Druids: A Very Short Introduction by Barry Cunliffe

Enter the Druids: the first contacts 5. Altars steeped in human blood 6. Twilight in the far west 7. Renaissance and rediscovery 8. Romanticism and the rise of nationalism 9. Neo-druids and the neo-pagans So, who were the Druids? Further reading. How far back in time European communities began to recognize and chart the movements of the sun, moon, and stars it is impossible to say, but for the mobile hunting bands of the Palaeolithic period, following large herds through the forests of Europe and returning to base camps when the hunt was over, the ability to navigate using the
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Search Start Search. E-Book anzeigen. Druids: A Very Short Introduction. Barry Cunliffe. Who were the Druids? What do we know about them? Do they still exist today? They are a popular subject; they have been known and discussed for over 2,000 years and few figures float so elusive through history. What do we know about them? Do they still exist today? This VSI examines the origins of the Druids and the evidence for their beliefs and practices, asking what can and cannot be known about them. It considers why the nature of the Druid caste changed quite dramatically over time, and how successive generations have interpreted the phenomenon in very different ways. Keywords: agriculture, archaeology, John Aubrey, Julius Caesar, druid, language, magic, Pliny the Elder, prophecy, sacrifice, William Stukeley, women.

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Everything else we think we know about them is probably an invention of the 19th century romantics reaching for an idealized mystic ancestor who would give the modern British an ancient heritage equal to that of the Greeks. A short book, short on details. Everything else we think we know about them is probably an invention of the 19th century romantics reaching for an idealized mystic ancestor who would give the modern British an ancient heritage equal to that of the Greeks and Romans - it's not true.

The historical and archeological records simply do not support the range of influence or level of culture we continue to ascribe to these ancient people. OK - so now you don't have to read the book. There is no particularly brilliant twist or genius in the telling. We have no record of specific Druid personalities, so the book is a fairly perfunctory review of what we know and don't really know with very little compelling story telling. Not painful to read, but nothing special. Jun 07, Linda rated it liked it Shelves: non-fiction. I believe that these series could have easily saves some trees and combines this with The Celts: A Very Short Introduction. Quite a lot of information was overlapping. But other than that, again a decent read, which showed me what kind of difficulties researchers must go through, that almost everything from prehistory is more likely just assumptions, every civilization or age has it's own agendas and biases to express. Reminds me of the song from The Low - Plastic Cup.

Jun 29, Karissa Bursch rated it really liked it. Relatively quick read that was very fair and informative regarding a topic I didn't know much about at all - Druids! A good reminder of how much of the ancient past is shrouded in mystery and has been lost to time. Fun read on my train ride through Europe Relatively quick read that was very fair and informative regarding a topic I didn't know much about at all - Druids! Fun read on my train ride through Europe Feb 11, Maya rated it it was amazing. Fun read on my train ride through Europe Feb 11, Maya rated it it was amazing Shelves: ebook, druid-celtic-religion.

Mar 20, Amanda rated it it was amazing Shelves: history, ancient-world, religion, druids. I am an actress, and I found this to provide a lot of useful background information for playing an interactive ancient Irish druid character. It had good historical context and good information about what druids did, their leadership structures, what people at the time thought of them, etc.

A lot of druid books I looked at were either only looking at druids from one side for instance, the Roman side, which viewed them as barbarians, or they were too vague about what druids actually physically I am an actress, and I found this to provide a lot of useful background information for playing an interactive ancient Irish druid character. This book, however, was refreshingly straightforward and more comprehensive. I did some skimming, though, because this book has a lot of discussion of different information sources on druids and how they came about and such. It's important to know some of that and to understand why we can't know a lot of things about druids for sure, but there were chapters or it, and I was mostly interested in the content of those sources rather than the sources themselves. Overall, it was a very helpful book that helped me get a better picture of druids and also of Samhein which I needed to study and understand for my acting role.

I highlighted interesting and important parts so I could go back and study, and I had lots of yellow in it by the end. A brief survey of what is known about ancient druids Those is a fair tour of the breadth of evidence scholars use to reconstruct who the druids were. The author goes heavy on context and background, and takes a while to say much about the druids themselves. His is a conservative approach eschews any notion off Druidism having a continuous history to neo-druidism today.

