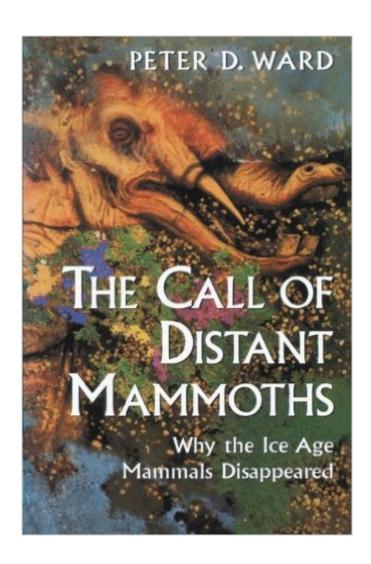
The book was found

The Call Of Distant Mammoths: Why The Ice Age Mammals Disappeared





Synopsis

To help us understand what happened during the Ice Age, Peter Ward takes us on a tour of other mass extinctions through earth's history. He presents a compelling account of the great comet crash that killed off the dinosaurs, and describes other extinctions that were even more extensive. In so doing, he introduces us to a profound paradigm shift now taking place in paleontology: rather than arising from the gradual workings of everyday forces, all mass extinctions are due to unique, catastrophic events. Written with an irresistible combination of passion and expertise, The Call of Distant Mammoths is an engaging exploration of the history of life and the importance of humanity as an evolutionary force. "Carefully argued...an intelligent and compelling book."-THE OLYMPIAN, SEATTLE, WASHINGTON"Ward deftly summarizes a large body of scientific literature, simplifying complex ideas for the general reader without condescension."-PUBLISHERS WEEKLY"Did the overkill really happen?...Peter Ward deftly summarizes the arguments...Ward tells (the story) well."-THE NEW SCIENTIST

Book Information

Paperback: 241 pages

Publisher: Copernicus; Softcover reprint of the original 1st ed. 1997 edition (October 4, 2013)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0387985727

ISBN-13: 978-0387985725

Product Dimensions: 6.1 x 0.6 x 9.2 inches

Shipping Weight: 14.4 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 3.5 out of 5 stars Â See all reviews (14 customer reviews)

Best Sellers Rank: #1,080,031 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #35 in Books > Science & Math > Biological Sciences > Paleontology > Vertebrate #277 in Books > Science & Math > Evolution >

Organic #584 in Books > Textbooks > Science & Mathematics > Biology & Life Sciences >

Botany

Customer Reviews

Peter Ward writes his book, The Call of Distant Mammoths, like a murder mystery (a metaphor he uses several times). The victims are the large mammals that disappeared after the last ice age. The perpetrator? Who knows? Peter Ward's thesis fingers early hunters who came across the Asian land bridge as a major, perhaps the major, cause of extinction. Like any good mystery book, Ward starts before the beginning by taking the reader on an imaginary trip in a time machine through past

eras, periods and epochs as he revisits the major extinction events in earth's history and reviews their causes. The most recent, and perhaps best-known, extinction event is that at the K/T boundary that saw the extinction of the dinosaurs. In all his examples, Ward makes the point that extinctions are rapid (at least on geologic time scales) events. I tend to agree, though I'd probably define rapid in terms of the speed with which organisms evolve. Ward gives some good background information regarding general points related to evolution. I especially enjoyed his clear but brief summary of human evolution, as well as the evolutionary history of elephants. With this introduction (which takes up about 1/3 of the book) Ward begins to make his case by examining the period of time around the last ice age. Ward finds more than coincidence in the emergence of human society and extinction of the large mammals at the end of the last ice age. As he puts it: "The time of the Ice Age is of utmost importance to humanity, for it is the time of our origin. We began this interval as australopithecines, ape-like forms living and dying among the other wildlife of Africa. We ended the ice Age, only 10,000 years ago, as humans, living on every continent except Antarctica.

