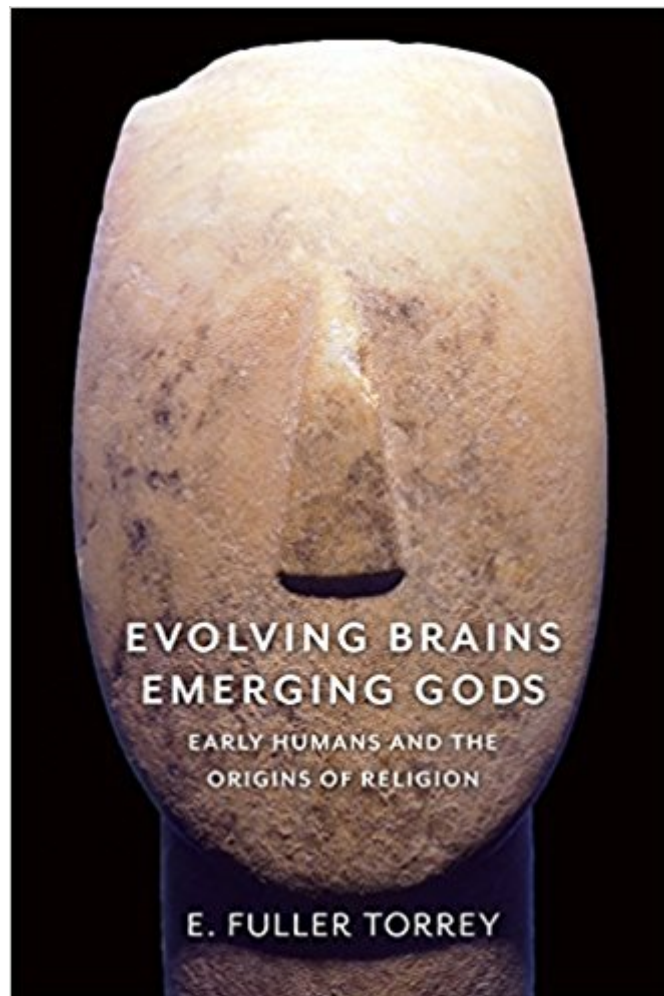




Ebook Directory
the best source of ebook

The book was found

Evolving Brains, Emerging Gods: Early Humans And The Origins Of Religion



Synopsis

Religions and mythologies from around the world teach that God or gods created humans. Atheist, humanist, and materialist critics, meanwhile, have attempted to turn theology on its head, claiming that religion is a human invention. In this book, E. Fuller Torrey draws on cutting-edge neuroscience research to propose a startling answer to the ultimate question. *Evolving Brains, Emerging Gods* locates the origin of gods within the human brain, arguing that religious belief is a by-product of evolution. Based on an idea originally proposed by Charles Darwin, Torrey marshals evidence that the emergence of gods was an incidental consequence of several evolutionary factors. Using data ranging from ancient skulls and artifacts to brain imaging, primatology, and child development studies, this book traces how new cognitive abilities gave rise to new behaviors. For instance, autobiographical memory, the ability to project ourselves backward and forward in time, gave *Homo sapiens* a competitive advantage. However, it also led to comprehension of mortality, spurring belief in an alternative to death. Torrey details the neurobiological sequence that explains why the gods appeared when they did, connecting archaeological findings including clothing, art, farming, and urbanization to cognitive developments. This book does not dismiss belief but rather presents religious belief as an inevitable outcome of brain evolution. Providing clear and accessible explanations of evolutionary neuroscience, *Evolving Brains, Emerging Gods* will shed new light on the mechanics of our deepest mysteries.

