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Roundtable Review of *Evolutionary History* by Edmund Russell

Hamblin, Jacob D., ed.

Hamblin, Jacob D., ed., Roundtable Review of *Evolutionary History: Uniting History and Biology to Understand Life on Earth* by Edmund Russell. *H-Environment Roundtable Reviews* 2, no. 3 (May 2012), www.h-net.org/~environ/roundtables/env-roundtable-2-3.pdf .

Edmund Russell adopts a view of history that draws unflinchingly upon the lessons of evolutionary biology and employs the notion of the coevolution of plants, animals, and microorganisms to explain the causes and consequences of a broad range of events. These include the activities of daily life, such as picking up dog feces and using hand sanitizer, to episodes of enormous historical importance, such as the natural causes of the Industrial Revolution. Throughout his book, Russell wants to convince us that evolution is everywhere, happening all the time, and that humans have played an enormous role—conscious or not—in shaping evolutionary processes. He also hopes to encourage scholars to incorporate evolution into their own historical work.

(Text adapted from Jacob D. Hamblin's introduction to the Roundtable Review.)

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