



Forgotten Civilization: The Role of Solar Outbursts in Our Past and Future

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Building upon his revolutionary theory that the Sphinx dates back much further than 2500 BCE, geologist Robert Schoch reveals scientific evidence of advanced civilization predating ancient Egypt, Sumeria, and Greece, as well as the catastrophe that destroyed it nearly 12,000 years ago and what its legacy can teach us about our own future.

Combining evidence from multiple scientific disciplines, Schoch shows how the last ice age ended abruptly in 9700 BCE due to coronal mass ejections from the Sun. He explains how these events eradicated the civilization of the time and set humanity back thousands of years, only to reemerge around 3500 BCE with scattered memories and nascent abilities.

He explores within this framework, how many megalithic monuments, underground cities, and ancient legends fall logically into place, as well as the reinterpreted Easter Island rongorongo texts and the intentional burial, 10,000 years ago, of the Göbekli Tepe complex in Turkey.

Schoch reveals scientific evidence that shows how history could repeat itself with a coronal mass ejection powerful enough to devastate modern society.

Forgotten Civilization: The Role of Solar Outbursts in Our Past and Future Details

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Arvind says

Thought provoking in parts. I liked the central theme and would recommend it for that reason.

However, the author often rambles off the theme.

Lyrae says

In the quest to explain the disappearance of a lost ancient civilization this book finally hits on a plausible natural event that could lead to the kind of widespread cataclysm that is frequently reported in the old mythologies and texts left to us by our ancestors. Reading this has helped bridged the gap between multiple disciplines, each with their own intriguing ideas, but rarely pulled together to explain the bigger picture. It was exciting to read about the ancient technology and feats of such distant ancient cultures and have the accepted timeline reevaluated into a context that makes sense. I am familiar with the works of the Electric Universe people, the plasma experiments and work with ancient petroglyphs from Dr. Anthony Peratt, but combining those ideas with the currently known megalithic structures found all over the globe helps to paint a picture of a formidable advanced culture in our past that was capable of feats we can only scratch our heads at. To understand that man has fallen from this distant time, that man has devolved and we are just now beginning to see glimpses of our past golden age is humbling and the theme of cataclysmic cycles becomes more important. The ancients knew this, we are just beginning to understand. There had to be a reason man in the distant past was obsessed with watching the sky, with tracking time and the movements of the heavenly bodies. Even with this intimate knowledge of the natural world, man was unable to avoid utter destruction on a global level. It is a history lesson and a warning.

Christine Price says

Fascinating Read

The unraveling of the mystery of the impact that solar flare activity has on the evolution of human consciousness and the planetary forces that shape and control climate; a thoroughly researched theory that is quite riveting in its detail. Schoch has a vast depth of knowledge that he shares with those who are interested in more than the usual scientific cant.

Kirsten Corby says

Not a convincing case at all.

Jim says

Not worth the time or effort to read.

B.A. Vonsik says

Overall good book. Some information and conclusion differ from other information on the subject. Not certain who's correct on the subject. Overall a good read.

Teresa Lopez says

Interesting. If not a time machine, I'd love a time mirror so that I could go and see stuff myself.

J.B. Siewers says

It had its "almost not worth slogging through chapters" but over all it had some good insights. One point it made reflected that Sometimes science is not all it seems. It did not answer the "earlier civilization" question anywhere near what I expected. No depth there. A lot of sun related numbers that got to be too much. A lot of pages written that did not delve into the "earlier civilization" issue. I guess I rated it stronger because it ended on a high note.

David Montaigne says

I first heard of Robert Schoch about fifteen years ago when I watched the NBC special "The Mysterious Origins of Man." Schoch was brought into the project both for his PhD in geology from Yale and for his open-mindedness, specifically on the age of the Sphinx. Despite the assertion of mainstream Egyptology that the Sphinx could not be more than, at most, about 4,500 to 5,000 years old - Schoch said the Sphinx showed obvious erosion from intense rainfall, the likes of which Egypt had not seen for several thousand years before conventional theories permitted. He stuck his neck out (though not as boldly as John Anthony West, who suggested a far older date for the Sphinx) and said that mainstream Egyptology's date for the Sphinx is probably off by a few thousand years. This unorthodoxy brought many negative responses from established PhDs in a variety of fields.

At the time (early to mid 1990s) when Schoch and West were first getting attention for the idea that erosion by rainfall proved the Sphinx is older than we have been taught, one rebuttal from the orthodox Egyptologists was to ask who built it. "Where's the civilization" before dynastic Egypt? In the early 90s there was little evidence to counter the accepted paradigm that no society that far back was organized enough to build monuments.

This changed with the ongoing discoveries at Gobekli Tepe in southeast Turkey, which has been excavated by German (and Turkish) archeologists since 1994. As Schoch points out in "Forgotten Civilization"

mainstream archeologists now date the monuments there to approximately 9-10,000 B.C. The established existence of an organized society at this point in time makes Schoch's conservatively early dating of the Sphinx seem less unlikely. It offers proof that man had achieved civilization earlier than we were taught.

But a very ancient Sphinx and very ancient Gobekli Tepe also force us to wonder what happened to this early civilization which rose and fell with no continuation, with no evidence of organized society for thousands of years after - until approximately 3,100 B.C. Why did the earliest monument builders completely disappear?

