



Underworld: The Mysterious Origins of Civilization

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What secrets lie beneath the deep blue sea? **Underworld** takes you on a remarkable journey to the bottom of the ocean in a thrilling hunt for ancient ruins that have never been found—until now.

In this explosive new work of archaeological detection, bestselling author and renowned explorer Graham Hancock embarks on a captivating underwater voyage to find the ruins of a mythical lost civilization hidden for thousands of years beneath the world's oceans. Guided by cutting-edge science, innovative computer-mapping techniques, and the latest archaeological scholarship, Hancock examines the mystery at the end of the last Ice Age and delivers astonishing revelations that challenge our long-held views about the existence of a sunken universe built on the ocean floor.

Filled with exhilarating accounts of his own participation in dives off the coast of Japan, as well as in the Mediterranean, the Atlantic, and the Arabian Sea, we watch as Hancock discovers underwater ruins exactly where the ancient myths say they should be—submerged kingdoms that archaeologists never thought existed. You will be captivated by *Underworld*, a provocative book that is both a compelling piece of hard evidence for a fascinating forgotten episode in human history and a completely new explanation for the origins of civilization as we know it.

Underworld: The Mysterious Origins of Civilization Details

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From Reader Review Underworld: The Mysterious Origins of Civilization for online ebook

A-ron says

A serendipitous find on my local library's shelves, Underworld is filling the time while I await God's Crucible. The primary concept put forth by the author is fluffy at first glance, that Sumeria was preceded by millennia of civilization yet undiscovered. The author however does not overreach when proposing this hypothesis which elevates him above Atlantean cranks. He is however an enthusiast drawing together compelling evidence for an antediluvian civilization. Unfortunately this evidence is presented in a superficially logical sequence while the "evidence" is largely circumstantial and occasionally fabricated. This is by no means a scholarly work.

Nevertheless I was happy with this book until I realized that he WAS misrepresenting himself as an explorer of uncharted territory. He implies that he is on the cutting edge of discovery - an explorer - which is actually untrue. Furthermore he lies outright when he claims that the marine branch of archaeology has had little influence on its terrestrial cousin. The implication is that no one has studied this stuff which disregards a significant body of research in this area already. I was furious when I realized that the writer was lying to me, deliberately overlooking contrary evidence, including wide swaths of historical and archaeological evidence.

While the writing is enjoyable, and the basic idea - that perhaps ice age civilizations can be found under water - is compelling and reasonable, I hate writers who misrepresent their case to a general audience. Yes, HATE. He has done a great disservice to his readers and misinformed them. I encourage you to read the rebuttles to his claims. They are much more enlightening and could possibly lead you to a much more interesting understanding of history.

Nasty Lady MJ says

Was given the book to borrow due to my likings of all weird things History (I am currently watching that ridiculous Ancient Aliens show which should tell you a lot about me-no aliens in this book, thankfully). This was overall a pretty dry read, but there were some interesting bits here and there. I also liked that it focused on more obscure ancient societies than the ones you learn about in World History. I doubt I'll do a full review on this, but I did enjoy reading it even though some of the things were a bit out there.

Debasish Das says

The Mind Game of Interpreting Mythology:

The book is a monument.. a big fat volume with small fonts and compressed spacing, of exactly 674 pages –if you excuse yourself from the postscripts and appendices, and at the end of the book, Hancock rues “ even so, there has not been space in this book for me to recount the results and experiences of all my own dives and expeditions – let alone all the dives and explorations that should be done in the future if we really want to know what’s out there”

The book divided into six parts:

Part 1: Initiation : 80 pages

Part 2: India-1: ~100 pages

Part 3: India-2: ~100 pages

Part 4: Malta : ~150 pages

Part 5: Ancient Maps : ~100 pages

Part 6: Japan, Taiwan, China: ~120 pages

The author is by no means an armchair theorist : one who learnt diving only to experience the subjects of his book & has gone through the entire unabridged six volume set of Ralph Griffith's translations of the Rig, Atharva, Yajur & Sama Vedas, could hardly be called so. Not only he has undertaken expensive trips to far-away places to explore and co-relate the evidences , he had hired a dedicated research assistant from Oxford : Sharif Sakr to research the book's subject & a 'resident expert' on sea level changes : Dr Glenn Milne of Durham University. And to top it all, dealing with the red tape and ancient bureaucracy of India, is a feat in itself!

