



Hidden History: Lost Civilizations, Secret Knowledge, and Ancient Mysteries

Brian Haughton

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Despite being enmeshed in a culture steeped in technology and science, the magic and mysteries of the ancient world can still haunt our imagination. Through their architecture, artefacts and deeds, ancient cultures speak to us across thousands of dusty years--from the labyrinthine palace of Knossos on Crete and the lofty pyramids of Egypt to the remotest jungle temples of Peru and the megalithic mystery of Stonehenge. *Hidden History* brings together a fascinating selection of these ancient enigmas, arranging them into three sections: Mysterious Places, Unexplained Artefacts, and Enigmatic People.

You'll discover fascinating facts about:

The Great Sphinx--Mysticism and archaeology collide in the ongoing debate over this enigmatic monument.

Mystery Hill--Who built the intriguing megalithic complex lying 40 miles north of Boston?

The Antikythera Mechanism--An ancient Greek computer found beneath the Aegean Sea.

The Giant Hill-Figures of England--The Uffington White Horse and other huge chalk figures cut into the English countryside thousands of years ago.

The Queen of Sheba--Clues to the real identity of this mighty ruler famous for her Biblical visit to King Solomon

Newgrange--Hundreds of years older than the Giza Pyramid and Stonehenge. Who were the builders of this Irish megalithic monument?

Hidden History fills the gap between archaeology and alternative history using the latest available data and a common sense, open-minded approach. The book discusses not only ancient history's major mysteries, but also some of the puzzles of alternative history--like the "Coso Artefact," the possibility of ancient flight, and the mysterious "Voynich Manuscript"--as well as mysterious peoples from the Magi and the Druids to the Knights Templar and the Green Children. With more than 50 photographs and illustrations, this is the ideal reference work for those interested in the archaeology of these great enigmas.

Hidden History: Lost Civilizations, Secret Knowledge, and Ancient Mysteries Details

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From Reader Review Hidden History: Lost Civilizations, Secret Knowledge, and Ancient Mysteries for online ebook

Paul says

While you'll probably find this shelved along books such as those by Erich Von Daniken this really isn't one for people who prefer the more unusual theories for unexplained historical / archaeological occurrences. Instead this book uses archaeological research to provide more mundane theories for the unexplained. The book is split into three sections about places, things and people. Each section then has 15 - 20 subjects with about 5 pages devoted to each subject. One thing I do like is that the author took time to introduce the various unusual theories associated with a subject and gently discount them. The background behind some of these theories is as interesting as the actual subject they attempt to explain.

Essentially this book is packed with interesting historical tidbits to spark your imagination and result in you spending hours on Wikipedia reading about the different subjects and Google Image Search looking at photos of them.

Aleksandra says

I read the version in my home language, it was quite interesting and a fun thing to read.

Ken Cartisano says

A good solid book. Provides brief (three or four pages on average) descriptions of ancient mysteries and artifacts. Some you've heard of, a few you might not have. The author does not sensationalize his topics and in fact debunks a lot of off-beat speculative theories that aren't supported by the facts. This is nothing at all like an Erik Von Daniken book. Very brief, concise and informative.

Richie says

Quick read; 5-10pp survey of current information about pretty much every historical "mystery" you can think of. The author lets you draw your own conclusions instead of being heavy handed with the evidence either way.

Beril says

3 sene sürdü okumam, o arada 2 ev de?i?tirdim, onlarca kitap okudum, dizi izledim ama bu kitaba elim gitmedi bir türlü. tarihin mistik k?sm?na gerçekçi bir bak?? aç?s? getirmi? yazar kitapta ama ben san?r?m o mistik k?sm? daha çok seviyorum ve o k?sma inanmak istiyorum. kötü bir kitap de?il ama sürükleyici ve merak uyand?r?c? hiç de?il. efsanelerimin bir bir y?k?l???n? okumakta zorland?m san?r?m.

