

In Jared Diamond's book Guns Germs and Steel a case is made to demonstrate that human civilization throughout the world didn't just occur by happenstance to today's world dynamic, but instead can be explained through logical reasons that in many instances were caused by natural occurrences and in other instances through man made instances. In Diamond's book, he takes the reader back many centuries to really the beginning times of human existence, and the historical occurrences that took place to make our world what it is today.

Diamond takes us through a logical chain of events that took place with the intent on explaining why what he classifies as Eurasia happened to develop into one of the most advanced and fastest growing continent in human history. Diamond goes into great depth to explain how from the domestication of large game animals, the germs that came from them, and use of these animals to farm in an organized manner, helped spur on other human advances, and at the same why at the same rate other civilizations grew and developed at much slower rates due to the same principles. In some case as Diamond explains the difference between growth and the large gap between civilizations development occurred only hundreds of miles away from one another and not just from a continent apart. He uses the Polynesian culture as one of his primary examples of explaining these principles. Diamond takes two groups of Polynesian cultures, the Moriori and Maori people. These two cultures according to Diamond were ethnically essentially the same people, however, because one happened to early on in history take a ship to what would end up being the Chatham Islands ended up settling there. Diamond explains the vast differences between the two cultures but ties their differences into

primarily where the two civilizations settled. When the Moriori people settled on the Chatham Islands there was hardly any inhabitable large game animals and nor the soil to really domesticate any large game or agriculture. As a result, Diamond classifies them as a hunter gatherer civilization. Furthermore, because of the fact that the Moriori were hunter gatherers they tended to rely on each other. There was no form of government or rule of law other than help your neighbor so that they can help you. Diamond explains that because of natural circumstances many social traits developed as a result of these natural circumstances. The Moriori people as a result of their social dynamic were not a warrior type of people. Now to explain how an ethnically identical people not more than a couple of hundred miles away could eventually sail to the Moriori island and completely attack and kill just about every single Moriori citizen thus wiping them off the face of the map, Diamond again diverts back to natural circumstances that developed a completely different social group of people.

To contrast the Maori people from the Moriori people, Diamond explains how the island that they settled on had much more large game than the island that the Moriori people had on their island. As a result the Maori people were able to use the large game to cultivate agriculture, and develop tools that would better aid in the cultivation of crops. As a result of this factor, the Maori people had been subject to germs which their bodies could develop anti-bodies towards. As a product of the large cultivation of crops and large game animals, the Maori people were far more advanced than their hunter gatherer brothers in the Chatham Islands. This fact resulted in a governmental system for the Maori people, thus giving them a central leader who could control the events that took place in the society. All of this resulting in a warrior like society that was far more

developed through cultivation techniques, invincible to certain germs that their brethren had never come into contact with, and tools used for war that again their brethren have never developed much less ever had the need to do so. The end result was when a group of Maori sailors had come across the Moriori people and eventually messaged back to their people that such a people existed. Finally, the Maori people would take advantage of their natural upbringing as a culture and exploit the same unfortunate natural upbringing of their brethren resulting in the termination of the Moriori people.

Another example Diamond uses to illustrate the difference between civilizations due to naturally explained occurrences, is the conquest of the Inca civilization by Cortez and his Spanish Conquistadores. Diamond analyzes the historical factors coupled with known science to explain why Cortez and his army of no more than probably just a few hundred Soldiers could conquer a well developed civilization of more than a few thousand Soldiers. Diamond again reverts back to the domestication of large game animals to start his explanation. In Europe, large game wasn't a rarity. Many European cultures had already begun domesticating large game for quite some time. As a result these European cultures, the Spanish included had begun farming practices, thus yielding more food per person. As a result we see a culture that not only can grow in population but achieve more production as a society as a result. With this production comes governmental systems and technological advances all be it slow, but nevertheless, faster than other civilizations throughout the world. Another key factor that comes from the domestication of animals is again the germs that come from the animals and cultivated farming. Eventually, these germs live with the population but the human body develops anti-bodies to counter these germs. Throughout history however, history would tell a

story of great plagues knocking back civilizations even in Europe back a great deal. Across the pond in South America, the Inca civilization again much like the Moriori people had the misfortune of place and timing. The Inca had very little domesticated large game and as a result although relatively technically advanced in certain areas never had the means to either sustain themselves or develop as fast as their Eurasian counterparts. Ultimately, all of these factors would tell the story of why the Inca fell under the hands of a well under strength enemy. When the Spanish came to South America they brought with them germs and diseases that they themselves were immune to but where the Inca had never been in contact with before thus killing off or decommissioning a large part of their population. Additionally, the Spanish brought with them weapons that were far more technically advanced and a supply of resources that could sustain their small population and mission.

Diamond goes into great depth in his study of world facts and history to tell a small part of the human historical story. However, the analysis of science and historical facts offer a well thought out and understandable explanation of possibly why human civilizations throughout the world have developed the way they have over thousands of years.