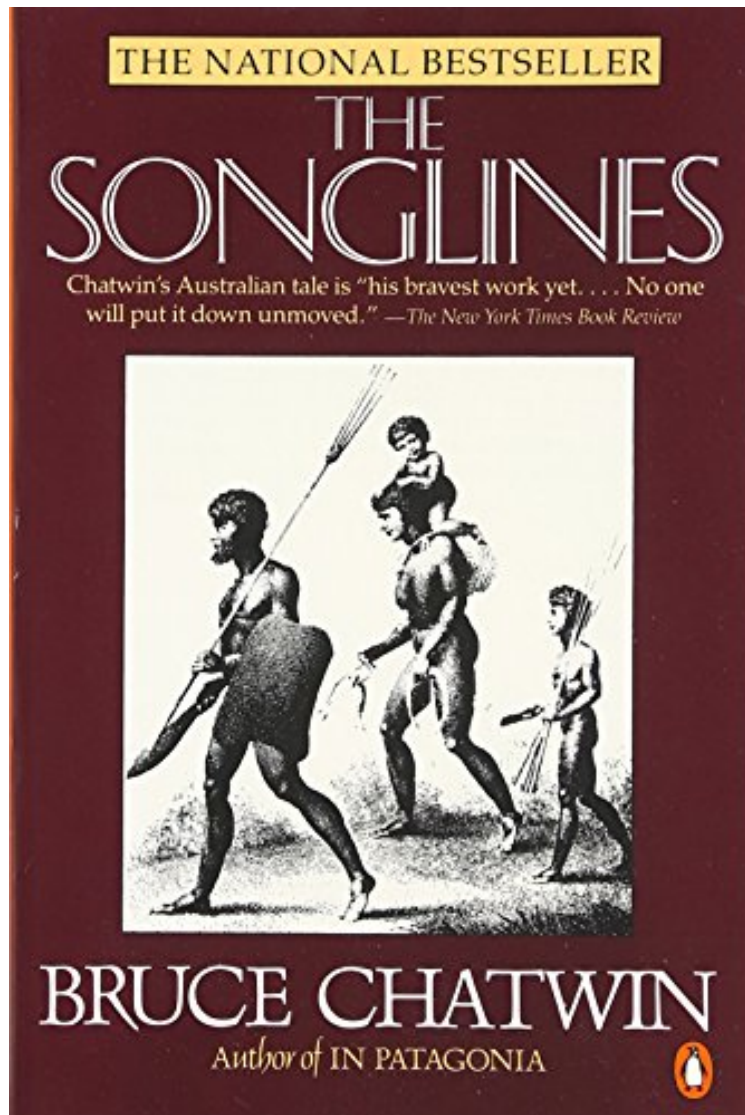


(Download) The Songlines

## The Songlines

*Bruce Chatwin*

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**Bruce Chatwin : The Songlines** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Songlines:

10 of 10 people found the following review helpful. But this is a fascinating and brilliant read looking backwards in time on Chatwin's speculationsBy Grok.I.AmChatham clearly writes this book in a hurry. The publisher did so too; my copy (1988 I think) duplicates pages 171-234. But this is a fascinating and brilliant read looking backwards in time on

Chatwin's speculations. As an evolutionist many of his speculations have born fruit. It is absolutely stunning to read his thinking post-Dart and Lorenz on the impact climate (and population bottlenecks) have (probably) had upon the human species. If you are looking for some insight in the oldest existing human culture on the planet, this read has some problems as it is limited to primarily central Australia. Nonetheless the recent dehydration deaths of two Aboriginal "Elders" in the Kimberly's, when their car ran out of gas, possibly because they couldn't read the songlines to water in the area through which they were traveling, underscores one the major and important themes Chatwin's discusses. Chatwin wasn't an anthropologist and I think the reviews that criticize him on his book because of this, miss the point of the book. This is a speculative treatise on the human species and Chatwin's interjections of other thinkers on human origins only greatly enrich your reading of this book. I only sorry I read the book ten years after my own trip to Australia.<sup>3</sup> of 3 people found the following review helpful. Songlines....a history of a peopleBy Sharon M. CamfieldMr. Chatwin provides an interesting look into the "Aboriginals" of Australia. It is a fascinating culture.Frequently, the author goes off on a tangent and one wonders what has happened to the story line,but then he manages to connect the piece with the rest of the dialogue.It is a most interesting adventure he takes us on...the people and the landscape are incredible.<sup>2</sup> of 2 people found the following review helpful. Wonderful readBy Ralphe WigginsThis memoir / travel log / philosophy book was a huge pleasure to read. The author tells of his encounters with Australian aboriginals and other in the outback. He details what he learned about Songlines. And, later in the book, he mixes in notes from his many travels. Among many fascinating subjects, he describes an encounter with Konrad Lorenz and the discussion of Lorenz's "On Aggression."

Bruce Chatwin-author of In Patagonia-ventures into the desolate land of Outback Australia to learn the meaning of the Aborigines' ancient "Dreaming-tracks." Along these timeless paths, amongst the fortune hunters and redneck Australians, racist policemen and mysterious Aboriginal holy men, he discovers a wondrous vision of man's place in the world.

.com The late Bruce Chatwin carved out a literary career as unique as any writer's in this century: his books included In Patagonia, a fabulist travel narrative, The Viceroy of Ouidah, a mock-historical tale of a Brazilian slave-trader in 19th century Africa, and The Songlines, his beautiful, elegiac, comic account of following the invisible pathways traced by the Australian aborigines. Chatwin was nothing if not erudite, and the vast, eclectic body of literature that underlies this tale of trekking across the outback gives it a resonance found in few other recent travel books. A poignancy, as well, since Chatwin's untimely death made The Songlines one of his last books.From Publishers WeeklyPW praised Chatwin's "entertaining" and "resonant" reflections on the distinctions between settled people and wanderers, and between human aggression and pacifism, as he searches central Australia for the pathways along which aborigines travel to perform their cultural activities. Copyright 1988 Reed Business Information, Inc. "A blend of travelogue, memoir, history, philosophy, science, meditation, and commonplace book...Chatwin's astonishing style captures the metamorphoses of his own 'Walkabout'....He takes the travel genre beyond exoticism and the simple picturesque into the metaphysical."The Boston GlobeThe riches of The Songlines are varied and artfully stashed. Chatwin's physical journey over Australia's parched hide corresponds to his intellectual excursions, which are full of surprising turns."Time"No ordinary book ever issues from Bruce Chatwin. Each bears the imprint of a dazzlingly original mind."Newsday