In the end he delivers a concise representation of what is "safe to say" about the ancient druids, a minimal sketch that dares A brief survey of what is known about ancient druids Those is a fair tour of the breadth of evidence scholars use to reconstruct who the druids were. In the end he delivers a concise representation of what is "safe to say" about the ancient druids, a minimal sketch that dares no speculation and asserts nothing not directly tied to textual or archeological evidence from ancient Britain and Gaul.

If the author had shown the slightest bit of feeling for his subject, like Gibbon or Zaehner or Frazer or Campbell, I would've given five stars He has the enthusiasm of someone chemically describing a chocolate cake with great accuracy but who really doesn't care for chocolate cake himself, and never cares to describe the flavor. Jul 28, Becky rated it liked it. This is an academic paper written by an Oxford University professor of archeology. Still, the Roman This is an academic paper written by an Oxford University professor of archeology.

Still, the Roman descriptions of Druids are interesting to read about. What we do now is that the druids were an elite intellectual class. The paganism of today bears no resemblance or continuity of the original Druids. It is almost entirely a construct of the Romantic Era in their longing for the idealized past. Nov 30, Thomas Ray added it Shelves: history. For speculation about prehistory, the fictional book Stonehenge, like all Bernard Cornwell's, is inventive and entertaining, a plausible narrative of what could've happened, within the framework of what little is known of the period. Apr 16, Lijadorn del Prado rated it liked it. A fascinating subject which this book covers very well as the title says a very short
introduction, however I suspect the author has covered everything there is to know about the druids as it seems that nearly everything that has been written in ancient texts was most probably plagiarised from one or two sources with the main one being Pytheas of Massalia.

Highly recommended. Jan 20, Nicole C rated it it was ok Shelves: microhistories , spirituality-and-religion. Everything else dives into how historians portrayed and transformed druidism to fit into Christianity. Wish I realised that sooner. Jan 24, Alethea Hammer rated it it was amazing. This is a great little book for anyone interested in the Druids, or in European Ancient History. It is a good survey of the contemporary sources available, what is known about the sources and their limitations. I enjoyed it a lot. Aug 19, Kelly Burns rated it it was amazing Shelves: my . Concise, clear, and informative. This is a fantastic starting point for learning about the Druids and the religion of the ancient Celtic peoples as well as the modern misconceptions and romantic imagination that has grown up around them. Feb 18, Fiona rated it liked it. Informative, but very dry. An interesting introduction to the Druids, and this goes well with Cunliffe's work on the Ancient Celts.

Jul 12, Connie Harrison rated it did not like it. Very dry. Skinnered through to finish it. Nice and concise. What I DID love is that this book is a crash course in distinguishing real evidence, first hand accounts, and even reputable second hand accounts from embellished folklore. It has grave goods. And the author list a few ideas and goes through them breaking them down to let you know where they and Concise.

And the author list a few ideas and goes through them breaking them down to let you know where the flaws are in those assumptions and where the facts are in those assumptions. Easy to read. A few very nice pictures. Aug 20, Bettie rated it really liked it Shelves: summer , nonfiction , published , fraud , archaeology , ancient-history , philosophy. This review has been hidden because it contains spoilers. To view it, click here. Totally unplanned I have hit three Druidic items this past week, just the way coincidence happens sometimes, and we all know that coincidences don't happen in ones.

A little repetitious. Account Options Anmelden. Meine Mediathek Hilfe Erweiterte Buchsuche. E-Book anzeigen. Druids: A Very Short Introduction. Barry Cunliffe. Who were the Druids? Enter the Druids: the first contacts 5. Altars steeped in human blood 6. Twilight in the far west 7. Renaissance and rediscovery 8. Romanticism and the rise of nationalism 9. Neo-druids and the neo-pagans So, who were the Druids? Further reading. How far back in time European communities began to recognize and chart the movements of the sun, moon, and stars it is impossible to say, but for the mobile hunting bands of the Palaeolithic period, following large herds through the forests of Europe and returning to base camps when the hunt was over, the ability to navigate using the stars would have been vital to existence. Oxford University Press is a department of the University of Oxford. It furthers the University's objective of excellence in research, scholarship, and publishing by worldwide. Academic Skip to main content. Search Start Search.


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