Neither the books is targeted for casual readers.

Packed with more in-depth and hands-on research than the FOTG, the book may sometimes read like a textbook demanding skim-reading, but I felt those portions are equally important in a sense that the book is written in two layers : the first layer is the author's travelogue and photographic co-relations making a fast reading pace & once through with all the interesting anecdotes and challenging incidents the author undertook in exploring the underworld, the reader may well re-read and uncover the second layer of the book : the book of mythology and scientific explanations.

His dive explorations can be chronologically mentioned as below:

- Leant Diving : Nov 1996
- Yonaguni, Japan: March 1997
- Kerama, Japan: April 1999
- Yonaguni, Japan: June 1999,
- Bimini Road, Bahamas: Aug 1999
- Alexandria, Egypt : Sept 1999
- Dwarka, Western India : March 2000
- Kerama, Japan: April 2000
- Yonaguni, Japan: Sept 2000,
- Maldives: Feb 2001
- Poompuhur, South India: Feb 2001
- Yonaguni, Japan: March 2001
- Kerama, Japan: March 2001
- Qawra Point, Malta: June 2001
- Taiwan: August 2001

The history of pre-history:

- Modern human beings appeared around 40,000 years back. Inaccessible European cave arts (e.g. Chauvet Cave in France) are attributed to an age of 30,000 to 12,000 years back.
- LCM (Last Glacial Maximum) is referred to the time between 22000 years and 17000 years back, when the ice sheets were at their maximum cover
- Palaeo-lithic or Old Stone Age refers to all history before 12000 years ago. Neo-lithic refers to New Stone Age from 12,000 years ago (10,000 BC) onwards. Copper Age started in 3000 BC ; Bronze Age in 2000 BC; and Iron Age began in 1000 BC
- Palaelithic human activities are believed to be that of hunter gatherers, while the onset of agriculture & farming are attributed to neo-lithic humans.
- Global super-floods of huge 100 meter high Ocean wave rise caused due to rapid ice melting; accompanied by un-imaginable volcanoes and earth quakes gripped the planet from 17000 years back upto 7000 years back. Almost 25 million square kilometres of earth's surface was inundated during this period.
- Specifically, there were three Global super-floods: around 14000 years back, 11000 years back and again 7000 years back; that caused disappearance of many lands and life-forms & made seemingly safe places as beachfront properties.

The Indian hypothesis:

North India:

- At the end of the Ice Age, a costal civilization on the Western shores (may be in the present day Gulf of Cambay/Khambhat where an underwater city spreading 9 km has recently been discovered in 2001 and wooden pieces from the site has been carbon dated to 7500 BC) who memorized the Vedas from an earlier epoch and practiced Yoga, and was lost by the Great Global Floods.
- The survivors migrated northwards and set up fully-functional village farming communities at Mehrgarh (in Pakistan) and other Indus-Saraswati civilizations in the foothills of Hindukush, Karakoram & Himalayas at around 7000BC – a precursor to Cities like Mohenjodaro & Harappa . Legends suggest Manu and the Seven Sages (Viswamitra, Jamadagni, Bharadvaja, Gotama, Atri, Vasistha & Kasyapa) survived the flood and, migrated to the Himalayas along with plant seeds for a new agricultural beginning, and they were responsible for renewing life and reproducing the four Veda's from their memories. Moreover, the similarity of the Vedic flood and the Seven sages with Sumerian & Egyptian mythology suggests that the seven sages in the retreat of the Himalayas, not only manipulated the kingdoms in India but in Egypt, Mesopotamia, South India and elsewhere as well.
- That the Vedas were written by the ancients of Indus-Saraswati civilization, rules out the theory that Europeans called as "Aryas" once migrated to India and took control and therefore are the creators of these ancient texts such as Vedas, Mahabharata, Ramayan, Puranas etc.

South India:

- An ancient civilization called Kumari Kandam once spread upto 1500 km into the Ocean, from present day Kanya Kumari upto a much larger Maldives. The cities of Ten-madurai, Kavatapuram & Uttara Madurai played role as seats of Academic learnings respectively around 11600, 7200 and 3500 years ago-coinciding with the three Great Global Floods. When the Kumari Kandam civilization that also included Ravana's kingdom was destroyed by rising oceans, the surviving Seven Sages(Marichi, Atri, Angiras, Pulastya, Pulaha, Kratu & Vasistha) retreated to Arunachela mountain at Tiruvannamalai. By precession concepts, Arunachela lies 48 degrees east of Giza and 24 degrees east of Angkor Wat : other sites of flood survival.

