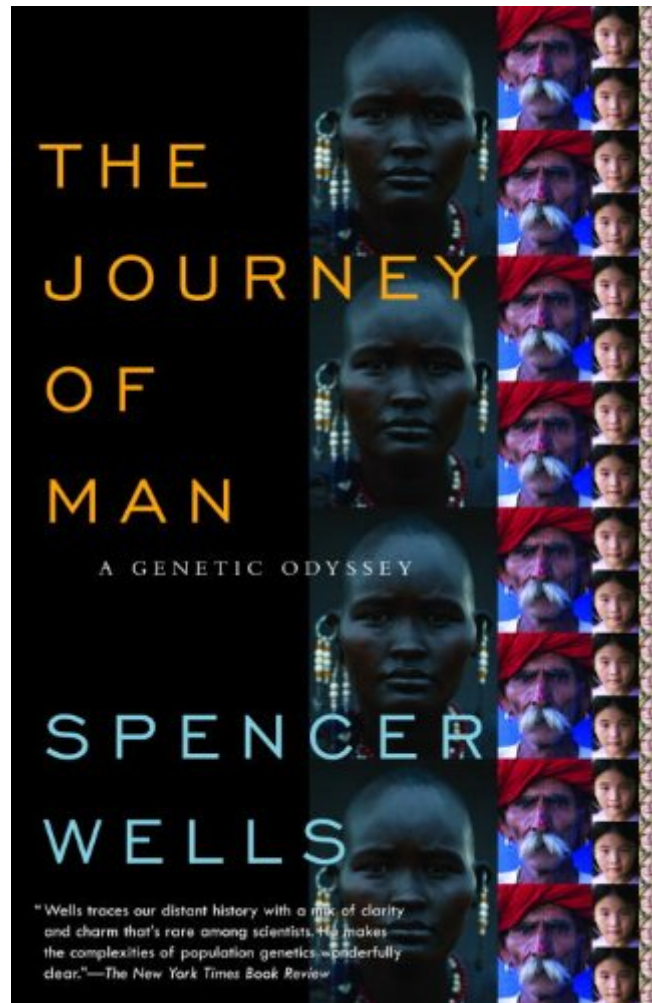




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The Journey Of Man: A Genetic Odyssey



Synopsis

Around 60,000 years ago, a man "genetically identical to us" lived in Africa. Every person alive today is descended from him. How did this real-life Adam wind up as the father of us all? What happened to the descendants of other men who lived at the same time? And why, if modern humans share a single prehistoric ancestor, do we come in so many sizes, shapes, and races? Examining the hidden secrets of human evolution in our genetic code, Spencer Wells reveals how developments in the revolutionary science of population genetics have made it possible to create a family tree for the whole of humanity. Replete with marvelous anecdotes and remarkable information, from the truth about the real Adam and Eve to the way differing racial types emerged, *The Journey of Man* is an enthralling, epic tour through the history and development of early humankind.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

A true journey through our history through genetics. Finding our one common ancestor is very exciting. A good reading experience.

A excellent well written book that explains a complex new area of discovery

Facinating. Enjoyed reading this book. Covers the topic with use of a analogy of cooking reciepy, that works to bring clarity to ancient DNA.

Spencer Wells has penned a welcome addition to the genetic history of humankind. The mitochondrial DNA story is well known by now, and his analysis of the travels of the Y chromosome fills in an important gap. For me, this book drives the final nail in the coffin of the multiregional theory of human evolution. Although it's eminently readable, it's helpful if the reader has taken a semester course in genetics - and not one that's 30 years old, as it is in my case. I found that a second, slower reading increased my understanding of the concepts. The illustrations are particularly useful and I bookmarked some important ones to serve as a constant reference during my reading. As a student of human evolution and pre-history, Wells' book is a welcome addition to my library of "how we came to be what we are."

My husband loved it

Genetic clues, when put in context by earlier discoveries made by other branches of sciences, helped piece together the answer to the question where we've all come from. I hope these insights find a more mainstream audience, to foster unity if not tolerance in our violently fragmented world.

This read like a thriller. It was didffcult for me to put it down simply because I wanted to know what was next. (Unfortunately, I had to put it down because the train was pulling into the station and I had to get off) I was very impressed that the wirting was not over my head. It is definitely written with the layman in mind. Not too technical, but still sufficiently informative that I now feel I understand the movement of mankind. It has prompted me to join the Genographic Project along with my children and my Mother. We hope we can add to this fascinating story of mankind.

This book is an excellent read for those interested in the very early migration of man. This particular purchase was made to replace a copy of the book that was water damaged by the neighbor's broken water heater. Since I have already read the book, this new copy will be returned to the person from whom I borrowed it.

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