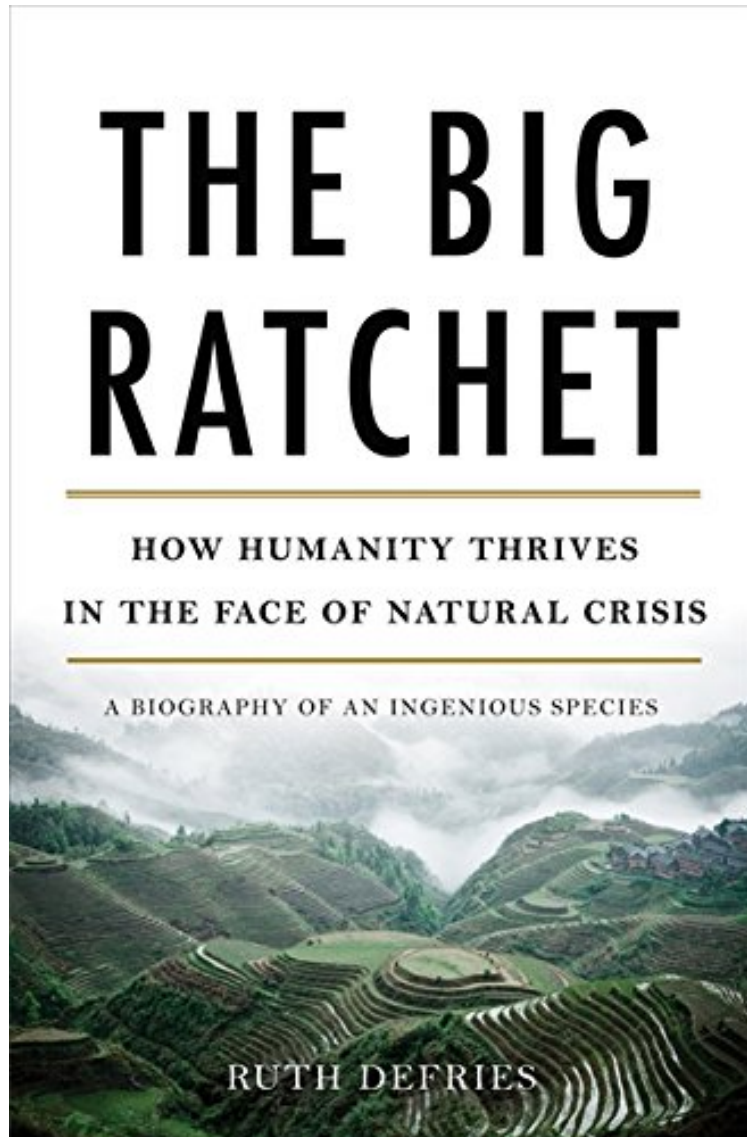


[Read free] The Big Ratchet: How Humanity Thrives in the Face of Natural Crisis

The Big Ratchet: How Humanity Thrives in the Face of Natural Crisis

Ruth DeFries

*ebooks / Download PDF / *ePub / DOC / audiobook*



DOWNLOAD



READ ONLINE

#149852 in Books 2014-09-09 2014-09-09 Original language: English PDF # 1 9.50 x 1.13 x 6.50l, .0 #File Name: 0465044972288 pages | File size: 18.Mb

Ruth DeFries : The Big Ratchet: How Humanity Thrives in the Face of Natural Crisis before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Big Ratchet: How Humanity Thrives in the Face of Natural Crisis:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Fantastic book on how humans and the environment have interacted ...By Customer Fantastic book on how humans and the environment have interacted through history. DeFries

description of the "Hatchet / Ratchet" cycle was incredibly interesting. Humans are constantly altering the world around us to better suit our needs and we are more often than not faced with the consequences that come with such alterations to the natural world. DeFries goes in depth on how our technological advances have allowed populations to thrive and have consequently also led to some of our worst downfalls. The author also demonstrates how the decisions of those in the past has led to many of the issues that plague our world today such as the great divide between those with too much and those with barely enough to survive. A great read for anyone interested on the human impact and sustainability. 4 of 4 people found the following review helpful. Highly recommended for its readability and its fascinating story. By TAMAR LIEBERMAN THE BIG RACHET is a fascinating story of how civilization has creatively met the challenges of life from the earliest times up to the present. Ruth DeFries uses food production as the example of human innovation. The book is extremely well written in laymen language so that it is completely accessible. Highly recommended for its positive outlook on where we are today and how we can go forward in terms of human perseverance and ability to solve its problems. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Course reading, loved it. By Siarah I was assigned this book as a reading for a course, and I actually loved it. It was easy to read and really walked you through the history of humanity's interactions with nature, in the context of an interesting framework of ratchets and hatchets. The beginning was slow, but she really hit her stride and drew me into the story by the middle of the book to the point it felt I was no longer doing an assigned reading, but was truly reading for fun. I would recommend this book to anyone looking to improve their understanding of how we have innovated a way for the planet to support the population it does, and the potential challenges we will come to face as population continues to grow.

Our species long lived on the edge of starvation. Now we produce enough food for all 7 billion of us to eat nearly 3,000 calories every day. This is such an astonishing thing in the history of life as to verge on the miraculous. "The Big Ratchet" is the story of how it happened, of the ratchet technologies and innovations, big and small that propelled our species from hunters and gatherers on the savannahs of Africa to shoppers in the aisles of the supermarket. The Big Ratchet itself came in the twentieth century, when a range of technologies from fossil fuels to scientific plant breeding to nitrogen fertilizers combined to nearly quadruple our population in a century, and to grow our food supply even faster. To some, these technologies are a sign of our greatness; to others, of our hubris. MacArthur fellow and Columbia University professor Ruth DeFries argues that the debate is the wrong one to have. Limits do exist, but every limit that has confronted us, we have surpassed. That cycle of crisis and growth is the story of our history; indeed, it is the essence of "The Big Ratchet." Understanding it will reveal not just how we reached this point in our history, but how we might survive it."