



Empires of Time: Calendars, Clocks, and Cultures

Anthony F. Aveni

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Compares contemporary timekeeping methods and related cultural perspectives to those of seminomadic tribes and classical civilizations, tracing the influence of calendars, datebooks, clocks, and other means of measuring humankind's most valuable commodity.

Empires of Time: Calendars, Clocks, and Cultures Details

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From Reader Review Empires of Time: Calendars, Clocks, and Cultures for online ebook

Karen Christino says

The title tells it all! Really not astrology at all, but everything but, since time is essentially based on our experience of astronomical cycles. The first Aveni book I read; it left me wanting more.

Peter McLoughlin says

Fairly eclectic historical and cultural study of timekeeping and creation stories from around the world. It touches on a lot of topics. It is however a mile wide and an inch deep. still it is not bad.

Bold Bookworm says

... Aveni gives solid information with some good examples and covers a decent range of cultures. He does foist a bit of filler and speculation when discussing the development of, for example, the Mayan, Aztec and Incan calendars. In all three instances, the caramel nugget of their calendar-astronomy-social engineering system was inherited and Aveni doesn't dwell too much on the clearly quite sophisticated predecessors of these cultures. Nonetheless, he gives a strong technical analysis of the systems he explores and leaves the reader hungry for more of his empathetic and oftentimes poetic descriptions of the cultures and creations of the ancient skywatchers. Good, because he has other books on the topic.

Read my full review here: <http://boldbookworm.com/eot121610.html>

~ BB

<http://boldbookworm.com>

Steve says

Great overview of calendars and time concepts, especially among the Maya, Aztec, Inca, and Chinese. Enjoyable for anyone with an interest in this subject, whether or not they are hardcore science or archaeology people.

James says

Aveni compares and contrasts the way that ancient Mayan, Aztec, and Inca societies thought of, and related to, time. So different! He also compares these to our current society's view of time and makes the case that we have become separated from natural systems in our view of ourselves and our place in time.

Caroline says

tracking cycles of sun, star, human: biological constant, cultural variables

Peter says

A great comparison of ancient and modern cultures, attitudes toward time, their calendars and the natural origins of their longest views on time. More poetic than most books on this topic, it still has enough math to satisfy the academics who want to see a thorough testing of his hypotheses.
