



From Atlantis to the Sphinx

Colin Wilson

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Recent discoveries by Boston University geologist Robert Schoch of ancient water damage to the Sphinx have thrown the scientific world into tizzy, for they suggest that Egypt's legendary monument might be thousands of years older than previously believed. In his astonishing new bestseller exploring the implications of these explosive new findings, Colin Wilson takes us on a grand tour of the knowledge amassed by researchers over the centuries to ask questions about mysteries that have puzzled humanity since Plato: Was there an ancient civilization destroyed by some great catastrophe whose survivors built the Sphinx some 10,500 years before Christ? If so, who were these people who had developed a highly advanced culture and who traveled the world from China to the South Pole (then free of ice)? Were they really so unique in their thinking, as Wilson suggests, that, compared with modern man, they were as alien as Martians? Via paleontology and ritual cannibalism, Wilson's tour through time and space sets out to reconstruct that ancient knowledge. In a fascinating exploration of the remote depths of history, From Atlantis to the Sphinx takes us from the structure of the pyramids and the purpose of their tortuous interior shafts, to the prehistoric cities of America by way of ancient sea maps apparently showing the outlines of Antarctica before it was covered by ice.

From Atlantis to the Sphinx Details

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Erik Graff says

This is more high weirdness from Kilgore Tr...er, Colin Wilson, now mostly about the evidences for an antediluvian civilization. The material Wilson adduces is derivative. Nothing original here, but he is good at summarization, drawing connections between various sources and hypotheses. Basically, the key evidence is that the Sphinx shows weathering at its base that many geologists say can only have occurred from water. There hasn't been enough water in Egypt for tens of thousands of years. Consequently, there must have been a pre-dynastic civilization, perhaps the Atlantis Plato mentioned...

Chris Craddock says

Very interesting and I am reading more on the subjects. Already read another book by Colin Wilson on Atlantis.

Diletta says

RILETTURA.

La prima volta che lessi questo libro ne sapevo molto meno di adesso. Dopo esser stata ricoperta di nozioni al liceo e ora pure all'uni riesco a riconoscerne ancora di più il valore. Non fatevi fregare per favore, perché questo libro non intende fregarvi affatto. Non è roba da allucinati che vogliono convincervi che la piramide di Giza è atterrata con un atterraggio perfetto mollata lì da un marziano annoiato. Partendo da dubbi quanto mai ragionevoli e scoperte magari accantonate partono riflessioni sulla civiltà umana e le sue conoscenze. Se perdonate a Wilson qualche riga dove smostra fin troppo per farvi vedere quante ne sa lui e il suo (un po' giustificato comunque) mettere le mani avanti per dirvi che no, non è allucinato, questa lettura sarà veramente proficua.

PRIMA LETTURA.

Un ottimo libro anche per i non appassionati di pseudo archeologia. Sì, perchè non si tratta solo di questo ma anche di archeologia (quella accettata ovunque), storia, geologia.

Un libro illuminante per certi versi, che potrebbe spingervi a volerne sapere di più, senza chiuderlo e dire "le solite stroncate sugli alieni che fanno piramidi".

Chris says

Very interesting and engaging book about theories of an antediluvian civilization and their possible influence on history. Great source of information about societies, psychology, geology, astronomy, and other sciences.

Chris Marchan says

The author has a fresh view into understanding the builders of the monuments of the Giza plateau. His central point is that the ancient Egyptians utilized a much different cognitive process than we are currently accustomed to. We take for granted that everything needs to be critically analyzed, dissected, and categorized. Wilson discusses the fact that the human brain's two hemispheres are actually two brains in the same head. The left brain, as we know, is calculating and the right is more creative and intuitive. He makes a great case for the heightened power of intuitive processing, thus little need of written language. The symbology inherent in the hieroglyphs now takes on a much richer meaning with multi-faceted inferences.

His descriptions of the Great Pyramid and the Giza plateau are some of the most detailed I have read. He has referenced many of the key researchers on the subject of mysteries of ancient Egypt to the point that a serious student of this topic will want to use his credible sources to broaden his understanding.

Overall, this was a very good book, but I felt that the final chapters were weak and that although Wilson made a good case for the change in the human psyche over the ages, he did not complete his theory by tying together further physical evidence. He is a prolific author on many subjects. Perhaps he lost interest in this one. Too bad, most of the book is quite compelling.

