.