Against the Grain



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A Deep History of the Earliest States

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For my grandkids headed deeper into the Anthropocene

Lillian Louise Graeme Orwell Anya Juliet Ezra David Winifred Daisy

Claude Lévi-Strauss wrote thus:

Writing appears to be necessary for the centralized, stratified state to reproduce itself. . . . Writing is a strange thing. . . . The one phenomenon which has invariably accompanied it is the formation of cities and empires: the integration into a political system, that is to say, of a considerable number of individuals . . . into a hierarchy of castes and classes. . . . It seems to favor rather the exploitation than the enlightenment of mankind.