



Ride of the Second Horseman: The Birth and Death of War

Robert L. O'Connell

Download now

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

Ride of the Second Horseman: The Birth and Death of War

Robert L. O'Connell

Ride of the Second Horseman: The Birth and Death of War Robert L. O'Connell

"Accurst be he that first invented war," wrote Christopher Marlowe--a declaration that most of us would take as a literary, not literal, construction. But in this sweeping overview of the rise of civilization, Robert O'Connell finds that war is indeed an invention--an institution that arose due to very specific historical circumstances, an institution that now verges on extinction.

In *Ride of the Second Horseman*, O'Connell probes the distant human past to show how and why war arose. He begins with a definition that distinguishes between war and mere feuding: war involves group rather than individual issues, political or economic goals, and direction by some governmental structure, carried out with the intention of lasting results. With this definition, he finds that ants are the only other creatures that conduct it--battling other colonies for territory and slaves. But ants, unlike humans, are driven by their genes; in humans, changes in our culture and subsistence patterns, not our genetic hardware, brought the rise of organized warfare. O'Connell draws on anthropology and archeology to locate the rise of war sometime after the human transition from nomadic hunting and gathering to agriculture, when society split between farmers and pastoralists. Around 5500 BC, these pastoralists initiated the birth of war with raids on Middle Eastern agricultural settlements. The farmers responded by ringing their villages with walls, setting off a process of further social development, intensified combat, and ultimately the rise of complex urban societies dependent upon warfare to help stabilize what amounted to highly volatile population structures, beset by frequent bouts of famine and epidemic disease. In times of overpopulation, the armies either conquered new lands or self-destructed, leaving fewer mouths to feed. In times of underpopulation, slaves were taken to provide labor. O'Connell explores the histories of the civilizations of ancient Sumeria, Egypt, Assyria, China, and the New World, showing how war came to each and how it adapted to varying circumstances. On the other hand, societies based on trade employed war much more selectively and pragmatically. Thus, Minoan Crete, long protected from marauding pastoralists, developed a wealthy mercantile society marked by unmilitaristic attitudes, equality between men and women, and a relative absence of class distinctions. In Assyria, by contrast, war came to be an end in itself, in a culture dominated by male warriors.

Despite the violence in the world today, O'Connell finds reason for hope. The industrial revolution broke the old patterns of subsistence: war no longer serves the demographic purpose it once did. Fascinating and provocative, *Ride of the Second Horseman* offers a far-reaching tour of human history that suggests the age-old cycle of war may now be near its end.



[Download Ride of the Second Horseman: The Birth and Death o ...pdf](#)



[Read Online Ride of the Second Horseman: The Birth and Death ...pdf](#)

Download and Read Free Online Ride of the Second Horseman: The Birth and Death of War Robert L. O'Connell

From reader reviews:

Martin Thomas:

Hey guys, do you really wants to finds a new book to study? May be the book with the subject Ride of the Second Horseman: The Birth and Death of War suitable to you? The actual book was written by renowned writer in this era. The particular book untitled Ride of the Second Horseman: The Birth and Death of Waris a single of several books that will everyone read now. This particular book was inspired a lot of people in the world. When you read this guide you will enter the new way of measuring that you ever know ahead of. The author explained their thought in the simple way, therefore all of people can easily to be aware of the core of this book. This book will give you a large amount of information about this world now. So that you can see the represented of the world with this book.

Lorenzo Davis:

Spent a free time for you to be fun activity to try and do! A lot of people spent their down time with their family, or all their friends. Usually they carrying out activity like watching television, gonna beach, or picnic inside the park. They actually doing ditto every week. Do you feel it? Do you need to something different to fill your personal free time/ holiday? May be reading a book could be option to fill your free time/ holiday. The first thing that you'll ask may be what kinds of publication that you should read. If you want to try out look for book, may be the publication untitled Ride of the Second Horseman: The Birth and Death of War can be good book to read. May be it might be best activity to you.

Cliff Boyd:

Do you have something that you want such as book? The publication lovers usually prefer to pick book like comic, quick story and the biggest an example may be novel. Now, why not hoping Ride of the Second Horseman: The Birth and Death of War that give your fun preference will be satisfied by reading this book. Reading addiction all over the world can be said as the opportunity for people to know world a great deal better then how they react in the direction of the world. It can't be claimed constantly that reading practice only for the geeky particular person but for all of you who wants to become success person. So , for every you who want to start looking at as your good habit, you are able to pick Ride of the Second Horseman: The Birth and Death of War become your own personal starter.

Josefina Roundtree:

Beside this particular Ride of the Second Horseman: The Birth and Death of War in your phone, it could possibly give you a way to get closer to the new knowledge or info. The information and the knowledge you can got here is fresh from the oven so don't be worry if you feel like an old people live in narrow small town. It is good thing to have Ride of the Second Horseman: The Birth and Death of War because this book offers to you readable information. Do you often have book but you don't get what it's all about. Oh come on, that won't happen if you have this with your hand. The Enjoyable blend here cannot be questionable, including

treasuring beautiful island. Use you still want to miss the item? Find this book as well as read it from currently!

Download and Read Online Ride of the Second Horseman: The Birth and Death of War Robert L. O'Connell #HNXP205JWY7

Read Ride of the Second Horseman: The Birth and Death of War by Robert L. O'Connell for online ebook

Ride of the Second Horseman: The Birth and Death of War by Robert L. O'Connell 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 Ride of the Second Horseman: The Birth and Death of War by Robert L. O'Connell books to read online.

Online Ride of the Second Horseman: The Birth and Death of War by Robert L. O'Connell ebook PDF download

Ride of the Second Horseman: The Birth and Death of War by Robert L. O'Connell Doc

Ride of the Second Horseman: The Birth and Death of War by Robert L. O'Connell Mobipocket

Ride of the Second Horseman: The Birth and Death of War by Robert L. O'Connell EPub