- Both the Dravidian civilization of Kumari Kandam & the Vedic civilization of Indus & the North Western India seem to be intimately inter-related. Also the ancient Redins of the Maldives are found to share their culture with the olden civilization on the Gulf of Cambay. Obliquely enough, Maldives is theorised to be the remains of a lost island, Taprobana, or Tribubhana because the references of this lost island to Sri Lanka looks misplaced because of their offset in ancient maps.

The Malta hypothesis:

- An ancient palaeo-lithic civilization once lived on the Plains of Europe, well skilled with building megalithic structures with astronomical precision, and at the end of the Ice Age between 17000 years ago and 12000 years ago, they migrated to the warm climate of the southern point of Europe- via Italy, Sicily -to the present day disjointed island of Malta.

- Skills of the ancients are evident from the gigantic Gigantija; the Hypogeum – representative of a vast underground network of tunnels; and the solar temple of Mnajdra – where the sunrays follow a cyclical pre-designed pendulum path between the summer and winter solstices. But still un-interpreted are the submerged cart-ruts. Hypogeum was found to be filled with human skeletons in an earthen mixture, that may be due to the Global Floods pushing the human remains into the underground caves.

The Japanese hypothesis:

- Japan, the land beloved of the Gods, is one of those rare lands which did not suffer the complete annihilation of its ancient culture at the end of the Ice Age due to reverse floods and tectonic re-adjustments between 17000 & 7000 years ago. Japan and Taiwan appear in old Ice Age maps as Antilia & Santanaze, the lure of which drew Columbus erroneously to set out westwards on the Atlantic but he made the obvious landfall at America, and not Japan. Japan was home to the Jomon who inhabited that land some 16500 years ago, deep in the palaeo-lithic pre-history. The Jomon were a sea-faring civilization frequenting and migrating to North and South Americas, Fiji and other places; and are believed to be a rice-cultivating and makers of exquisite potteries.

- There existed a large landmass near the yellow sea and Korean peninsula that figure in ancient Japanese and Chinese mythology, now under the sea, which was populated by Yayoi tribe of the Koreas, and there existed an increasing inter-cultural fusion between the Yayoi and Jomon.

- The Japanese mythology of the sea-king sanctuary, the enchanted Spirit island and the Land of Yomi described in Kojiki and Nihongi texts; the Chinese mythological islands of the Sea Mage' recorded in the Shih Chi & Hua I Thu.. all point to a place under the sea somewhere between Okinawa, Taiwan and the Yellow Sea.

Theories not fully developed:

There are few theories that demand a detailed treatment:

- The ancient landmass of Sunda Shelf that covered the present geographies of Malaysia & Indonesia: what are their myths and ancient civilization. Were they having regular interaction with ancient civilizations in the Indian continent, as evident from Hindu icons in Balinese & other south eastern mythologies.

- The story of Ramayan and the mythology of creating the land bridge between India and Sri Lanka by the monkey army of Lord Hanuman: how does it gel with the scientific finding that the two lands were once connected. And if it is one of those cases of corruption in the re-telling the fables, do we have some evidence of the original pre-history?
- The story of Mahabharat & that of Lord Krishna need more close inter-relation with the suggested pre-history of Indus valley, in view of the steatite tablets unearthed at Mohenjo Daro depicting Krishna & also the iconography of Lord Krishna appearing in other religions such as the Todaiji temple at Nara, Japan and in Balinese texts and temples
- The pre-history of Orissa & the Solar temple of Konark built by Lord Krishna's son, Samba.

A strong cocktail of geology, archaeology, pre-history, mythology, ancient texts and maps, and science of inundation mapping; the book grips the reader in its flow with every swirl of its audacious sweep of pre-history. Slowly but surely. The very ancient maps like the Ptolemaic maps, Reinal's map, Cantino planispheres, Hereford mappamundi – though gives the general idea of the ancient's knowledge, the details and the texts in the maps themselves are hardly readable, may be due to the fact that they are copies of copies of ancient copies that have landed in the book- surely if we could have the maps re-drawn and presented with all their details, it would have made it more enjoyable.

