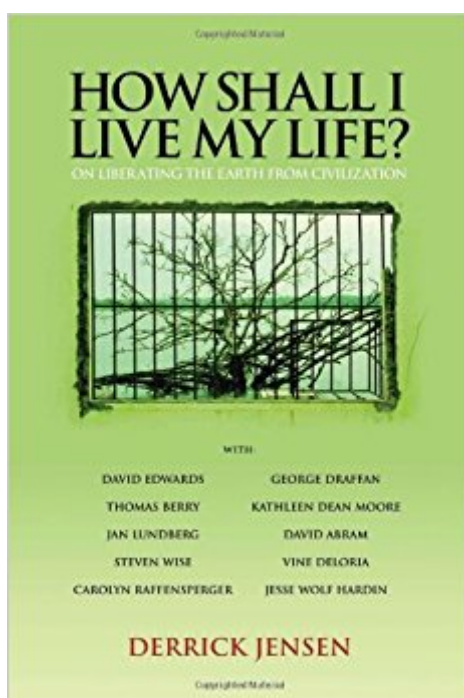


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How Shall I Live My Life?: On Liberating The Earth From Civilization (PM Press)



Synopsis

In this collection of interviews, Derrick Jensen discusses the destructive dominant culture with ten people who have devoted their lives to undermining it. Whether it is Carolyn Raffensperger and her radical approach to public health, or Thomas Berry on perceiving the sacred; be it Kathleen Dean Moore reminding us that our bodies are made of mountains, rivers, and sunlight; or Vine Deloria asserting that our dreams tell us more about the world than science ever can, the activists and philosophers interviewed in *How Shall I Live My Life?* each bravely present a few of the endless forms that resistance can and must take.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

"Derrick Jensen is in search [of] solutions to these times of despair with interviews of amazing authors, philosophers, activists, and environmentalists. . . . It drives home deeply that there is a serious crisis modern civilization is facing but does allow for hope and a solution." [Razorcake](#) (July 30, 2011)

Hailed as the philosopher poet of the ecological movement, Derrick Jensen is the widely acclaimed author of *Endgame*, *A Language Older Than Words*, *The Culture of Make Believe* (a finalist for the 2003 J. Anthony Lukas Book Prize), and *Walking on Water*, among many others. Jensen's writing has been described as "breaking and mending the reader's heart" (*Publishers Weekly*). His latest book: *How Shall I Live My Life?: On Liberating the Earth from Civilization* (PM Press) is a collection

of interviews with ten activists who have devoted their lives to undermining the destructive dominant culture. Author, teacher, activist, and leading voice of uncompromising dissent, he regularly stirs auditoriums across the country with revolutionary spirit. He lives in Crescent City, California.

the David Braham magician guy is too New Age. Feeling a soul in robots and machines? What?

The book provides a range of interesting and provocative discussion on issues that are particularly vital to the earth community and civilization itself.

If you are new to Derrick Jensen's writing, this may well be the book for you. However, if you've already read a couple of his books, I suggest you stay away from this one. It reads and feels as though his publisher wanted a new book out right away, so he turned to the time-worn solution of gathering a bunch of old material into a collection and publishing it in a "new" book. The essays are ten years old and simply cannot follow *Endgame*, for example. This is not cutting-edge Jensen. More like "mild mannered" Jensen. It certainly won't stop my reading Jensen, nor abate my enthusiasm for him or his work. But, this book is definitely a detour from his usual excellence, and this review is my warning signpost to other Jensen followers to use their time and dollars more wisely than I did.

This was my first Derrick Jensen book. He interviews a diverse range of activists, researchers, theologians, writers, and artists. The discussion that ensues challenges my ideas of being good to the earth. It makes me re-examine my ideas of power, class, laws, and civilization. After trying to read a few Chomsky books and never getting through one, I would recommend this book to anyone who wants to think more deeply about their actions as an individual, as a country, as a society, as a being on this planet. Thorough in depth of subject matter but accessible to any literate person.

Derrick Jensen selected an amazing range of diverse people, in a way that seems to tie them all together, like different colors of threads in a blanket. Many of different people's answers finally answered some of my 30 years lingering questions collecting dust. Many of my personal observations of the world were finally aligned with other's similar observations and it's now in print. For example; Jan Lundberg commented how it's too bad that economics and the real world so rarely intersect. After meeting so many people trying to convince me that more business, more money, more junk is the way to go, it's truly validating to have all of DJ's interviewees to confirm what I've suspected all along. Another great example, regarding to problematic relationships in the modern

world; David Abram: Another human cannot possibly provide all of the outrageously diverse and vital nourishment with dragonflies and swallowtails and stones and lichen and wolves. It's just not possible. We used to carry on personal relationships with the sun and the moon and the stars! Derrick's interview was refreshing in that he bravely counterattacked some people reminding them alternative views that even that they did not think of, thus challenging them to stretch their own minds a bit. At last, interviewing a Native American Indian lawyer, named Vine Deloria blew me away with stories of multiple tribes; once again, confirming a lot of what I knew deep down but had no direct proof but my own intuition. I find this reader friendly and great for holiday or birthday gifts for those who care about our world. Thanks, Derrick, for a splendid job!

Civilized life, is it really the only option? "How Shall I Live My Life?: On Liberating the Earth From Civilization" takes an original and revolutionary approach to the health concerns many Americans face. Saying that humanity is made for a more uncivilized life, in tune with nature, he offers a possible new way for people to live their lives, one that manages to be oxymoronically traditional and untraditional at the same time. "How Shall I Live My Life?" is intriguing and enlightening, making it a solid read and a recommended edition to personal Self-Help/Self-Improvement reading lists and community library reference collections.

Recycled old interviews. Nicely done, as such. I am giving only one star because the book does not deliver what the title implies. The book is long on discussion of the problems with the dominant culture, and very short on "liberating the Earth from civilization."

I was not surprised to see that Derrick Jensen would be a great interviewer, He also picked a great bunch of people to interview. Their personal beliefs and the way they express them with word and actions really made me look at myself and wonder what else I can do.

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