



BY WILL DURANT

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Transition

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Heroes of History

The Greatest Minds and Ideas of All Time

THE STORY OF CIVILIZATION

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A Dual Biography

THE LESSONS OF HISTORY

by

Will and Ariel Durant

Simon & Schuster Paperbacks

New York

London

Toronto

Sydney



Simon & Schuster Paperbacks
A Division of Simon & Schuster, Inc.
1230 Avenue of the Americas
New York, NY 10020

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This Simon & Schuster trade paperback edition February 2010

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Manufactured in the United States of America

30 29 28 27 26 25 24

Library of Congress Cataloging-in-Publication Data

Durant, Will.

Lessons of history / Will & Ariel Durant.

p. cm.

Originally published: 1968.

Includes bibliographical references and index.

1. History—Philosophy. I. Durant, Ariel. II. Title.

D16.8.D84 2010

901—dc22

2009016081

ISBN 978-1-4391-4995-9

ISBN 978-1-4391-7019-9 (ebook)

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Preface

This postlude needs little preface. After finishing *The Story of Civilization* to 1789, we reread the ten volumes with a view to issuing a revised edition that would correct many errors of omission, fact, or print. In that process we made note of events and comments that might illuminate present affairs, future probabilities, the nature of man, and the conduct of states. (The references, in the text, to various volumes of the *Story* are offered not as authorities but as instances or elucidations so come upon.) We tried to defer our conclusions until we had completed our survey of the narrative, but doubtless our preformed opinions influenced our selection of illustrative material. The following essay is the result. It repeats many ideas that we, or others before us, have already expressed; our aim is not originality but inclusiveness; we offer a survey of human experience, not a personal revelation.

Here, as so often in the past, we must gratefully acknowledge the help and counsel given us by our daughter Ethel.

WILL AND ARIEL DURANT