Finally, as the author says..”one of the problems with the game of interpreting myth : the meaning ascribed may be more in the eye of the beholder than anything else..”

Sally says

Demonstrates that remains of ancient (pre 8,000-10,000 BCE) cultures would most likely be found off present coasts, as sea level has risen hundreds of feet since the end of the last ice age.

Graham says

Blew my mind a great book such a profoundly interesting book.

Quentin Feduchin says

Heavy reading; great detail; rather dry and undramatic.

Having commenced reading this book; after purchasing it from an English supplier (it's a first edition); early in 2010 I finally finishing it in early 2013. The large gap in the middle involved two visits to Mumbai to get my teeth fixed, then a third longer visit in 2012 after I retired. This book was of course too heavy to take on such visits. The book can only be described as a tough, detailed, tantalizing, tough read.

In all the theatres Graham Hancock and his wife, Santha Faiia explored, he goes into a wealth of detail. I found his descriptions of India, the likely floods down the Indus valley areas, the southern Indian and Sri Lankan land bridges, etc, absorbing and exciting.

Beyond that the further discussions of discoveries in and around Malta contain more detail, but at the same time involve some frustration for the reader (not to mention Mr Hancock..) The 'disinformation' engaged in by certain well known English scientists is shameful.

His discoveries of underwater areas around Japan and the currently contested islands to the south are further good reading.

I certainly recommend this book, how could I not? It is such an important attempt at recording pre-history and offers such wonderfully interesting aspects of early human life. It fairly tosses out the idea that modern humanity began as recently as 5,000 years ago. I believe it makes plain my personal belief, that humanity existed in relatively modern forms in the early ice ages in the past 17,000 years and possibly long before that.

There is little doubt to mind; if I may be so bold; that relatively modern humanity might go back twenty or thirty thousand years ago or more, but that most of the traces of those existences disappeared when the ice dams gave way between 17,000 and 8,000 years ago.

Those deluges, partly described in the bible and additionally by over 250 tribal groups, succeeded in effectively covering up most of those civilizations by raising the sea level to it's current level. Those land masses, most of them coastal, seem to have been hidden by up to 120 metres of water. Thus with no way to explore these underwater areas until Jacques Cousteau developed the aqualung in the 1940's, they remained undiscovered and became largely forgotten.

If there is a criticism it is in the lack of dramatisation. A greater element of excitement would certainly help with one's progress through this large book, indeed I feel that the writing could have emphasised the importance of many discoveries to a rather greater extent. While I sympathise with the authors' wishes to 'stay scientific', there is nevertheless a very interested public out there who are mostly quite unscientific in their knowledge.

While this is a very good book, it's lack of dramatisation makes it not a great book. However I do intend on reading Hancock's later discoveries and comments.

Andreas Schmidt says

Not sure if trolling or entirely delusional ...

Posso però capire che la motivazione di Graham Hancock sia quasi esclusivamente economica. Nel corso degli anni, da questo giornalista di stronzate ne sono volate parecchie, da principio pensavo (e anzi ho voluto sperare) che in realtà la sua sia la lunga evoluzione dello "studioso" (chi cerca questo genere di conoscenza finisce per essere uno studioso, e solo con il tempo la sua conoscenza si perfeziona). Volevo sperare che

