



# War Before Civilization: The Myth of the Peaceful Savage

*Lawrence H. Keeley*

Download now

[Click here](#) if your download doesn't start automatically

# War Before Civilization: The Myth of the Peaceful Savage

Lawrence H. Keeley

## **War Before Civilization: The Myth of the Peaceful Savage** Lawrence H. Keeley

The myth of the peace-loving "noble savage" is persistent and pernicious. Indeed, for the last fifty years, most popular and scholarly works have agreed that prehistoric warfare was rare, harmless, unimportant, and, like smallpox, a disease of civilized societies alone. Prehistoric warfare, according to this view, was little more than a ritualized game, where casualties were limited and the effects of aggression relatively mild. Lawrence Keeley's groundbreaking *War Before Civilization* offers a devastating rebuttal to such comfortable myths and debunks the notion that warfare was introduced to primitive societies through contact with civilization (an idea he denounces as "the pacification of the past").

Building on much fascinating archeological and historical research and offering an astute comparison of warfare in civilized and prehistoric societies, from modern European states to the Plains Indians of North America, *War Before Civilization* convincingly demonstrates that prehistoric warfare was in fact more deadly, more frequent, and more ruthless than modern war. To support this point, Keeley provides a wide-ranging look at warfare and brutality in the prehistoric world. He reveals, for instance, that prehistorical tactics favoring raids and ambushes, as opposed to formal battles, often yielded a high death-rate; that adult males falling into the hands of their enemies were almost universally killed; and that surprise raids seldom spared even women and children. Keeley cites evidence of ancient massacres in many areas of the world, including the discovery in South Dakota of a prehistoric mass grave containing the remains of over 500 scalped and mutilated men, women, and children (a slaughter that took place a century and a half before the arrival of Columbus). In addition, Keeley surveys the prevalence of looting, destruction, and trophy-taking in all kinds of warfare and again finds little moral distinction between ancient warriors and civilized armies. Finally, and perhaps most controversially, he examines the evidence of cannibalism among some preliterate peoples.

Keeley is a seasoned writer and his book is packed with vivid, eye-opening details (for instance, that the homicide rate of prehistoric Illinois villagers may have exceeded that of the modern United States by some 70 times). But he also goes beyond grisly facts to address the larger moral and philosophical issues raised by his work. What are the causes of war? Are human beings inherently violent? How can we ensure peace in our own time? Challenging some of our most dearly held beliefs, Keeley's conclusions are bound to stir controversy.

 [Download War Before Civilization: The Myth of the Peaceful ...pdf](#)

 [Read Online War Before Civilization: The Myth of the Peacefu ...pdf](#)

## **Download and Read Free Online War Before Civilization: The Myth of the Peaceful Savage Lawrence H. Keeley**

---

### **From reader reviews:**

#### **Bruce Bracey:**

In this 21st millennium, people become competitive in most way. By being competitive now, people have do something to make them survives, being in the middle of the crowded place and notice through surrounding. One thing that sometimes many people have underestimated that for a while is reading. Yep, by reading a book your ability to survive raise then having chance to stand than other is high. For you personally who want to start reading the book, we give you this War Before Civilization: The Myth of the Peaceful Savage book as basic and daily reading reserve. Why, because this book is greater than just a book.

#### **Sandra Yunker:**

Nowadays reading books be a little more than want or need but also be a life style. This reading addiction give you lot of advantages. The huge benefits you got of course the knowledge the actual information inside the book this improve your knowledge and information. The knowledge you get based on what kind of book you read, if you want get more knowledge just go with schooling books but if you want feel happy read one together with theme for entertaining for instance comic or novel. The actual War Before Civilization: The Myth of the Peaceful Savage is kind of reserve which is giving the reader unstable experience.

#### **Tracy Zapata:**

The book War Before Civilization: The Myth of the Peaceful Savage will bring you to definitely the new experience of reading the book. The author style to elucidate the idea is very unique. In case you try to find new book you just read, this book very suited to you. The book War Before Civilization: The Myth of the Peaceful Savage is much recommended to you to learn. You can also get the e-book from the official web site, so you can more readily to read the book.

#### **Jimmy Miller:**

A lot of people always spent their particular free time to vacation or go to the outside with them household or their friend. Do you know? Many a lot of people spent they free time just watching TV, or playing video games all day long. If you want to try to find a new activity here is look different you can read some sort of book. It is really fun for you personally. If you enjoy the book you read you can spent the whole day to reading a guide. The book War Before Civilization: The Myth of the Peaceful Savage it is rather good to read. There are a lot of folks that recommended this book. These people were enjoying reading this book. In the event you did not have enough space to bring this book you can buy the e-book. You can m0ore quickly to read this book from the smart phone. The price is not too costly but this book features high quality.

**Download and Read Online War Before Civilization: The Myth of the Peaceful Savage Lawrence H. Keeley #7H2530QOLIV**

## **Read War Before Civilization: The Myth of the Peaceful Savage by Lawrence H. Keeley for online ebook**

War Before Civilization: The Myth of the Peaceful Savage by Lawrence H. Keeley Free PDF d0wnl0ad, audio books, books to read, good books to read, cheap books, good books, online books, books online, book reviews epub, read books online, books to read online, online library, greatbooks to read, PDF best books to read, top books to read War Before Civilization: The Myth of the Peaceful Savage by Lawrence H. Keeley books to read online.

### **Online War Before Civilization: The Myth of the Peaceful Savage by Lawrence H. Keeley ebook PDF download**

**War Before Civilization: The Myth of the Peaceful Savage by Lawrence H. Keeley Doc**

**War Before Civilization: The Myth of the Peaceful Savage by Lawrence H. Keeley Mobipocket**

**War Before Civilization: The Myth of the Peaceful Savage by Lawrence H. Keeley EPub**