



# **The Philosophy of Civilization: The Decay & the Restoration of Civilization/Civilization & Ethics**

*Albert Schweitzer , C.T. Campion*

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Albert Schweitzer's social and ethical philosophy is best expressed in The Philosophy of Civilization. Not widely available in recent years, this edition will give contemporary readers the opportunity to discover his prophetic thought.

In Book I, The Decay and Restoration of Civilization, Schweitzer argues that the essential feature of every culture is its world view, and that a culture can be healthy and stable only as its world view is optimistic and ethical. Without this outlook, it is impossible to avoid the world's destruction.

In Book II, Civilization and Ethics, he reviews the world's major ethical systems in search of the essential principle of "the moral," after which the world and life-affirming ethic of "reverence for life" is set forth. Through Schweitzer's guidance, man will strive for spiritual and ethical self-fulfillment which in turn may be actualized in all the processes of the world, making us a truly civilized people. Schweitzer's ultimate goal is to help us recognize that the source of universal misery and catastrophe is the absence of a theory of the universe.

## **The Philosophy of Civilization: The Decay & the Restoration of Civilization/Civilization & Ethics Details**

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I'll never forget this book. I share a connection with this work like nothing I could ever adequately explain. Part of me feels a sort of spiritual connection to him as a human being. We are the only 2 people to have ever talked about these issues like this; I having done so before I ever knew of his existence. He said it best: "Through reverence for life, we become, in effect, different persons."

Well, in this case, reverence for life has made us similar persons. Our intense humanistic (and animarchistic, though he had never heard that word) biophilia similarized our minds to the extent that it was sometimes difficult to tell them apart.

I am in awe, doctor.

The only reason I have given this 4 stars and not 5 is because of the difficult middle portion, but that probably has more to do with the translator than anything else. A new translation is definitely needed. *The Philosophy of Civilization* is a woefully under-appreciated work of art and philosophy. He gave us the recipe for everlasting peace. I am convinced that future generations will look back on him as the man who started it all; one of the greatest minds in human history; this being his magnum opus.

Save up an appetite for this and then consume it with a ravenousness. It's a large meal, but it's delicious.

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