dopo Impronte degli Dei (non menzioniamo le altre sconcezze che quest'autore ha pubblicato, come quella del volto di Marte, che evoca un po' la psicofonia: in una fotografia il cervello umano che funziona per elaborazione di dati in forma di mappa mentale, vede un po' quello che ci vuole), il suo stile e le sue conoscenze andassero migliorando, ma alla fine mi sono dovuto ricredere. Impronte degli Dei è nato e fonda sulla teoria dello slittamento delle zolle crostali (teoria apparentemente confutata) e sul raccattare miti e leggende, memorabile il passo in cui dice che siccome gli antichi aztechi come rito ciclico guardano in direzione delle Pleiadi, beh chiaro la cometa di cui parlo nel libro, è arrivata da lì! Civiltà Sommerse è un guazzabuglio di idee. L'autore prende in considerazione le strutture sommerse, che di per sé sono pure un argomento valido su cui dibattere (ma dibattere solamente, visto che non esiste più alcun genere di documentazione storica né altro genere a parte miti e leggende finite poi in chissà quanti libri sacri, la cui interpretazione è difficile e spesso esagerata dal "boccalonismo" o semplicemente dal modo in cui all'epoca della stesura venivano intese le cose). - faccio un esempio pratico: nel Corano l'autore di Ubar, ha trovato le indicazioni delle antiche rovine di Shisur, in Oman, indicate con termini di difficile comprensione (o all'apparenza esagerati) nella realtà moderna (si parla di palazzi, e in realtà si fa riferimento a torri in pietra sul perimetro delle mura). Di per sé le strutture ormai sommerse, che stanno su un fondo dai 20 ai 100 metri sotto il livello del mare, sono un ottimo indice di una società umana in grado di costruirle. Ma procediamo con ordine. Al di là della spaconaggine con cui l'autore afferma "devo vedere le rovine di persona per capire di cosa si tratta", Hancock tira l'acqua al suo mulino. Parla delle strutture delle isole tra Cina e Giappone, dicendo che sono di diecimila anni precedenti alla data in cui scrive, senza avere idea che gli archeologi moderni hanno già trovato riferimenti a strutture già esistenti e databili il 1500/1600 d.C. Scende prima sul personale perché sua moglie, beh sua moglie è indiana, ergo ... l'India è il primo viaggio. Dopodiché continua ad analizzare le varie strutture sommerse, fino a quando giunge alle mappe. Le mappe mi hanno incuriosito, l'intero discorso mi ha incuriosito. Fino a quando mi sono caduti i coglioni. E per una buona ragione. (qui nel sito ci sono le stesse due immagini con le stesse due parti del libro di Hancock relativamente all'India) -> <http://humanpast.net/environment/envi...> Mappe che l'autore persiste a voler confrontare con dati ottenuti al computer (come faceva in Impronte degli Dei) in simulazioni che hanno scarsa attinenza al reale (dire che il livello dei mari era "boh forse 20 metri inferiore?" 10 mila anni fa, non vuol dire assolutamente nulla senza prove che lo confermino o senza prove che stabiliscano esattamente di quanto durante l'era glaciale gli oceani erano più bassi). Ho guardato la mappa di Reinal del 1502, che secondo l'autore è presa da mappe disegnate quando gli oceani erano più bassi, e mi sembra una ripetizione di quanto diceva invece della carta di Piri Reis. Ho guardato quella mappa e l'ho confrontata con le foto satellitari e le differenze semplicemente stanno nel fatto che l'autore o consapevolmente legge male le distanze (sono un architetto e mai in vita mia ho visto nella stessa mappa una differenza di scala da una parte all'altra della stessa...), oppure non è in grado di leggere una carta. Ha chiaramente reinterpretato la mappa di Reinal come meglio gli piaceva, quando in realtà è il frutto di un sistema di cartografia. Uno su tutto: prende assolutamente per buone le dimensioni delle Maldive, e mi viene a dire che la parte superiore è l'Oman??? Le Maldive sono state cartografate dai portoghesi che hanno disegnato la mappa attorno al 1502, ma sicuramente non saranno scesi dal vascello se non per fare rifornimento e chiaramente non si sono messi a fare la cultellatio romana per disegnarne le distanze, questo è ovvio. E' una carta a sufficienza approssimata e al contempo molto buona delle coste. Ma ciò non vuol dire che sia presa da una di diecimila anni fa. E poi parliamo di Hancock, in Impronte degli Dei (e ha avuto il coraggio di lamentarsi che negli anni '90 hanno sparato di lui in tv) dice che la carta di Piri Reis rappresenta l'antartide priva di ghiacci senza rendersi conto o non voler vedere che: a) si vede la penisola iberica chiaramente e dunque l'Europa; b) se è stato al Topkapi di Istanbul (cosa di cui dubito, visto che Hancock è un finto studioso) qualche guida gli avrà spiegato che Piri Reis scrive in turco che la carta è presa dai portoghesi che hanno disegnato il sudamerica. In questo libro ha l'ardire di porre la stessa carta, e disporla nemmeno secondo un orientamento verso nord, ma alla rinfusa, con la penisola iberica in alto (e non a destra, visto che è una carta rettangolare) e ancora dire che quella che è Cuba chiaramente cartografata approssimativamente, nient'altro che un'isola "fantasma". Quindi non ha alcuna validità il blaterare di Hancock sulle mappe. Dopodiché parla delle isole del Giappone, delle strutture

