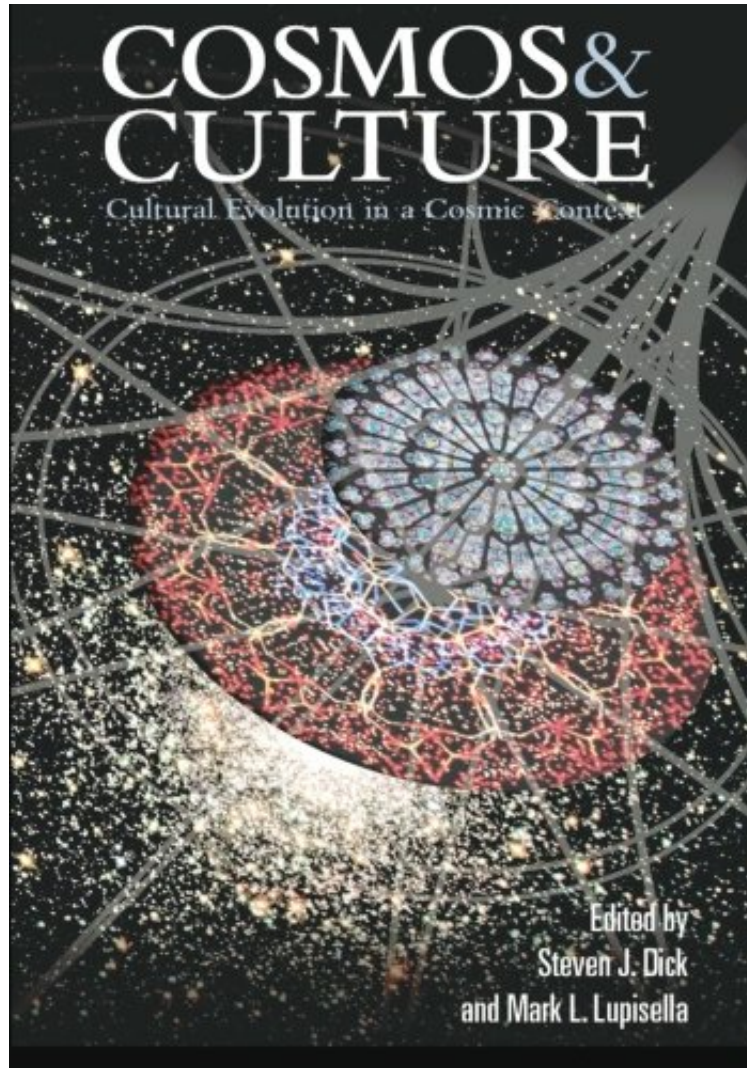


(Free read ebook) Cosmos Culture: Cultural Evolution in a Cosmic Context

Cosmos Culture: Cultural Evolution in a Cosmic Context

*National Aeronautics and Space Administration
ePub | *DOC | audiobook | ebooks | Download PDF*



DOWNLOAD



+

READ ONLINE

#4059979 in Books 2013-10-27 Original language: English PDF # 1 10.00 x 1.38 x 7.001, 2.31 #File Name: 1493594133612 pages | File size: 33.Mb

National Aeronautics and Space Administration : Cosmos Culture: Cultural Evolution in a Cosmic Context before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Cosmos Culture: Cultural Evolution in a Cosmic Context:

4 of 4 people found the following review helpful. Cultural evolution goes cosmic! By Tim Tyler This is a great look at cultural evolution in the cosmos. It's pretty far-out reading material, though. There's a lot of material about cosmic evolution of universes, anthropic reasoning, SETI and what happens to mature civilizations. Many of the contributors discuss cultural evolution intelligently, make use of concepts from memetics, and generally know what they are talking about. As contributors, we have Blackmore on memes, Dennett on memes, Gardner on the intelligent universe, John

Smart on the amazing future, Paul Davies - and many others. However, the book is jam packed with wild speculation about far-future events and possible alien evolution - and other material on the fringes of science. I liked it, but this may not be for everyone.

Cosmic evolution, the idea that the universe and its constituent parts are constantly evolving, has become widely accepted only in the last 50 years. It is no coincidence that this acceptance parallels the span of the Space Age. Although cosmic evolution was first recognized in the physical universe early in the 20th century, with hints even earlier, the relationships among planets, stars, and galaxies, and the evolution of the universe itself, became much better known through the discoveries by planetary probes and space telescopes in the latter half of the century. It was also during the last 50 years a century after Darwin proposed that evolution by natural selection applies to life on our own planet that researchers from a variety of disciplines began to seriously study the possibilities of extraterrestrial life and the biological universe. Considering biology from this broader cosmological perspective has expanded biological thinking beyond its sample-of-one straightjacket, incorporating biology into cosmic evolution. Astrobiology is now a robust discipline even though it has yet to find any life beyond Earth. But there is a third component to cosmic evolution beyond the physical and the biological. Even if we only know of culture on one planet so far, cultural evolution has been an important part of cosmic evolution on Earth, and perhaps on many other planets. Moreover, it also dominates the other two forms of evolution in terms of its rapidity. Humans were not much different biologically 10,000 years ago, but one need only look around to see how much we have changed culturally. Yet, unlike the study of biological evolution, which has made great progress since Darwin's Origin of Species, the scientific study of cultural evolution languished after Darwin's death for the better part of a century. Only within the past few decades has significant progress been made, and concerned with advancing their fledgling science, cultural evolutionists have yet to expand their thinking beyond their current planetary sample-of-one concerns. But if life and intelligence do exist beyond Earth, it is likely that culture will arise and evolve. In this volume authors with diverse backgrounds in science, history, and anthropology consider culture in the context of the cosmos, including the implications of the cosmos for our own culture.

s from Goodreads: John Carter McKnight rated it with 4 stars and had this to say: "Anthology of uniformly high quality. Diverse enough that few will find all the articles exceptionally interesting. It's divided into three parts: a pair of introductory essays on cosmic evolution, grounded in current work in complexity studies, a section on cultural evolution (cultural anthropology and memetics) and a back half on philosophy. I found the first three essays - the opening section and Kathryn Denning's long piece on the anthropology of SETI - really first rate and fascinating; the memetics pieces interesting, and little of the back half worthwhile, but I don't have much patience for philosophy. The volume's subject to the critique that it's wishful thinking about extraterrestrial intelligence and our species having a future at astronomical timescales, dressed up in speculative science: that's a fair categorization of the back half, though the front half has much to offer the scholar working on more ordinary timescales." So Hakim rated it with two (2) stars and had this to say, "Interesting big picture, interesting topics -- but sadly couldn't manage for enjoyable narrative. Which is a shame; I personally feel this book can be magnificent if it has more engaging style. For serious learners only."