Schoch suggests that there were "catastrophes that occurred over ten thousand years ago, eradicating this early, forgotten civilization." (p. 8) He tells us that "geological data indicate that the last ice age ended extremely suddenly, catastrophically, around 9700 BCE.... and I believe, the date of a major solar outburst." (p. 253) He describes evidence of a major solar flare hitting the earth, and suggests that the sun is nowhere near as stable as recent history implies. Instead he assumes "that major plasma events might impact Earth approximately every ten thousand years. It has been 11,700 years since the last one." (p. 103)

The implication is that we are overdue for a solar event capable of causing a civilization-ending catastrophe. It might originate with the sun's own cyclical variations, or perhaps the sun's activity is triggered by a cosmic source like Dr. Paul LaViolette's galactic superwaves. While not specifically assuming that a pole shift will occur, nor that it will occur on December 21, 2012 at the end of the Mayan Long Count - Schoch suggests that something catastrophic may very well occur near the Mayan end date. But to him, such an approximation could mean 2012, 2013, or even 2050. (p. 216)

As an author covering similar topics (ancient civilizations, cosmic catastrophes, the Mayan Calendar, prophecies of the end of the world, etc.) I agree with Schoch on many points, although my analysis concludes that we should worry about a very specific date in 2019. Schoch takes a slightly different route than I do (focusing on geological evidence and solar outbursts) but we reach similar overall conclusions because we are analyzing many of the same facts. The truth is becoming more obvious, (especially within the last twenty years) despite attempts from established schools of thought to stifle innovative reevaluations of cherished paradigms.

A major part of Schoch's premise assumes not only that a solar plasma event devastated Earth around 9700 BCE, but that our distant ancestors recorded what they saw when the plasma hit and strange electrical discharges and auroras dominated the skies. He discusses what might be drawings and descriptions of this event from many cultures, but focuses on Easter Island's moai statues and rongorongo text. I do not feel there is enough evidence on Easter Island to be thoroughly convincing, but his ideas on this merit consideration - he made a sensible argument based on the minimal evidence available.

I am not quite sure why, near the end of the book, he delves into many unusual topics - such as ESP and parapsychology, quantum entanglement, harmonic resonances, faster than light travel, retrocausality, precognition, and the illusion of free will - to name a few. I suppose his aim is to point out that many ideas are viewed as pseudoscience, even when there is some evidence in their favor... or perhaps to suggest that research in these fields challenges accepted conclusions, and like his early dating of the Sphinx, may be accepted in due time. If nothing else, such topics provide readers with more questions to ponder after finishing the book - because Schoch proves fairly conclusively that a solar event did terminate a forgotten civilization over ten thousand years ago, and that we have reasons to expect a similar catastrophe soon ourselves. Schoch thinks it could be "near" 2012. If interested read "End Times and 2019."

Dav8d777 says

This was a great idea for a book and it's too bad that Mr. Schoch decided not to write it. Some of the ideas about solar events, the way the plasma manifested in the sky as it relates to ancient petroglyphs is fascinating. Mr. Schoch spent very little time in this space however (in spite of the book's title). Instead we got a brief, incomplete overview coupled with a survey of every piece of fringe science out there from the memory of water, to quantum entanglement to telepathy. There was the obligatory chapter on his work with the Sphinx of course. It always comes back to the Sphinx with this guy. Not an original thought in the book, but there was plenty of promotion of fringe science, especially the work of Paul LaViolette whose confusing and widely ignored and self-published work got several chapters.

I gave the book 3 stars for its entertainment value and docked it two for not staying on point. This is still a great and fascinating subject. I wish Mr. Schoch thought so too.

Derek Douglas says

Some very interesting ideas and was surprised the level of detail that was gone into the science. However I was looking for more descriptions on the actual "forgotten civilization" and less on the solar aspect of it.

JEREMIAH F LYONS says

Incredible Book

This book discusses a wide range of concepts from controversial to downright unbelievable but never strays too far off of the science. Well cited from a range sources including everything from geology to astronomy to the paranormal.

David Elkin says

Solar outbursts are a real occurrence and Mr. Schoch does a good job of explaining what they are, how they may have wiped out an ancient civilization around 10,000 to 12,000 BC. I am not convinced but it certainly is a topic worth studying and pondering. He brings up the Carrington event and that is real. If anything like that happens today, it is going to be a reckoning of our civilization. Some things I think are a stretch, but I do recommend the book. One point that is so true, is that money, power, prestige, tenure and grants really do influence science. Keep that in mind as truth is not always what we are taught or even believe. Just in our recent past, doctors did not believe washing surgical tools were important!

Laura says

The title promises more than it delivers. This book was to satisfy my thirst for unexplained phenomena, but unfortunately most of what was discussed in this book was the same ole same ole of alternative archeology:

the pyramid is older than mainstream believes; there were giants and we have the evidence in Easter Island, etc.

There were a few interesting new details about an underground city I hadn't read about before, but ultimately the book suffers from that same disconnected and rambling writing style that makes reading any of these alternative science books such a task. This author, given to parenthetical digressions which split in half the full meaning of every single interesting sentence, also spent a good deal of time talking about his "summer vacation," his dinners with important friends and the formless bedtime theories of his wife, whose qualifications remain obscure. His attempt to connect plasma storms with cave paintings left me mostly unimpressed. I was amenable to the idea, but to say that his arguments were weak is to be kind.

His most interesting ideas came at the end of the book, referencing vaguely experiments about entangled diamonds and proof of speed beyond the speed of light, which would mean that time travel is possible and is, perhaps, already occurring. But you know there is something to worry about when the book's appendixes, which go on and on and on and on, are more interesting than the book itself.

My suggestion for all these scientists writing this stuff is to get an editor, a real editor, and learn some narrative structuring skills, for goddsake.

Peter Greenwell says

I got as far as the part of psychokinesis needing to be taken seriously as a form of moving stones around, and gave up. That sort of von Daniken grade nonsense has no place in a book written by a professional geologist.