Book Information

Hardcover: 312 pages

Publisher: Columbia University Press (September 5, 2017)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0231183364

ISBN-13: 978-0231183369

Product Dimensions: 6.3 x 1.1 x 9.1 inches

Shipping Weight: 1.3 pounds (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: Be the first to review this item

Best Sellers Rank: #375,769 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #28 in [Books > Religion & Spirituality > Other Religions, Practices & Sacred Texts > Theism](#) #740 in [Books > Medical Books > Psychology > Neuropsychology](#) #911 in [Books > Health, Fitness & Dieting > Psychology & Counseling > Neuropsychology](#)

Customer Reviews

A unique scholarly approach to the subject that is sure to be influential and highly regarded. (Robert Sapolsky, John A. and Cynthia Fry Gunn Professor of Biology, Neurology, and Neurosurgery, Stanford University) In *Evolving Brains, Emerging Gods*, E. Fuller Torrey offers a scholarly and insightful treatise on the neuroscientific relationship between humanity and deities. In his twenty-first book, one senses a profound vision of the hereafter in the arc of this eminent mental health advocate and researcher's career, from whom we hope there will be more to come. (Jeffrey Lieberman, Jeffrey Lieberman, chair of psychiatry, Columbia University Medical Center and psychiatrist in chief of the New York Presbyterian Hospital, past president of the American Psychiatric Association) An excellent text that throws new light on where religious ideas come from. (Patrick McNamara, Director of the Laboratory of Evolutionary Neurobehavior, Boston University) A masterful synthesis that merges the archaeological and anthropological evidence for the evolving elaboration of religious activity with the fossil evidence for the neurobiological evolution of the human brain and the psychological evidence for the evolution of the human mind housed within that evolving brain. (Michael Rosenberg, University of Delaware) Presented in a manner that is accessible to nonscientists....[an] insightful, thought-provoking work. (Publishers Weekly)

Evolving Brains, Emerging Gods locates the origin of gods within the human brain, arguing that religious belief is a byproduct of evolution. Using data ranging from ancient skulls and artifacts to brain imaging, primatology, and child development studies, this book traces how new cognitive abilities gave rise to new behaviors. Torrey details the neurobiological sequence that explains why the gods appeared when they did, connecting archeological findings including clothing, art, farming, and urbanization to cognitive developments.

[Download to continue reading...](#)

Evolving Brains, Emerging Gods: Early Humans and the Origins of Religion The Rift Valley and the Archaeological Evidence of the First Humans (First Humans and Early Civilizations) The Origins of Civilization: From Early Humans to the Babylonians (Exploring the Ancient and Medieval Worlds) Emerging Market Bank Lending and Credit Risk Control: Evolving Strategies to Mitigate Credit Risk, Optimize Lending Portfolios, and Check Delinquent Loans *Sekret Machines: Gods: Volume 1 of Gods Man & War (Gods, Man & War)* Hinduism: History and Gods (Ultimate Guide to the Hindu Religion, Gods, Rituals and Beliefs) (Hinduism Beliefs and Practices Book 1) Super humans, and Super Heroes edition 3: How too Cause Super humans and Super Heroes with Quantum Physics The Early River Valley Civilizations (The First Humans and Early Civilizations) The Early River Valley Civilizations (First Humans and Early Civilizations) Little Humans (Humans of New York Book

2) Emerging and Re-emerging Infectious Diseases of Livestock Step by Step Emerging Markets Investing: A Beginner's Guide to the Best Investments in Emerging Markets Stocks (Step by Step Investing Book 4) Step by Step Emerging Markets Investing: A Beginner's Guide to the Best Investments in Emerging Markets Breaking the WTO: How Emerging Powers Disrupted the Neoliberal Project (Emerging Frontiers in the Global Economy) Good Natured: The Origins of Right and Wrong in Humans and Other Animals Mother's First-Born Daughters: Early Shaker Writings on Women and Religion (Religion in North America) The First Humans: Origin and Early Evolution of the Genus Homo (Vertebrate Paleobiology and Paleoanthropology) The Neolithic Revolution (The First Humans and Early Civilizations) The Paleolithic Revolution (The First Humans and Early Civilizations) The Mesolithic Period (First Humans and Early Civilizations)

[Contact Us](#)

[DMCA](#)

[Privacy](#)

[FAQ & Help](#)