The extinction of ice age mammals and other megafauna is not just a periphereral topic. It is important because, as Mr Ward duly points out, in a sense WE are Ice age megafauna. The mammoths and mastodons and their extinctions are particularly interesting, not just from their romantic appeal, but because they are indeed representative of much that we can learn about what happened to other megafauna at the same time, and indeed about ourselves. A selection of both the probiscideans (elephant line) and hominids wandered out of Africa during the last few million years. Both hominids and the various probiscideans are large and adaptable to varying environmental conditions, including ice ages. Both seem wanderers by nature. Both are intelligent and social animals. Both have few natural predators. Both were very successful during climatic change, including the Ice Ages. Emphasis on WERE. What happened to the mammoths, and other megafauna? This book seeks to answer such a question- the causes, and moreover, the lessons we can learn from this about our own selves. Their extinction is not simple. Overhunting by humans is considered the most likely and significant cause, although there may well have been other contributing factors. Mr Ward contends that the end of the last ice age(s) created stress for mammoths and some other megafaunal species, which humans were then able to push over the edge through overhunting. It is true to say that without humans, they never would have gone extinct, as they survived many other climatic changes. However, the stress that was created by these climatic changes reduced their natural 'immunity' to such predators as humans in the first place, making it easier for humans to drive them to extinction. Basically, we kick other species when they

are down.

Download to continue reading...

The Call of Distant Mammoths: Why the Ice Age Mammals Disappeared Evolution of Tertiary Mammals of North America: Volume 2, Small Mammals, Xenarthrans, and Marine Mammals Mammoths: Giants of the Ice Age (Lost Worlds) Evolution of Tertiary Mammals of North America: Volume 1, Terrestrial Carnivores, Ungulates, and Ungulate like Mammals Why Did He Stop Calling? Diagnose Why Men Grow Distant, Don't Commit, and Lose Interest - 14 Ways To Never Chase Again (Bring Out The Sass) No-Churn Ice Cream: 50 Delicious Ice Cream Recipes WITHOUT ICE CREAM MAKER (Recipe Top 50's Book 25) Ice Ice Babies: Ice Planet Barbarians: A Slice of Life Short Story Attract Men: Creating Emotional Attraction: Why Men Become Distant, How To Avoid The Mistakes That Kill Attraction, Intensify Your Connection & Trigger ... and Dating Advice for Women Book 2) Trivia: The 100-Year-Old Man Who Climbed Out the Window and Disappeared by Jonas Jonasson (Trivia-On-Books) Conversations on The 100-Year-Old Man Who Climbed Out the Window and Disappeared by Jonas Jonasson | Conversation Starters Mothers of the Disappeared The First Fossil Hunters: Dinosaurs, Mammoths, and Myth in Greek and Roman Times Mammoths, Sabertooths, and Hominids: 65 Million Years of Mammalian Evolution in Europe Wake Up Your Call Center: How to Be a Better Call Center Agent (Customer Access Management) Malleus Monstrorum: Creatures, Gods, & Forbidden Knowledge (Call of Cthulhu Horror Roleplaying) (Call of Cthulhu Roleplaying) Ice Cream: Ketogenic Homemade Ice Cream (Paleo / Gluten Free): 20 Low-Carb, High-Fat, Guilt-Free Recipes Ketosis: Keto: Ketogenic Diet: Ketogenic Ice Creams: Lose Fat Quickly with Top 50 Keto Ice Cream Recipes (diabetes, diabetes diet, paleo, paleo diet, low carb, low carb diet, weight loss Book 1) Vegan Ice Cream: 50 Delicious Vegan Ice Cream Recipes (Veganized Recipes Book 1) Ketogenic Ice Cream: Over 50 Homemade Ice Cream Recipes Low Carb Ice Cream: 21 Great Low Carb Sugar Free Ice Cream Recipes: (low carbohydrate, high protein, low carbohydrate foods, low carb, low carb cookbook, ... Ketogenic Diet to Overcome Belly Fat)

<u>Dmca</u>