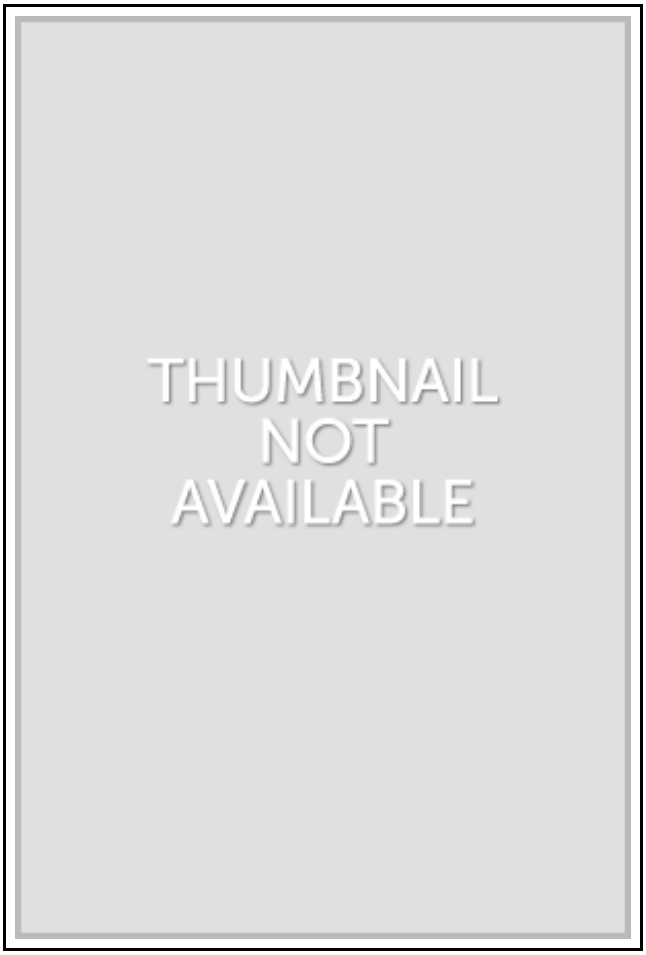
Coevolution: Genes, Culture, and Human Diversity



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Reviews

Extensive manual! Its this type of great read through. This can be for all who statte there was not a worth reading. It is extremely difficult to leave it before concluding, once you begin to read the book.
(Dr. Furman Becker V)

COEVOLUTION: GENES, CULTURE, AND HUMAN DIVERSITY

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Stanford University Press. Paperback. Book Condition: new. BRAND NEW, Coevolution: Genes, Culture, and Human Diversity, William H. Durham, Charles Darwin's On the Origins of Species had two principal goals: to show that species had not been separately created and to show that natural selection had been the main force behind their proliferation and descent from common ancestors. In Coevolution, the author proposes a powerful new theory of cultural evolution--that is, of the descent with modification of the shared conceptual systems we call cultures--that is parallel in many ways to Darwin's theory of organic evolution. The author suggests that a process of cultural selection, or preservation by preference, driven chiefly by choice or imposition depending on the circumstances, has been the main but not exclusive force of cultural change. He shows that this process gives rise to five major patterns or modes in which cultural change is at odds with genetic change. Each of the five modes is discussed in some detail and its existence confirmed through one or more case studies chosen for their heuristic value, the robustness of their data, and their broader implications. But Coevolution predicts not simply the existence of the five modes of gene-culture relations; it also predicts their relative importance in the ongoing dynamics of cultural change in particular cases. The case studies themselves are lucid and innovative reexaminations of an array of oft-pondered anthropological topics--plural marriage, sickle-cell anemia, basic color terms, adult lactose absorption, incest taboos, headhunting, and cannibalism. In a general case, the author's goal is to demonstrate that an evolutionary analysis of both genes and culture has much to contribute to our understanding of human diversity, particularly behavioraldiversity, and thus to the resolution of age-old questions about nature and nurture, genes and culture.

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