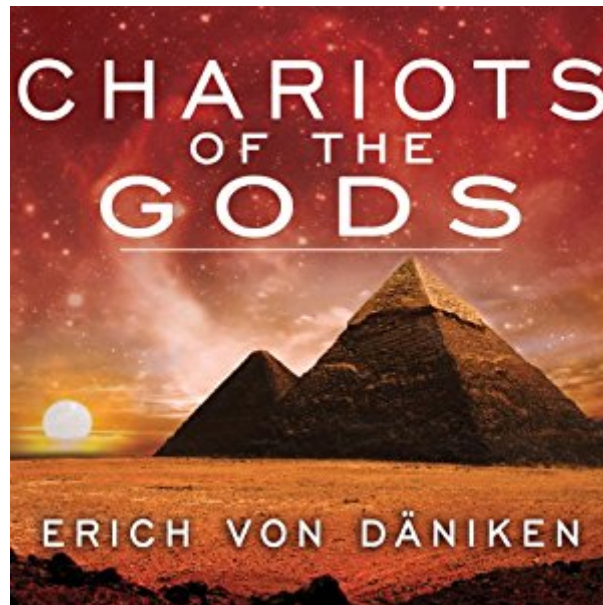


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Chariots Of The Gods



Synopsis

Erich von Däniken's *Chariots of the Gods* is a work of monumental importance---the first book to introduce the shocking theory that ancient Earth was visited by aliens. This world-famous best seller has withstood the test of time, inspiring countless books and films, including the author's own popular sequel, *The Eye of the Sphinx*. But here is where it all began---von Däniken's startling theories of our earliest encounters with alien worlds, based upon his lifelong studies of ancient ruins, lost cities, potential spaceports, and a myriad of hard scientific facts that point to extraterrestrial intervention in human history. Most incredible of all, however, is von Däniken's theory that we ourselves are the descendents of these galactic pioneers---and the archaeological discoveries that prove it: An alien astronaut preserved in a pyramid
Thousand-year-old spaceflight navigation charts
Computer astronomy from Incan and Egyptian ruins
A map of the land beneath the ice cap of Antarctica
A giant spaceport preserved in the Andes

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

I read *Chariots of the Gods* as well as several other Von Daniken works, and he never ceases to entertain me (with the exception of *Miracles of the Gods* - a horrid, poorly executed book). I find his "theories" thought-provoking, yet very weak at their base. Mr. Von Daniken has an irritating habit of jumping from subject to subject, stating his opinions quickly and with little supporting evidence, and then suddenly switching to another "mystery" to start the cycle over again. Even though he makes many compelling points, he never stays on the same subject long enough to fully support his beliefs. If a golden amulet looks like a modern airplane, then it's an airplane. Period. If a stone

carving looks like an astronaut, then it's an astronaut. Period. If a straight line drawn in the sand extends for the length of a modern runway, then it's a runway. Period. And this same style has gone on and on for years and through several books, with more on the way. I take everything he says with a grain of salt. He is sooo quick to jump to (seemingly) reasonable conclusions that I can't help but be intrigued... but obviously I can't even call that he does "theorizing" since he never spends enough time on one piece of evidence to complete his arguments. I look at his work as a starting point, rather than a finished product. If someone takes one of his ideas and runs with it, gathering collaborating evidence and building a more air-tight case for the "solution" presented in his works, then in my opinion Von Daniken has done his job. Unfortunately, I can't be sure Von Daniken shares this opinion. I think he raises important questions, yet his answers are too quick off the mark and ultimately unsatisfying to the discriminating reader. I much prefer the approach taken by Graham Hancock, for example, who normally stays much more conservative. Hancock presents compelling arguments supported by many different pieces of evidence, and will not insult the reader by leaping to his conclusions based upon a single painting or pottery shard. Anyone interested in "alternative" (for lack of a better word) history would do well to pick up Hancock's "Fingerprints of the Gods" for a better-realized examination of ancient mysteries. I still find Von Daniken immensely entertaining, though. Call it a guilty pleasure. I would never be able to defend his ideas during an in-depth discussion of them, and I honestly don't believe Von Daniken would be able to either. I give this book 5 stars for being a lot of FUN and a closet masterpiece.

