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Book Catalog

Our Kind

Who We Are, Where We Came From, and Where We Are Going

By Marvin Harris

Our Price: **\$13.60** (Save 20%)

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Original Cover Price: \$17.00

Our Item Code: **kind**

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547 Pages, Trade Paperback

Cover Size: 5 x 8 inches

Harper Perennial

Related listings: [Anthropology and Human Origins](#)

Date: 1989 ISBN: 0-06-091990-6

Country of Origin: USA

Added to Catalog: 2/5/97 (Revised 12/96)

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Our Review

Opinion of the webmaster, subject to debate

Credibility	Research Value	Cultural Interest	Visual Information	Style	Silliness	Wow Factor	Bargain
5	5	5	0	5	1	5	5
Very High	Very High	Very High	None	Stunning	Very Low	Wow!	Very High

[Explanation of Ratings](#)

Credibility = Very High: In general, this category is a rating of the author's intellectual discipline and the strength of his argument (which are very high), not the veracity of his claims (which could be false in spite of the strong argument).

Offers a series of entertaining essays by anthropologist Marvin Harris on modern human behavior based on our evolutionary origins. Seemingly random human characteristics, like male baldness and female longevity, become understandable in the context of the African savanna where homo sapiens presumably evolved into its modern form. There is much ammunition here for the war of the sexes, as well as many profound observations on why people behave as they do. -- *Glenn Campbell*

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Information from the Publisher

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Publisher's Synopsis

Marvin Harris tells how we evolved from apes, acquired powers of speech, and went on to fill the world with a dazzling diversity of societies and cultures. Writing with the same wit, humor and style of his earlier bestsellers, this noted anthropologist traces our roots and views our eventual destiny.

From the Book Cover

"In the beginning was the foot."

Before consciousness formed and tools were made, before speech was learned and cultures were established, before religion, society, politics, and war, came a simple evolutionary change: one primate, our common ancestor, took the first upright step. So begins our family history.... the story told by Marvin Harris in *OUR KIND*. The tale explores topics as varied as how the different races arose; why marriage and the nuclear family were established; why we overeat; how men came to dominate politics; why women have longer lifespans; why yuppies are such conspicuous consumers; how war has come to overshadow us, and whether it always will...and a great deal more.

"A Big Bang of a book....Marvin Harris seeks to do nothing less than bring us from the dimmest origins of human kind to our present day"

The Milwaukee Journal

"The best approach to the tricky problem of understanding humans as culture-bearing animals that has appeared in recent years."

Niles Eldredge, Curator, American Museum of Natural History

"A feast for the reader...the most entertaining, the most informative, the best general book on the origins and role of

culture in shaping our lives."

Dr. Melvin Lonner, author of *The Tangled Wing*

Marvin Harris is one of the best known and most influential anthropologist today. His sixteen books including *Cows, Pigs, Wars and Witches; Cannibals and Kings; American Now;* and *Good to Eat* ---have been translated into over a dozen languages. Dr. Harris lives in Gainesville, Florida and on Cranberry Island, Maine.

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About the Author

One of the best known of contemporary anthropologists, **Marvin Harris** has devoted his career to asking big questions about the human condition and answering them authoritatively in clear, down-to-earth prose. In an age of specialists who choose to communicate only within small circles, Harris stands out as an unrepentant generalist interested in the global processes that account for human origins and the evolution of human culture. His sixteen previous books, which have been translated into fifteen languages, include best-sellers such as *Cows, Pigs, Wars and Witches* and *Cannibals and Kings* as well as a widely used introductory college textbook, *Culture, People, Nature*, now in its fifth edition. After receiving his doctorate, he taught in the Department of Anthropology at Columbia University, served as chairman there, and carried out research in Brazil, Mozambique, Ecuador, India, and East Harlem. In 1981 he accepted the position of graduate research professor of anthropology at the University of Florida in Gainesville and is currently the chair of the General Anthropology Division of the American Anthropological Association. He does most of his writing at a summer cottage on Cranberry Island, Maine. The manuscript for *OUR KIND*, like those of all his books, was handwritten, but he vows to switch to a word processor for his next project because it is getting too hard to find decent yellow pads.

-- *From the Publisher*

Promotional Material from the Publisher

Praise For *OUR KIND* By Marvin Harris

"Brilliant, provocative insights..."

Publishers Weekly

"...substantive, up-to-date essays--each one an easily digested bite."

New York Times Book Review

"Entirely accessible...written with the lively wit and know-it-all certainty generally associated with a favorite high school science teacher."

Boollist

"....the Big Picture....Harris' provocative, personal views engage throughout."

Kirkus Reviews

"Harris does an entertaining job of informing, his book a kind of one man's effort at science literacy-raising."

The Boston Herald

"....at once thought-provoking and breezy enough to be popular."

Fort Worth Star-Telegram

"OUR KIND is a feast of a book....entertaining and enlightening."

The Kansas City Star

"Light, breezy but amazingly informative....a refreshing and stimulating piece of self-analysis."

Pittsburg Press

"Our Kind is a fun read....just open it to any page and you'll become absorbed."

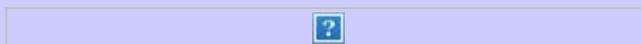
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