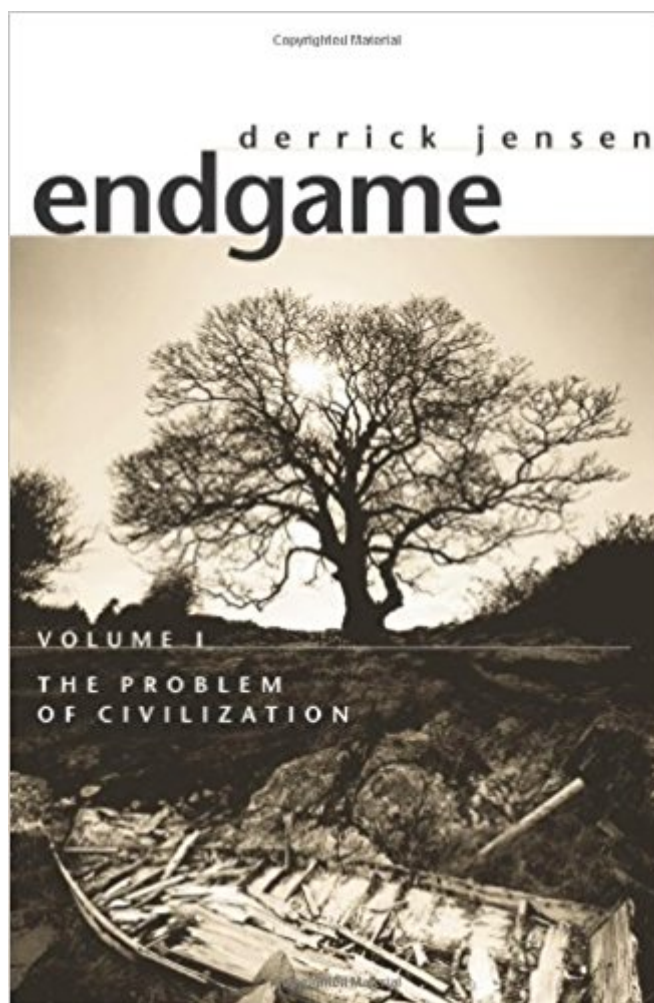


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Endgame, Vol. 1: The Problem Of Civilization



Synopsis

The long-awaited companion piece to Derrick Jensen's immensely popular and highly acclaimed works *A Language Older Than Words* and *The Culture of Make Believe*. Accepting the increasingly widespread belief that industrialized culture inevitably erodes the natural world, *Endgame* sets out to explore how this relationship impels us towards a revolutionary and as-yet undiscovered shift in strategy. Building on a series of simple but increasingly provocative premises, Jensen leaves us hoping for what may be inevitable: a return to agrarian communal life via the disintegration of civilization itself.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

The author, who in earlier books like *The Culture of Make Believe* discussed his experience of violence and abuse as a child, calls now for determined and even violent resistance to environmental degradation. Jensen comes across in volume I as a provocative but personable philosopher-activist who in lyrical and witty writing bemoans species extinction, sullied air quality, shrinking icecaps, expanding deserts and vanishing forests wrought by humans. But Jensen believes "this culture will not undergo any sort of voluntary transformation to a sane and sustainable way of living." Civilization, he says in volume II, is killing the planet, so "[c]ivilization needs to be brought down now." Jensen dwells through several chapters on the need to destroy tens of thousands of river dams, whether with pickax-wielding citizen armies or through the use of well-placed explosive charges; other chapters consider how simple it would be to paralyze the

American capitalist system if small activist cells were to disrupt railway, highway, pipeline and other elements of commercial infrastructure. Jensen clearly feels a close connection to nature, writes movingly about the hoped-for return of the salmon, the trees, the grizzly bears. But he has become so disgusted with what he calls "civilization" that he has more compassion for the salmon than for his fellow humans. (June) Copyright © Reed Business Information, a division of Reed Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved.

Jensen, author of *A Language Older than Words* (2000) and *The Culture of Make Believe* (2002), has a deserved reputation as a writer of consequence and conscience who has pursued an environmentalist message with great fervor. In his latest work, however, a two-volume manifesto, he argues for the necessary destruction of civilization to save the world. Jensen posits his case against industrial development through discussion of everything from dams to the use of torture by the U.S. military. *Endgame* touches on numerous valid and necessary subjects, but Jensen's strident tone and heavy reliance on sources that fully support his message weaken his presentation. And when he offers solutions for the problems we face, he preaches violence. Clearly he is passionate, but apparently the success of his earlier books has led to his writing only for those who already agree with him, rather than crafting a balanced discussion that allows readers to come to their own conclusions. Jensen has become an extremist, and he may have done his cause the worst possible service by alienating the readers he most needs to inspire. Colleen Mondor Copyright © American Library Association. All rights reserved

Great book. Recommend. Has a documentary based on this book"END:CIV examines our culture's addiction to systematic violence and environmental exploitation, and probes the resulting epidemic of poisoned landscapes and shell-shocked nations. Based in part on *Endgame*, the best-selling book by Derrick Jensen, END:CIV asks: "If your homeland was invaded by aliens who cut down the forests, poisoned the water and air, and contaminated the food supply, would you resist?" [...]

The author does come off as sounding somewhat preachy, however, he brings up a lot of very interesting thoughts and points of view. I have yet to finish the book, but it has been a great read and has challenged me to think over a lot of different things in society, which is what I was hoping for, a different viewpoint. I would recommend the book, but come into reading it with an open mind and an understanding that you may have to get past some of the self serving writing.

Jensen tells it like it is. If you want the unvarnished truth about our world and our culture read this book. The truth is very rare in our world, this guy delivers. His own tragic abuse at the hands of his father gives Mr. Jensen an angle on the negatives of our culture that really resonates. Perhaps that is an understatement. I must admit, Mr. Jensen thinks so much like me it was amazing and it was very gratifying to discover others have these same ideas. Hold on tight, the truth is written here.

If your an existential theory connoisseur this is a must read book. Lock up the razor blades. In a way Derrick is one or two steps away from what the Unabomber wrote in his manifest.

Bury your life and mind in these books of Deep Green Resistance then decide how you will participate. They are beautifully written without being seductive. Factual and direct. Don't miss them. All the others about the planet and environment don't even come close.

Good read. Check it out.

loved it!

This book changed my life and almost made me a criminal before I could regain some balance.

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