sommerse, della società Jomon. Io non so cosa pensa di dimostrare mostrando un ornamento a forma di "pesce" della cultura Jomon giapponese e uno simile (molto simile tuttavia) a quello della cultura maltese. Non ci sono prove e non c'è nulla che colleghi due parti agli antipodi del globo. Per altro abbandonando il buon senso che culture differenti possano aver creato monili da forme basilari elementari (una forma di "gamberetto", che si vede nel Mediterraneo come nel Pacifico). E concludendo, c'è sempre il solito discorso in ballo. Secondo me Hancock non capisce le distanze. Se è vero che un singolo uomo può percorrere chilometri in un giorno solo per compiere un'azione frivola (come salutare stranieri in visita), è pur vero che siamo tutti animali legati alla nostra società e ai nostri limiti. Casualmente viaggiatori possono portare in giro idee. Monili magari. Viaggiatori del Mediterraneo giungono in Asia e portano oggetti strani, che subito l'arte locale copia. O portano idee, che diventano arte. Questa è la natura umana. E soprattutto non è una prova incontrovertibile la costruzione ciclopica del paleolitico. Anzi, è la cosa prima a cui l'uomo in grado di costruire la capanna riesce a pensare. La costruzione di opere ciclopiche può non essere legata ad una cultura unitaria (gli Indoeuropei ... har har har ... la civiltà teorizzata di cui non si hanno prove ... har har har), quanto all'elementare osservazione di semplici regole statiche e di semplice utilizzo della pietra. In seconda conclusione: non ho più parole per descrivere la ciarlataneria di Hancock. E il colmo è che vende in tutto il mondo le sue fantasie.

Nicholas says

In essence this book was Graham Hancock's sequel to *Fingerprints of the Gods* and in other ways, it's an appendix to that book. In *Fingerprints*, Graham lays out his fundamental theory: that human civilization is far older than we think, and there existed a world spanning, Ice Age civilization, which was destroyed in an world wide cataclysm, which only left clue to its previous existence. It is a tall order for a journalist, with no background in archaeology to go forth and prove, and while *Fingerprints* is an erstwhile attempt with an intriguing theory, it lacked a major important element: good solid evidence. It's not that he failed to provide to any evidence in *Fingerprints*, there were many ideas presented, but a lot of it was simply conjecture. But in *Underworld: The Mysterious Origins of Civilization*, Mr. Hancock presents a far more compelling physical argument for his original thesis, backing up his original concept with field research and real world observations. The book is far less Indiana Jones than *Fingerprints*, but let's face it, Indiana Jones was not a very good archaeologist. He damaged sites, and often failed to document his finds correctly. Because of that, the book is a tad drier than *Fingerprints*, yet only because there is more research and evidence being presented, yet there are still moments of excitement and danger, as the author travels around the world, diving in fast changing currents to examine structures that may or may not be man made, up close, with an untrained, but experienced eye.

Often in dealing with esoteric and speculative books, I use the phrase "won't change a skeptical mind" but honestly, *Underworld* could change an open, skeptical mind, especially when his early first decade finds are coupled with other discoveries that are coming out on a regular basis, suggesting that prehistoric human civilization is far older and more complex than previously thought. Often, while reading the book, nothing becomes more evident that the many dismissals of Mr. Hancock's theories and research are not engaged in the research at all, stating that the evidence contrary to their standard evidence is wrong because it is contrary to the standard evidence, even if the evidence is equally as weak. Mr. Hancock offers several examples of this academic laziness, while never accusing anyone of outright conspiracy, he does expose a conspiracy of willful ignorance, where even serious scientists simply wave their hands and say, "that's just a rock" having never gone and looked at the site up close. Mr. Hancock goes out of his way to invite a skeptical geologist to an controversial underwater site off the coast of Japan. In the end, he doesn't convince him that the site is

man made, but you can definitely see the man's mind being challenged, as the argument unfolds real time throughout the book. The book is not only an interesting read on a controversial subject, it actually is science, that is, science as a method of inquiry, taking place throughout the book, as well as speculation.

