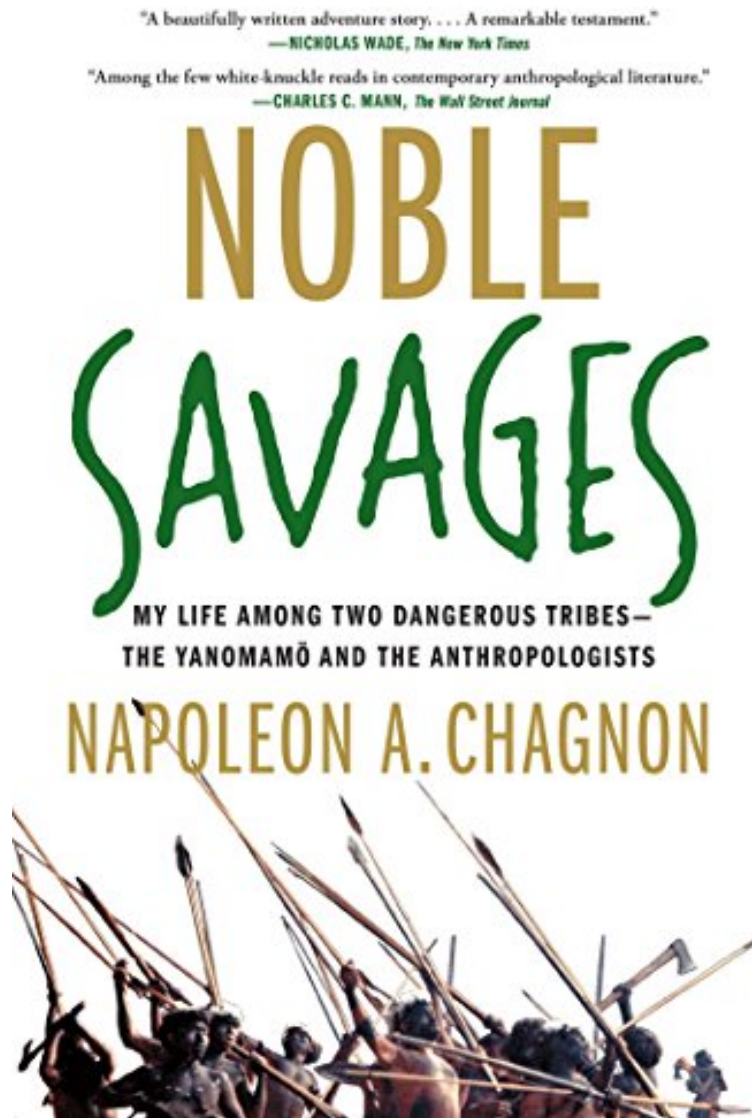


[Free pdf] Noble Savages: My Life Among Two Dangerous Tribes -- the Yanomamo and the Anthropologists

Noble Savages: My Life Among Two Dangerous Tribes -- the Yanomamo and the Anthropologists

Napoleon A. Chagnon

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#290266 in Books Napoleon A Chagnon 2014-02-18 2014-02-18Original language:EnglishPDF # 1 9.00 x 1.30 x 6.00l, 1.15 #File Name: 0684855119544 pagesNoble Savages | File size: 33.Mb

Napoleon A. Chagnon : Noble Savages: My Life Among Two Dangerous Tribes -- the Yanomamo and the Anthropologists before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Noble Savages: My Life Among Two Dangerous Tribes -- the Yanomamo and the Anthropologists:

