



Eden in the East: The Drowned Continent of Southeast Asia

Stephen Oppenheimer

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This book completely changes the established and conventional view of prehistory by relocating the Lost Eden—the world's first civilisation—to Southeast Asia. At the end of the Ice Age, Southeast Asia formed a continent twice the size of India, which included Indochina, Malaysia, Indonesia, and Borneo. In *Eden in the East*, Stephen Oppenheimer puts forward the astonishing argument that here in southeast Asia—rather than in Mesopotamia where it is usually placed—was the lost civilization that fertilized the Great cultures of the Middle East 6,000 years ago. He produces evidence from ethnography, archaeology, oceanography, creation stories, myths, linguistics, and DNA analysis to argue that this founding civilization was destroyed by a catastrophic flood, caused by a rapid rise in the sea level at the end of the last ice age.

Eden in the East: The Drowned Continent of Southeast Asia Details

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Author : Stephen Oppenheimer

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From Reader Review Eden in the East: The Drowned Continent of Southeast Asia for online ebook

Jerome K says

This is kind of academic. But I was reading more for the subject matter: about the possibility of a South East Asian continent that was the original cradle of civilisation, before it was drowned by rising water levels at the end of the last ice age. The first part of the book which deals with data on the flooding is a bit of a long haul. The second part which dealt with comparisons of similar folklore between various cultures to see where the original story came from is much more interesting for me. I'd recommend this to anyone with a keen interest in South East Asian indigenous cultures or pre-colonial history.

Jatianno says

I wanna read this book so much , but i have no enough money to buy the book :-(do you all wanna borrow me ?

Mark Isaak says

Oppenheimer advances the thesis that rapid sea level rise about 8000 years ago forced people living on the Sunda Shelf in southeast Asia (then an extensive area of dry land) to migrate east and west, bringing much of their culture with them. The geology, genetics, and linguistics he rallies in support seem sound. When he gets to mythology, though, his ground becomes much shakier. He claims evidence to suggest that themes common to the Middle East and Europe (pretty much everything in Genesis 1-8, and a little more) originated in Sunda. But mostly his argument is that when a theme occurs in Sunda, it originated there, and there was a physical inspiration for it; when the same theme occurs elsewhere, it came via diffusion. In a couple places, he buttresses his case with statistical correlations of motifs occurring together, but those statistics are weakened by selective interpretation of the myths (e.g., any mention of vegetation becomes a tree) and by omission of South American myths (perhaps unknown to him at the time) which include several of the same motifs. His case is strong enough to merit further study, particularly regarding an early settlement of Polynesia, and the myths he discusses are interesting in themselves. But the section on spread of myths must remain in the "wild speculation" category at least until reliable methods are found to determine how and where myths spread.

Simbahenom says

kemarin sore nemu di perpustakaan, katanya sih baru datang. Langsung dipinjem, dan entah kapan selesainya. Tebel banget, apalagi abis sakit gini, agak2 nggak yakin kalo selesai, tapi..err dicoba dulu deh :p

Ilham Nurwansah says

Another blowing mind theory. It could be true that South East Asia region was a great continent. The only way to dig more artefacts is to drain the area. Let's do it! lol.

Rampa' Maega says

seems interesting.

Graham says

A most excellent book. Read Bruce Kenyon's book Into Africa before you make your mind up.

Merahnaga says

Jika premis atau hipotesa buku ini benar, maka sejarah dunia harus diubah beserta turunannya, antropologi dll. Dan jika Atlantis ada di Asia Tenggara, sebagiannya di Indonesia, oh banyak mitos agama akan runtuh .. buku bagus yang harus dibaca dan kelak akan jadi sangat penting di antara tahun 2030-2050 ke atas saat trend antropologi sains politik ekonomi lingkungan dll mengarah ke Indonesia. buku yang harus dimiliki bersama dengan Atlantis: The Continent Finally Found dari Arysio Santos

Melody Violine says

I translated it :D

Chrisl says

7/18/17 - adding fifth star for times it comes to mind ... My world view includes the now underwater world of East Asia Premier Civilization, dating to the Great Flood ... when did the first explorer of the new world paddle back to Asia from the Pacific Northwest America, starting perhaps 15,000 years ago.

<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sundaland>

Bought an "Eden in the East" for myself after reading a library copy. It now contains many "stickies" and notes written in margins. Some interesting "what if" material.

What potential for a fantasy : the three era sinking of the world's first civilization, a trip around the north Pacific by survivors. Oppenheimer's theories seem quite plausible and could provide useful world building blocks.

Coming back with quotes

Atul Rao says

One of the most enlightening non-fiction books about lost continents I've ever read. Credible in its science and cross-cultural studies.

Tantri Setyorini says

Jadi kalau gitu cerita tentang terusnya Adam-Hawa dan Bahtera Nuh itu berakar dari kebudayaan Austronesia alias Asia Tenggara? Trus secara genetis dan etnografis Adam dan Hawa tuh orang Asia Tenggara? Mungkin aja sih. Tapi kayaknya perlu baca teori2 yang lain dulu deh sebelum percaya.

Seno says

baca yg terjemahan bhs Indonesia. amat sangat membingungkan krn terjemahannya yg dpt ngambil langsung dr google translate

Kathe says

Very dense, took a long time to absorb it, but very important and opens up great wonderings.

Ahmad Lehi says

Excellent

Tim says

Presents an intriguing idea overall: a Neolithic civilization in southeast Asia 7000 years ago or more, spread its influences west to Egypt and Mesopotamia and east into the Polynesian islands through trade and, after post-Ice Age floods, through migrations. It examines archaeology, language, genetics, and myths in connecting these areas. But it is not well organized for such a large canvas and therefore the story cannot support the book's length. Grounded in science, but not without some leaps is speculation.

Tranh Nguyen says

A great study about the derivative of Southeast-asia culture also the Chinese and Indian. It also issues an academic perspective on Southern advanced techniques which were believed originating from China.
