

Jared Diamond Quotes

*Literature, Animal, People, Years, Long, Technology, Environmental, Water,
Country, World, Self, Native American, Axes, Lying, Rhinos, Made, Stars,
Government, Discovery, Past*

History as well as life itself is complicated -- neither life nor history is an enterprise for those who seek simplicity and consistency.

~Jared Diamond

Forced to choose between limiting population or trying to increase food production, we chose the latter and ended up with starvation, warfare, and tyranny.

~Jared Diamond

The adoption of agriculture, supposedly our most decisive step toward a better life, was in many ways a catastrophe from which we have never recovered.

~Jared Diamond

AIDS and malaria and TB are national security issues. A worldwide program to get a start on dealing with these issues would cost about \$25 billion... It's, what, a few months in Iraq.

~Jared Diamond

We're uncomfortable about considering history as a science. It's classified as a social science, which is considered not quite scientific.

~Jared Diamond

In contrast [to trees and fish], oil, metals, and coal are not renewable; they don't reproduce, sprout, or have sex to produce baby oil droplets or coal nuggets.

~Jared Diamond

Biology is the science. Evolution is the concept that makes biology unique.

~Jared Diamond

Technology has to be invented or adopted.

~Jared Diamond

Rhino-mounted Bantu shock troops could have overthrown the Roman Empire. It never happened.

~Jared Diamond

Why did human development proceed at such different rates on different continents for the last 13,000 years?

~Jared Diamond

Human societies vary in lots of independent factors affecting their openness to innovation.

~Jared Diamond

Much of human history has consisted of unequal conflicts between the haves and the have-nots.

~Jared Diamond

Perhaps our greatest distinction as a species is our capacity, unique among animals, to make counter-evolutionary choices.

~Jared Diamond

All human societies go through fads in which they temporarily either adopt practices of little use or else abandon practices of considerable use.

~Jared Diamond

Even to this day, no native Australian animal species and only one plant species-the macadamia nut-have proved suitable for domestication. There still are no domestic kangaroos.

~Jared Diamond

We can't manipulate some stars while maintaining other stars as controls; we can't start and stop ice ages, and we can't experiment with designing and evolving dinosaurs.

~Jared Diamond

Australia is the most isolated continent.

~Jared Diamond

Put another way, the chimpanzees' closest relative is not the gorilla but humans.

~Jared Diamond

[T]he values to which people cling most stubbornly under inappropriate conditions are those values that were previously the source of their greatest triumphs.

~Jared Diamond

One person making a wrong decision affects the whole country.

~Jared Diamond

The rate of human invention is faster, and the rate of cultural loss is slower, in areas occupied by many competing societies with many individuals and in contact with societies elsewhere.

~Jared Diamond

Take air quality in the United States today: It's about 30 percent better than it was 25 years ago, even though there are now more people driving more cars.

~Jared Diamond

It's striking that Native Americans evolved no devastating epidemic diseases to give to Europeans, in return for the many devastating epidemic diseases that Indians received from the Old World.

~Jared Diamond

Although native Africans domesticated some plants in the Sahel and in Ethiopia and in tropical West Africa, they acquired valuable domestic animals only later, from the north.

~Jared Diamond

I personally am not conscious of my accent.

~Jared Diamond

In the latter case it is often government that organizes the conquest, and religion that justifies it.

~Jared Diamond

No government is here forever. And there are other forces - the most potent force in our society, in fact, big business - doing good for the environment.

~Jared Diamond

To dismiss the current extinction wave on the grounds that extinctions are normal events is like ignoring a genocidal massacre on the grounds that every human is bound to die at some time anyway.

~Jared Diamond

Eurasia ended up with the most domesticated animal species in part because it's the world's largest land mass and offered the most wild species to begin with.

~Jared Diamond

African cavalry mounted on rhinos or hippos would have made mincemeat of European cavalry mounted on horses. But it couldn't happen.

~Jared Diamond

I'd rather spend my leisure time doing what some people call my work and I call my fun.

~Jared Diamond

All recognized famous inventors had capable predecessors and successors and made their improvements at a time when society was capable of using their product.

~Jared Diamond

With the rise of chiefdoms around 7,500 years ago, people had to learn, for the first time in history, how to encounter strangers regularly without attempting to kill them.

~Jared Diamond

The Anasazi did manage to construct in stone the largest and tallest buildings erected in North America until the Chicago steel girder skyscrapers of the 1880s.

~Jared Diamond

The King's 28 letters have been described by scholars as the world's best alphabet and the most scientific system of writing.

~Jared Diamond

A blueprint for disaster in any society is when the elite are capable of insulating themselves.

~Jared Diamond

Why is it that you white people developed so much cargo and brought it to New Guinea, but we black people had little cargo of our own?

~Jared Diamond

Recent discoveries about apes suggest, however, that a gorilla or common chimp stands at least as good a chance being murdered as the average human.

~Jared Diamond

Civilization originates in conquest abroad and repression at home.

~Jared Diamond

In parts of Montana, salt concentrations in soil water, have reached those double those of seawater.

~Jared Diamond

Today Charles Darwin is best known for establishing the fact of evolution and for recognizing the major role of natural selection in driving it.

~Jared Diamond

I've always been interested in a lot of things, and a lot of things at the same time, and I always tried to explain them to myself. I ask a lot of questions.

~Jared Diamond

It invites a search for ultimate causes: why were Europeans, rather than Africans or Native Americans, the ones to end up with guns, the nastiest germs, and steel?

~Jared Diamond

The past was still a Golden Age, of ignorance, while the present is an Iron Age of willful bliss.

~Jared Diamond

The single most important problem is our misguided focus on identifying the single most important problem!

~Jared Diamond

History followed different courses for different peoples because of differences among peoples' environments, not because of biological differences among peoples themselves

~Jared Diamond

What did the last Easter Islander say as he chopped down the last tree? The Easter Islanders didnt have anthropologists.

~Jared Diamond

Think of all the human suffering caused by the sad truth that beautiful sexy women or handsome Porsche-owning men often prove to have miserable genes for other traits

~Jared Diamond

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