

CONTENTS

PREFACE	WHY IS WORLD HISTORY LIKE AN ONION?	9
PROLOGUE	YALI'S QUESTION <i>The regionally differing courses of history</i>	13
PART ONE	FROM EDEN TO CAJAMARCA	33
CHAPTER 1	UP TO THE STARTING LINE <i>What happened on all the continents before 11,000 B.C.?</i>	35
CHAPTER 2	A NATURAL EXPERIMENT OF HISTORY <i>How geography molded societies on Polynesian islands</i>	53
CHAPTER 3	COLLISION AT CAJAMARCA <i>Why the Inca emperor Atahualpa did not capture King Charles I of Spain</i>	67
PART TWO	THE RISE AND SPREAD OF FOOD PRODUCTION	83
CHAPTER 4	FARMER POWER <i>The roots of guns, germs, and steel</i>	85

CHAPTER 5 HISTORY'S HAVES AND HAVE-NOTS	
<i>Geographic differences in the onset of food production</i>	93
CHAPTER 6 TO FARM OR NOT TO FARM	
<i>Causes of the spread of food production</i>	104
CHAPTER 7 HOW TO MAKE AN ALMOND	
<i>The unconscious development of ancient crops</i>	114
CHAPTER 8 APPLES OR INDIANS	
<i>Why did peoples of some regions fail to domesticate plants?</i>	131
CHAPTER 9 ZEBRAS, UNHAPPY MARRIAGES, AND THE ANNA KARENINA PRINCIPLE	
<i>Why were most big wild mammal species never domesticated?</i>	157
CHAPTER 10 SPACIOUS SKIES AND TILTED AXES	
<i>Why did food production spread at different rates on different continents?</i>	176
PART THREE FROM FOOD TO GUNS, GERMS, AND STEEL	193
CHAPTER 11 LETHAL GIFT OF LIVESTOCK	
<i>The evolution of germs</i>	195
CHAPTER 12 BLUEPRINTS AND BORROWED LETTERS	
<i>The evolution of writing</i>	215
CHAPTER 13 NECESSITY'S MOTHER	
<i>The evolution of technology</i>	239
CHAPTER 14 FROM EGALITARIANISM TO KLEPTOCRACY	
<i>The evolution of government and religion</i>	265
PART FOUR AROUND THE WORLD IN FIVE CHAPTERS	293
CHAPTER 15 YALI'S PEOPLE	
<i>The histories of Australia and New Guinea</i>	295

CHAPTER 16	HOW CHINA BECAME CHINESE	
	<i>The history of East Asia</i>	3 2 2
CHAPTER 17	SPEEDBOAT TO POLYNESIA	
	<i>The history of the Austronesian expansion</i>	3 3 4
CHAPTER 18	HEMISPHERES COLLIDING	
	<i>The histories of Eurasia and the Americas compared</i>	3 5 4
CHAPTER 19	HOW AFRICA BECAME BLACK	
	<i>The history of Africa</i>	3 7 6
EPILOGUE	THE FUTURE OF HUMAN HISTORY AS A SCIENCE	4 0 3
	<i>Acknowledgments</i>	4 2 7
	<i>Further Readings</i>	4 2 9
	<i>Credits</i>	4 5 9
	<i>Index</i>	4 6 1