I've a strong interest in the "ancient astronauts" theory, and this is book is arguably the one that started the whole thing. But having just re-read it after many years, I was left feeling distinctly under-impressed. The book is rambling, disjointed, repetitive, and contains hundreds of unanswered questions. True, von Däniken claims that his purpose was to merely raise the questions rather than provide answers, but it does leave you feeling that you've only read half a book. The way he presents his theories is often sketchy and vague. He doesn't care to consider in any depth what the *purpose* of the extraterrestrial visitors might have been, he is content mainly to claim evidence of their presence. Some of his predictions, such as the human Mars landings, are way off the mark. Moreover, there are many ideas presented in the book but little actual science. His constant pointing out that the American space programme was for a long time based mainly on the work of Nazi scientists is, however, amusing. The new introduction written by the author is almost laughable. Aside from attempting to riposte a few very specific criticisms of some of his claims, it adds very little to the book. I'm giving this book 3 stars because of its significance - it set the ball rolling. But if you

want a much more detailed, well-rounded, well-researched, thoughtful and better-written survey of our possible ET origins and links, including considerable coverage of the important Sumerian mythology, you'd do much better to read William Bramley's "The Gods of Eden".

Chariots of the Gods is a book that has sold millions of copies since the 1970's. Like the 12th Planet(Zecharia Sitchin) it is bathed in controversy. This book challenges the notion that the ancients were visited by aliens and biblical accounts found in many ancient texts are simply primitive man describing alien encounters. Right there you know you are getting yourself onto one crazy ride. However, this is a ride everyone should take for a few reasons.Chariots of the Gods is a book where Von Daniken gathered up multiple accounts of "gods" from Christianity, Judaism, Islam, Babylonia, Egypt, Sumeria etc ; and finding many similarities he theorized the possibility of our entire view of God(s) to be based on Alien Encounters. The book is a fascinating read that will leave you asking questions! As the reader you should be aware this is simply a theory just like Einstein's theory of relativity. However, much of the book is written as if Von Daniken is just hypothesizing the outcome of situations. There are plenty of times when he would ask questions and theorize the answer. It felt as if the author did his homework(evidence by the large bibliography) and then began to connect the dots to try and prove a point.Reading this book in 2011, it is easy to now point out some flaws in his logic and reference material to disprove his theories, but keep in mind this book was written almost 40 years ago. Go back to an Earth Science text book from 1950 and you would laugh because "plate tectonics" didn't exist, so explanations for Earthquakes might seem a bit silly. In fact continental drift was considered a ridiculous notion! If we do not at least try to question other possible explanation for events, we may not ever find the TRUE solution. Just like when Galileo questioned the logic of our solar system he was called a crack pot, but in the end HE WAS RIGHT!However, going into this book expecting 180+ pages of serious scientific evidence is not going to happen. As the opening page hints at, this book is FICTION. It is one man who sat down with tons of evidence and biblical references and saw connections pointing to another meaning. Relating it to aliens might be overdoing it a bit, as this is a very big step to take, but a step bravely taken.** A quote from page 85 sums up what I think the true message of this book is:"We still know too little about our past to make a definitive judgment about it. New finds may solve unprecedented mysteries; the reading of ancient narratives is capable of turning whole worlds of realities upside down."That quote to me, sums up what this book truly is about. It is about returning to our roots and taking the brave step forward towards questioning the validity of our understanding of ancient history. There is always room for change be it a minor or a complete overhaul. Whether his theories

are legitimate or crack-pot, that is for the reader to decide, but Von Daniken took a big step forward in this book by questioning the validity of ancient understanding. A MUST READ!

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