6 of 6 people found the following review helpful. The real Indiana Jones. By N. Peritore Napoleon Chagnon is the greatest living anthropologist and writes a gripping true great adventure story. He also shows the ugly side of academia, which one of my students called a "sheltered workshop for Aspergers cases." Chagnon produced a boxcar full of field notes from decades of studying the Yanomami indians of Venezuela and Brazil systematically surveying village demography and compiling genealogies and life histories of generations, all this in the service of an authentic evolutionary biological approach to anthropology, turning the discipline into a true science instead of a literary and folkloric study of customs and oddities. Think of how many contacts with pristine peoples were lost to science because the anthropologist wanted to study witchcraft or garden magic instead of biological and cultural indicators of fitness (successful reproduction), kin selection, reciprocal altruism, war and conflict, power relations among men and among women, marriage systems, village fission and fusion, etc. Chagnon was bitterly, brutally, and unfairly attacked by prominent colleagues who misrepresented and lied about his arduous and dangerous field work, tried to get him fired, attacked his funding, usually people who never left their air conditioned offices, and preferred to "deconstruct" their colleagues work instead of contributing something new by learning difficult languages and sweating in the field. If there existed an Nobel Prize for anthropology, Chagnon should be the first recipient. His years of work and risk document a stone age people rapidly being corrupted, assimilated, and exterminated by bigoted missionaries, crooked politicians, military and greedy invaders. This is heroic scientific work, and an excellent read to boot. Put it on your must read list.

5 of 5 people found the following review helpful. An Important Tale By B-Man One of the first Anthropology books I read as an undergrad was Chagnon's book on the Yanomamo: the Fierce People. Only now, after taking his effort for granted, I find that this book was a landmark not only for finding one of the last truly aboriginal peoples on the planet, but for its honest interpretations of its implications. Aboriginal and native does NOT equal mild and peace loving, with a wonderful social contract. In the wild, we are just as uncivilized as we are in civilization. I had no idea he was fighting an entire enterprise of "progressives" who wanted to rewrite history as well as human nature in search of utopia. What a great read, and an amazing life. I applaud him for his honesty, and his perseverance. Perhaps, like him and many others, it is time for us to wake up and smell the coffee- which is not what is being sold to us by the so called progressive elite, the progressive media, and our progressive politicians, but especially the currently well ensconced progressive educational hierarchy- from elementary schools all the way through (perhaps even especially in the most elite) universities.

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Chilling expose on politics in academia By Beaumont Vance I could insert a few other fields in place of "anthropology" and the story here would be accurate. Political and philosophical beliefs bend the science to a form of advocacy. Chagnon is a brave man to have fought this fight. That aside, his stories about the native tribes and the implications are fascinating. I am a reader of Jared Diamond's work as well, and for some reason, Chagnon's book here is more credible and more insightful...perhaps because of his devotion to data. This is a must read for anyone who is interested in human culture, government, social dynamics or sociobiology along with the incredible works of E O Wilson. A must read.

One of history's greatest anthropologists and a rip-roaring storyteller recounts his life with an endangered Amazonian tribe and the mind-boggling controversies his work ignited (Steven Pinker, author of *The Better Angels of Our Nature*). Napoleon Chagnon's *Noble Savages* is the remarkable memoir of a life dedicated to science and a revealing account of the clash between science and political activism. When Napoleon Chagnon arrived in Venezuela's Amazon region in 1964 to study the Yanomami Indians, he expected to find Rousseau's noble savage. Instead he found a shockingly violent society. He spent years living among the Yanomami, observing their often tyrannical headmen, learning to survive under primitive and dangerous conditions. When he published his observations, a firestorm of controversy swept through anthropology departments. Chagnon was vilified by other anthropologists, condemned by his professional association (which subsequently rescinded its reprimand), and ultimately forced to give up his fieldwork. Throughout his ordeal, he never wavered in his defense of science. In 2012 he was elected to the National Academy of Sciences.