Read this book if you've read "Fingerprints of the Gods" and were intrigued by the ideas in his book. There are moments where you think you're slogging through it, but if that was never happening, that would only mean Mr. Hancock was not presenting worthy evidence. Also, he continues on with his habit of asking questions to tell you thing, which sometimes is a bit tabloid, but he does this a lot less in Underworld than he did in Fingerprints. Outside those two complaints, the book represents one of his best work so far.

Frank says

I found this book to be a better read than his earlier books, he's clearly progressed in his novel writing skills. As usual the books are though provoking, and make you want to hitch up your own scuba gear and go for a look see yourself. I think this would have worked better as a large coffee table type book with stunning pictures, but alas all we have are dark and unremarkable pictures of things that maybe kinda perhaps in the right light could be interpreted the way the author portrays them. But this is the difference between being there and seeing pics, and the book makes it plain the issues involved in getting more and better pictures. The vast majority of us will never see these things up close and personal as Graham has, and that's probably a shame, but he does a good job of relating his experiences to the reader despite the lack of stunning visuals.

The whole concept of drowned civilizations sounds plausible to me, and the discovery recently of the underwater city of Cambay in India reinforces this theory. I predict we will find more of these sites as our underwater explorations of the worlds ocean continue and as technology makes these explorations easier and more cost effective.

It's certainly not for everyone, and it is quite a large book and sometimes long winded, but if this subject piques your interest you will probably find it fascinating.

Mike Gowan says

An entertaining book. I like the idea that there was a world wide civilization that was the source of the flood myth that seem to be common among different cultures. It makes sense that human beings sailed and settled all over the world in the past 20,000 years and mapped it and observed the stars. It makes sense that a lot of the settlement and building was done along the coastlines and that these were the places that were most vulnerable to a rise in the oceans that occurred as the last Ice Ages ended. Of course, it's tough to prove any of this, and ultimately, pushing back prehistory by several thousand years gets you mostly more museum fatigue if you factor in the artifacts put on display. It also might contribute to juvenile delinquency and other symptoms of adolescent rebellion when the kids are forced to swallow this stuff in school, but I am primarily neither a scientist nor a journalist, merely a conduit for speculative correlations. Butterfly conjectures and who knows what all.

Atlantis comes into this story, too, and how Columbus knew where he was going, so it's a great read. It is quite long, though, and I wish that the maps were bigger and that the photographs were more revealing.

Jenny Delandro says

I find this type of book fascinating

I have always had an interest in ancient history and studied it at high school

This book studies actual facts of extensive civilisations that are underwater now and trying to work out where they went

Not enough maps though I had to look up the Japanese islands mentioned in the 1st chapter online because I did not know where they were.

I now know that Okinawa is on an island south west of Japan's southern island and is in a string of smaller islands where a lot of submerged evidence of ancient buildings are found.

Just ploughed my way through a massive chapter about India pre history and the fact that ruins in Pakistan are the oldest city sized relics ever found.... 9000 years ago!!!!

More chapters.. more evidence that civilisation was far more advanced than previously thought and everywhere a flood that wiped the cities off the maps and forever changed the landscape

Secrets lie underwater and it is tempting to go to these places just to touch what has been found to believe that it is all real.

Deeply moving

Questions to last a lifetime

Dominic De Souza says

After reading 'Fingerprints of the Gods', this is Graham Hancock's next foray into the jumble of data that speaks to a history ancient beyond imagination.

Graham's theory is that the rising sea levels hide the ruins of ancient cultures, cultures that embedded themselves along coastlines, and built megalithic complexes as easily as we throw up skyscrapers.

He dives off the coast of Japan, India, and Mediterranean lakes, hunting for truth, trying to piece together a story that makes sense of the facts.

It's been years since I read this, and as always, Graham's detectiveing studies the facts, hunting the truth.

Historical insights like these open fresh windows into the mindset of ancient peoples, make better sense of their myths and projections, and why they attuned themselves so closely to sites and scriptures of fantastic importance.

Unlike his later books, Graham scrys the material data, submerging himself in a free ranging list of options.

His conclusions are arresting, and build a deeper case for the journey he started in 'Fingerprints of the Gods'.

Sheila says

I'm almost done with this one. This book held my attention very well. Mr. Hancock explores under water coastal areas of India, Malta, Japan, etc in this book...for evidence of ancient civilizations.

Lots of color pics in this book and a lot of amazing information is presented here. I'm amazed to learn about how little of the coastal regions have actually been studied by marine archeologists.

