

We all felt that we learned something from this book but opinions were mixed on whether we had enjoyed it or not.

The author was obviously intent on righting the wrong of a very Eurocentric historical narrative but some members were unsure that this objective was realised. He highlighted the knowledge of other cultures but did not always differentiate between “folk knowledge “ and pure scientific research. He did, however, emphasise the advances made when cultures were seeded by others e,g, the developments during the Renaissance due to the influence of Arabic culture and knowledge. He also punctured the myth of the “isolated genius “ emphasising the importance of collaboration.

The division within the group seemed to be between those from a scientific background and those who had no previous scientific knowledge who found it factual and interesting.