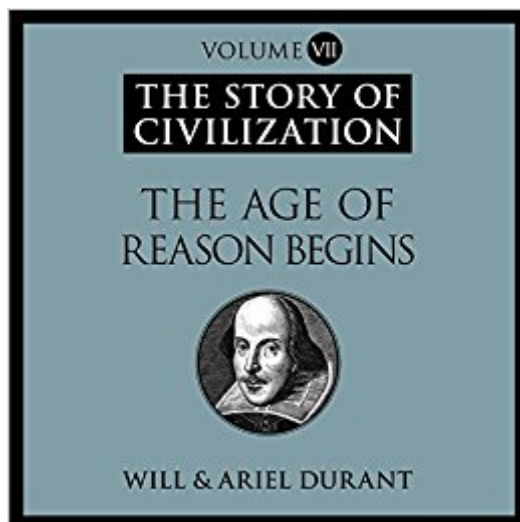


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# The Age Of Reason Begins: A History Of European Civilization In The Period Of Shakespeare, Bacon, Montaigne, Rembrandt, Galileo, And Descartes: 1558 - ... Book 7) (Story Of Civilization (Audio))



## Synopsis

[Read by Grover Gardner] This seventh volume of Will and Ariel Durant's renowned series, *The Story of Civilization*, chronicles the history of European civilization from 1558 to 1648. *The Age of Reason Begins* brings together a fascinating network of stories in the discussion of the bumpy road toward the Enlightenment. This is the age of great monarchs and greater artists - on the one hand, Elizabeth the First of England, Philip II of Spain, and Henry IV of France; on the other, Shakespeare, Cervantes, Montaigne, and Rembrandt. It also encompasses the heyday of Francis Bacon, Galileo, Giordano Bruno, and Descartes, the fathers of modern science and philosophy. But it is equally an age of extreme violence, a moment in which all Europe was embroiled in the horrible Thirty Years' War - in some respects, the real first world war. This chapter in cultural history is one that can't be missed.

## Book Information

Series: *Story of Civilization (Audio)* (Book 7)

Audio CD

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## Customer Reviews

"Mr. and Mrs. Durant are admirably lucid." --*New York Times* "This is a book that can be commended very warmly." --*New York Times* "Magnificent and monumental." --*New York Times*, praise for the "Story of Civilization" series

Will Durant (1885-1981) was an award-winning American writer, historian, and philosopher. He and his wife were awarded the Pulitzer Prize for General Nonfiction in 1968 for *Rousseau and Revolution*, and he was a recipient of the Presidential Medal of Freedom. Durant spent over forty

years writing the critically acclaimed eleven-volume "The Story of Civilization", the later volumes with the help of his wife, Ariel. He sought to revitalize history by unifying and humanizing the great body of historical knowledge, which had become voluminous and fragmented into esoteric subcategories. He also strove to bring philosophy to the common man. Durant was a champion of human rights, social reform, and the brotherhood of man long before they became well-known issues. Ariel Durant (1898-1981) was a Russian-born American researcher and writer and the coauthor of the eleven-volume "The Story of Civilization" with her husband Will Durant. Ariel and Will Durant were jointly awarded the Pulitzer Prize for General Nonfiction in 1968 and the Presidential Medal of Freedom in 1977. Ariel was named the 1977 Woman of the Year by the city of Los Angeles.

I bought this series years ago in hardback and only recently bought Kindle editions for some. These volumes are long and the reading is dense. I have promised myself I would read one a year until I finish the series. That said, the writing is pithy, uniquely expressive and memorable. About every page or two, I read and marvel at how Durant has described an event, object, or condition. I wish I could write this review as they would have, but I can't; I can only promise you that if you love language and history, you will find the journey to be rewarding. These histories were written well before cheap printing or the Internet, so the illustrations are very poor by contemporary standards. I have found that reading the sections on art and architecture are especially rewarding when I search the Internet for images for the subject at hand. I smile when I think how the Durants would have enjoyed the ease of viewing so much so readily, although they claim to have seen all the art work they describe. Readers will also be amused or chagrined by the similarity of so many governments in the past with our current struggles to manage civilization. As much as we regret the present human condition, we can readily read that for most of history, life was brutal and often hopeless. Medical care was dangerous. One's status with the king or pope was everything and could change in an afternoon. Our histories have been dominated by superstition and dogma and people killed one another for the least of reasons. I, for one, believe we are making slow, but hopeful, progress for the species.

great

Received the book in good condition

Very well done. Great detail. A really great writer

great

Excellent book on cd and excellent service!

Everything went very well with this purchase. My only comment is that the book was packed in a box larger than necessary and the box stuffed with a large amount of paper. Whenever possible, I suggest, that more appropriate sized boxes be used to keep the amount of packaging as eco-friendly as possible. Thank you.

bought it to complete a set; i wish i would have paid attention to publication date cause now i have a mismatched set of different color covers.

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