Hancocks research is all spelled out in this book complete with many maps of the world before, after and during ice age melting over the last 20,000 years. To look at the coastlines of all the countries and see the stark difference of then and now is stunning. So much is waiting to be discovered under the waters. The possibilities are endless and exciting.

Hancock provides a wealth of information on India and it's history of the country and people. And the vast knowledge of these ancient Indians is astonishing in the way they built, lived, prayed, and passed down their knowledge.

Learn all about ancient maps that were once thought to be from the 1400's...are now proving to be copied from thousands & thousands of years earlier. Who were these people who navigated the worlds oceans so many millenia ago? Where did there knowledge come from?

This book is a great read if you are interested in the history of man, and ancient civilizations, ice ages and archeology.

Kristen says

This is going to be a lengthy one, but not as massive as the book itself. I first want to say why I love Hancock's writing style and his attitude about knowledge. He writes about the joy of seeing and discovering new things. He doesn't just write them as facts but he writes of the magical side of seeing something for the first time, that awe inspiring leap of your heart. His attitude about knowledge is that he is just a regular guy seeing things and trying to understand them. He is open to any input and any ideas of how things came to be. He definitely draws his own conclusions, but presents things so that you can draw your own too. These books give you a way to go on that quest for an explanation with him. In my case, conclusions are not always the same as his, but that doesn't draw away from it at all. I think one of the last lines from Underworld summarizes his entire mindset.

"What else was lost then, in that epoch when we dropped the silver thread of memory that connected us to our own past?"

Hancock is, and has always been, on a quest to find forgotten human civilizations. This book for me was by far his best. He generally believes that relics of ancient civilizations are sunken in the waters of the world. This is no great stretch considering that many sites are known. The stretch is how old he believes they are and that they are not so obviously man-made. I was enlightened in the details of many world myths,

including the Vedas. The history of underwater exploration was also fascinating, to think it has only begun so recently. I loved the Ice Age inundation maps being compared to the maps of the 1500's. The entire section on maps was incredible and very well presented. He did draw on the Piri Reis map slightly again. As an interesting side story, I actually have a replica of it hanging in my bedroom. Before I had read any Hancock, in my former life working for the USDA, I had a older co-worker that was a map enthusiast. He had taken a trip to Europe to look at maps and had brought back a bunch of copies and gave me one. Anyway, I enjoyed this but it isn't for anyone looking for a fluff read. The over 700 pages in small print should give that away already.

Chris Marchan says

There are not very many books on this subject (YET), so I had to read it for the second time in a couple of years. It could have gotten the job done in half the pages, but the territory covered is well worth the wade.

Graham is now a fixture in the ongoing study of our very ancient past. He is a very thorough researcher, yet he is not stodgy. You feel like you are right there with him on a dive or negotiating with officials or having an off the cuff discussion with a scientist. Increasingly, there are more and more sites discovered and realized as important clues to our lost human history on land. Just about anyone can go there and walk around and touch the stones.

But there is something utterly otherworldly and mysterious about poking around 90 feet below the ocean's surface and realizing that what is seen was made by humans long, long ago. The implications of the correlated calamity are brought into staggering reality once the reader grasps the universality of the transformation of the earth's climate at the end of the ice age. One then realizes the extremity of the test put upon mankind and can easily extrapolate all the consequences into a modern scenario.

I would have liked to have seen more detailed drawings of the sites explored in this book as it is often difficult to imagine the layout just by a verbal description, though Graham does a marvelous job. Schematics or even maps with cardinal point designations might have made it possible for a reader to do additional research and open a wide range of discussions pertaining to the purpose of such enigmatic structures. In the same way as the Nazca lines are not discernible until you fly over them, perhaps we might have an objective advantage in seeing the results of a careful survey.

All of Mr. Hancock's books are fascinating and I would recommend them to anyone who hungers for insightful, intelligent exploration of our history on this planet. As many have expressed when looking into the rapidly increasing body of evidence resulting from modern day archeological investigations, it occurs to me that in a previous incarnation, the human race may have solved some of the oppressive growing pains now experienced by our burgeoning population. While reading this book, at several times I would pause to wonder what this world would be like if we were to pool our resources more in the direction of Mr. Hancock's queries and less in the multitude of destructive endeavors which suck our finances and souls into their depths. Bravo, Graham. Keep up the good work !