Carrie says

Interesting discussion on Egypt and religion but the last few chapters leave reader with unanswered questions and no tie back to the premise of the book.

Steve Lee says

An interesting, thought-provoking read.

Jim says

I really liked this book even though I gleaned hardly any new information. I liked it partly because of the way Wilson pulled things together. Also, it seemed to click with some of the things I've been thinking about lately.

Mehmet Palabiyikoglu says

I will criticize this book in this way:

BOOs:

- Sometimes I feel like the author is giving out unnecessary information.
- When it comes to astronomical/geographical or planetary terms (equinoxes, precessions, strata layers) he barely explains them. As someone who likes and interested in these subjects, I found it occasionally hard to understand what is Mr. Wilson talking about, or where is he getting at. He makes you forget what was the argument in the first place.
- Do I smell sexism? Did he really suggest that female body got less hairy and more squishy because the males who came back from the hunt wanted a 'good reward'? Did he really mention about a 16 year old non-virgin girl as a 'damaged good'? Am I just exaggerating it?

WOOs:

- I liked the findings of ancient maps, suggesting a pre ice age Antarctica.
- Didn't know that there were 3 million old handmade tools. A good information indeed, which prepares a base for some old civilizations.
- I liked it when he stated that even Darwin wasn't sure about his natural selection theory. Some Neo-Darwinians talk about him like he was so sure of himself and his findings.
- Overall an entertaining book for people who likes science and occult side by side.

Tim says

Reading Wilson's account of the ancient mysteries is like listening to a fascinating drunk - he's so well read and passionate on the subject you can't help be drawn along. But at the same time if you take him too seriously you will be pulling your hair out with frustration. The book is scattershot - starting with Egypt and the ancient world but digressing onto clairvoyance, the evolution of man and even astrology. It's a wonderful way to explore some of the greatest mysteries of history, like the weathering on the sphinx, the Piri Reis map and the seashells on the shores of Lake Titicaca 13,000 feet above sea level, but sometimes it's a struggle to understand what Wilson's is trying to say.

He does, however, have this wonderful theory that we, as humans, have forgotten a way of thinking. We sometimes touch on this state of heightened consciousness, what some people call "the zone", but Wilson is of the opinion that we once were able to think like this all the time. It's only that left-brain thinking has taken over and we have lost out as a result. He tries to use this theory to focus the ideas that are firing haphazardly throughout the book, but in the end it results in more wild side-tracking. It also results in some serious confirmation bias as Wilson details some of the flimsiest evidence to support his theory.

Wilson is no scientist. He's no Richard Dawkins and anyone coming to this expecting that level of scientific rigour will be extremely disappointed. Wilson is, however, quite brilliant, and possibly also an eccentric. I imagine him writing this book hermitied away in a room filled with thousands of books, quoting from them liberally, but never actually going to the places he writes about. This makes him less grounded than other writers in this field, like Graham Hancock, and also gives him less perspective. He ends up sounding like von Daniken, which I know he would hate to hear, but postulating scientific grounds for astrology is, for me, out

there on the fringe with aliens building the pyramids.

It's fascinating reading, but more an inspiration for writing Dan Brownesque fiction than learning the sciences.

Jeroen says

After reading 'The Atlantis Blueprint', 'Maps of the Ancient Sea Kings', 'When the Sky Fell' and 'The Giza Power Plant', I was really (and I mean really) disappointed by this book. It starts out by giving an adequate summary of the data presented by others so far, and then goes into overdrive by throwing a fit of uncontrolled imagination. Going from here to there in gigantic leaps (of faith) and misrepresenting basic knowledge of physics and biology (I mean the author really doesn't understand evolution at all - and he would do very good to read the wonderful 'The Ancestors Tale' by Richard Dawkins). It was a frustrating read, leaving me to wonder whether I should contact the author and tell him that he has formally "gone over the edge" and in my opinion is an official part of the "lunatic fringe". But on the other hand..., why bother... Do yourself a favor, don't buy this book...

Michael says

A myriad of topics covered in this book from: the possible whereabouts of Atlantis, the Sphinx, how they built the pyramids, evolution, astrology, the I Ching and DNA, to ancient knowledge. Maybe its downfall is the fact it covers so much ground and leaves you piecing together the dots, but interesting reading none the less. Full of some fascinating facts and wonderful insight.