From Booklist Chagnon, author of a best-selling college textbook on the isolated Yanomami tribe of the basin, was branded a heretic for violating the received wisdom of anthropology that societies untouched by modern civilization are generally peaceful, and when they're not, the reasons stem from fighting over scarce resources. After living among them for five years, Chagnon found the Yanomami fierce fighters over women. He would ultimately spend 35 years studying the tribe, drawing on the disciplines of anthropology, archaeology, and biology to offer a complex portrait of the isolated tribe. His study came at a time of turmoil within his profession as political correctness and growing activism on behalf of native populations conflicted with more scientific and Darwinian notions of natural selection. Chagnon is as critical of his own early naivete in living among the Yanomami as he is of cultural anthropology itself, which he describes as more religious than scientific. This is a fascinating look at a severely isolated tribe as it evolved into a more complex society as well as a scathing look at the tensions within an academic discipline in transition. -- Vanessa Bush One of history's greatest anthropologists and a rip-roaring storyteller recounts his life with an endangered Amazonian tribe and the mind-boggling controversies his work ignited. *Noble Savages* is rich with insights into human nature,

and an entertaining interlude with a remarkable man. (Steven Pinker, Harvard College Professor of Psychology, Harvard University, and the author of *The Better Angels of Our Nature: Why Violence Has Declined*) *Noble Savages* is an epic not only of one of the most extraordinary physical and intellectual adventures ever experienced by a major scientist, but also the history of one of the most significant events in the early, often turbulent meeting between evolutionary biology and the social sciences." (E. O. Wilson, Pellegrino University Professor Emeritus, Harvard University, and the author of *The Social Conquest of Earth and Sociobiology*) Very few people have led lives as fascinating as Napoleon Chagnon's, or have lived among people as dangerous as the Yanomam, and fewer still have his courage or his honor. *Noble Savages* is a page-turning masterpiece. You don't need to know anything about anthropology to read it. By the time you finish, you'll know a lot." (Elizabeth Marshall Thomas, author of *The Old Way and The Harmless People*) *Noble Savages* is Napoleon Chagnon's equal-time response to the libels that were piled upon him by reckless journalists and irresponsible colleagues. For those who followed the debate it is a welcome summary, and for those who did not it is a brilliant introduction to the innocent nobility of the fierce Yanomam and the petty savagery of the mean-minded savants who saw their outworn ideologies under attack. Chagnon was always himself a fighter and this book is his final knockout punch in a fight he didn't pick, but has most assuredly won. (Robin Fox, University Professor of Social Theory, Rutgers University and author of *The Tribal Imagination: Civilization and the Savage Mind*) A beautifully written adventure story. . . . *Noble Savages* is a remarkable testament to an engineer's 35-year effort to unravel the complex working of an untouched human society. (Nicholas Wade *The New York Times*) One of the most interesting anthropology books I have ever read. . . . [Chagnon's] portrayal of society's origins has so much to say about the nature of our species that it should be examined thoughtfully. (Charles C. Mann *The Wall Street Journal*) Engaging. . . . A fascinating portrayal of the discomfort and danger that anthropologists working in remote areas face. The book is at its most entertaining when documenting the challenges of everyday life in the jungle how to sleep fitfully in a hammock among enemies who might attempt to assassinate you in your sleep or how to net a juicy tapir for your dinner. (Rachel Newcomb *Washington Post*) This memoir, Chagnon's first book for a general audience, recounts with confident prose and self-effacing humor his intense immersion, from 1964 onward, within this fascinating people and their jungle environment. . . . In this invaluable book, Chagnon delivers a gripping adventure travelogue. His take on the corrupting relationship between politics and science is as likely to re-stoke the flames of debate as settle outstanding accounts. (Publishers Weekly) Fascinating reading for anyone interested in native peoples, history and where we all come from. (Curt Schleier *The Seattle Times*) It's not hyperbole to call Chagnon the most controversial and famous anthropologist in America. . . . [*Noble Savages*] is a memoir that offers a highly readable mixture of adventure, science, and scandal. (Nick Romeo *Daily Beast*) An important contribution to the debates over the methods and theories used to understand humans in anthropology and evolutionary sciences and to debates over how visionaries become the targets of those who do not share their vision. (Douglas William Hume *Nature*)

About the Author Napoleon A. Chagnon is distinguished research professor at the University of Missouri and adjunct research scientist at the University of Michigan, and a member of the National Academy of Sciences. He formerly taught at the University of California-Santa Barbara, Penn State, Northwestern, and the University of Michigan. He is the author of five previous academic books and lives in Columbia, Missouri.