Michele says

I am not a huge history buff, but I enjoyed this because it involved art and mysteries in the ancient civilizations. I will definitely read this again at a later date so I can process and remember all the interesting facts.

Sesana says

Really, this is like any "weird stuff" compilation. The focus, though, is on historical mysteries. Mostly real ones, not manufactured ones. I can't tell you what a relief it is to read a book like this that doesn't mention the Bermuda Triangle. It's also a relief to read a book like this that isn't entirely enamored of woo-woo explanations. Reality is usually far more interesting. I spotted a couple of places where the author was a bit too incredulous, but in the field of weird stuff books, that's pretty good.

João Soares says

Um misto de mistério com a imaginação do autor.

Inara says

Clear and brief summarization of mysteries all over the world. To learn more you will have to do your own research with further publications listed in the appendix of this book. For me it was just a bit too brief and told me nothing I didn't already know or read in more detail in other books.

Sarah says

I thought this was going to be a conspiracy book, full of ideas about ETs landing in ancient Egypt and then flying to England to draw giant men in the fields. But it wasn't. It did talk about those things, but then he clearly pointed out what evidence, or lack of evidence there is for such things. He also gave a great, concise history about some of Earth's neatest things: the search for Atlantis, Noah's Ark. Stonehenge, Avebury, Eldorado, Troy, the Pyramids. He also talks about mysterious peoples, like the Bog people and the hobbit guys found in Indonesia. The book's from 2008, so some of the things are probably outdated. He should totally do a new updated edition!

Deren Kellogg says

I really love history and I really love historical mysteries. However, it is difficult to find a good book on the

subject that is not simply a platform for expressing its author's support for the ridiculous "theories" of people like Erich Van Daniken, Charles Hapgood, or Gavin Menzies. Imagined how pleased I was to discover this volume, and its companion, "History's Mysteries". Haughton writes about fascinating historical questions such as "Who built Great Zimbabwe?" or "Is the Round Tower of Providence, RI evidence for pre-Columbian European voyages to North America?". He writes about these questions without resorting to tales of ancient alien visitations, lost continents (though he does discuss beliefs about Atlantis, Lemuria, and Mu), or ancient technologically-advanced civilizations. Haughton examines the history of these controversies, various theories that have been advanced to explain them, and where opinions now stand on them. Some of these "mysteries" were the products of racism or exaggeration (i.e. the theory that a lost, possibly European or Asian, civilization built the mounds visible today in the Midwestern and Southern US; actually, they were built by Native Americans), others have been largely solved (the supposed historical/spiritual significance of Renne-le-Chateau in France was the product of a hoax), while others remain mysterious (Who were the "Green Children" allegedly found near the English village of Woolpit in the 12th century?) Haughton writes rationally about all of them, providing a wealth of fascinating information while avoiding the stridency so often associated with writing on these subjects. Highly recommended.

Shane says

This book was quite interesting, although, like any book of smaller articles, the interesting level varied. I learned new info on several subjects I'd already had some interest in, including Troy, Petra, the Sphinx, and the Shroud of Turin. I also learned about several things I'd never even heard of before, like the "Baghdad Battery", a possible 2000 year old electric battery, and the "Voynich Manuscript", a 200+ page book in a completely uncipherable language. Weird.

Perhaps this shouldn't even be mentioned, but one of my biggest beefs with this book is that it had a high number of typos. A few in a book is understandable; a few on each page is not.

Ami says

I really enjoyed this book, and learned a lot of interesting things. A very quick read, while covering several different places, things, and people. If you are interested in learning about ancient mysteries and civilizations, you should read this book. The author does a nice job of staying (mostly) unbiased, just giving us what facts, stories and theories are attached to each mystery.

Ethan Mingerink says

Nice history buff meets conspiracy theorist nonfiction book. Read this before adding to my classroom library and I think it will be well-loved as it is full of short but interesting analyses of common legends. Highly recommend.

Velvetink says

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