



# Time in History: Views of Time from Prehistory to the Present Day

By G. J. Whitrow

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Never before has time obsessed humanity as much as now. The more accurately we measure it, the more it worries us. Although we complain that it passes too quickly, we seldom question its fundamental characteristics or the methods we use to measure it.

Having grown so accustomed to the ideas of time, history, and evolution, we find it hard to imagine that these concepts were not always considered important. If, however, we wish to understand why time dominates our way of life and thought, we must examine the role it has played throughout history.

G.J. Whitrow provides just the study we need. His compelling, groundbreaking volume traces the evolution of our general awareness of time and its significance from the dawn of history to the present day. He examines not only the development of our methods of measuring time, but also discusses how changing concepts of time have influenced history itself. From prehistoric times to the twentieth century, and ranging from Ancient Egypt, Greece, Israel, the Islamic World, India, and China, to Europe and America, Whitrow presents an absorbing account of the different ways that various civilizations throughout history have perceived time.

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'No one is better qualified than G.J. Whitrow to review ideas of time down the ages. His book is well written and judiciously selective. This is an admirable survey, authoritative and readable, of the evolution of our awareness of time and our methods of measuring it.'

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'If you have any interest in time ... buy it: it's not expensive. Then read it; scientist or non-scientist, you'll enjoy it and probably learn quite a lot.'

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#### About the Author

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**G.J. Whitrow** is Emeritus Professor at the University of London and Senior Research Fellow of the Imperial College of Science and Technology, London. He is the author of *The Natural Philosophy of Time*.

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