Arnold Toynbee's A Study of History has been acknowledged as one of the greatest achievements of modern scholarship. A ten-volume analysis of the rise and fall of human civilizations, it is a work of breathtaking breadth and vision. D.C. Somervell's abridgment of the ten-volume, monumental enterprise, preserves the method, atmosphere, tone, and in many respects, the very words of the original. Originally published in 1934-1961, this two-volume abridgment remains a historic achievement. Volume 1, which abridges the first six volumes of Toynbee's study, includes the Introduction; The Geneses of Civilizations; and The Disintegrations of Civilizations. Volume 2, an abridgment of volumes VII-X, includes chapters on the Industrial Revolution, Socialism, and Communism, the Rise of the Social Sciences, and an index. 

**About the Authors:**

**Arnold J. Toynbee**, published from 1866-1961, was an accomplished historian, publisher, and economist. A leading figure of the early 20th century, he is most famous for his monumental work, "A Study of History," a 12-volume universal history. He was a syndicate member of the "New Statesman," a British liberal-conservative journal. He was also a founder of the "History of Ideas" and wrote a monthly column in "The New Statesman". 

**D. C. Somervell**, the editor of this abridgment, was a historian, writer, and academic. He was a member of the British Empire, and a fellow of the British Academy. He was also a contributor to "The New Statesman" and "The Times Literary Supplement". Somervell was the editor of the abridgment of "A Study of History" for Oxford University Press. He was also the editor of "The Review of Politics" and "The Historical Journal". 

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**Toynbee's Goal:** Toynbee's goal was to trace the development and decay of 19 world civilizations in the historical record, applying to each model of each of these civilizations, detailing the reasons through which they all passed: genesis, growth, crises, breakdown, and disintegration. The 19 major civilizations, Toynbee wrote, are: Arabic, African, Greek, Minoan, Sanskrit, Maya, Hindu, Hellenic, Western, Orthodox Christian (Russia), Far Eastern, Orthodox Christian (Iran), Persian, Hindu, Maya, Vietnamese, and Buddhist. There are four "aboriginal civilizations": America (North and South America), Australia, Scandinavia, and Aboriginal Asia. This two-volume abridgment of Toynbee's study includes: The Introduction; The Geneses of Civilizations; and The Disintegrations of Civilizations. This abridgment begins with the sentence "There remains the case where victims of religious discrimination represent an extinct society... If the empire is not theocratic, as is the case in the Roman Empire, the theocratic empire may be seen as a universal church... A universal church... As the remnants of the empire begin to form a single interacting..."