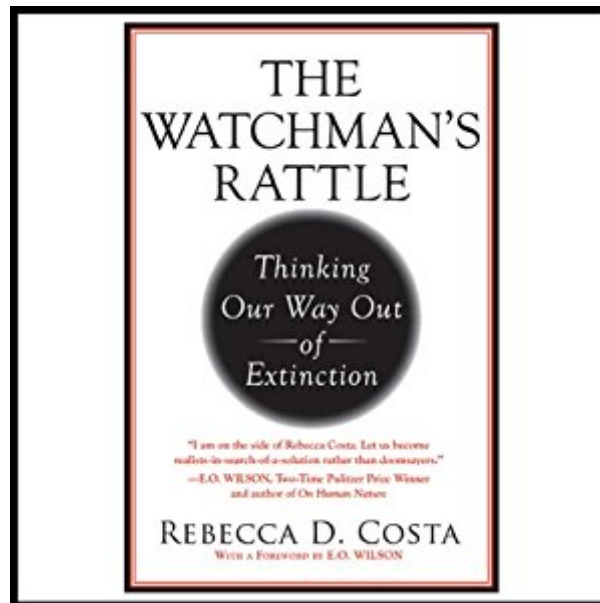


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# The Watchman's Rattle: Thinking Our Way Out Of Extinction



## Synopsis

Why can't we solve our problems anymore? Why do threats such as the Gulf oil spill, worldwide recession, terrorism, and global warming suddenly seem unstoppable? Are there limits to the kinds of problems humans can solve? Rebecca Costa confronts - and offers a solution to - these questions in her highly anticipated and game-changing book, *The Watchman's Rattle*. She pulls headlines from today's news to demonstrate how accelerating complexity quickly outpaces that rate at which the human brain can develop new capabilities. With compelling evidence based on research in the rise and fall of the Mayan, Khmer, and Roman empires, Costa shows how the tendency to find a quick solution leads to a frightening long-term consequence: society's ability to solve its most challenging, intractable problems becomes gridlocked, progress slows, and collapse ensues. A provocative new voice in the tradition of thought leaders Thomas Friedman, Jared Diamond, and Malcolm Gladwell, Costa reveals how we can reverse the downward spiral. Part history, part social science, part biology, *The Watchman's Rattle* is sure to provoke, engage, and incite change.

## Book Information

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Nonfiction > Social Science

## Customer Reviews

After hearing Rebecca Costa on a radio interview I had to read her book. She is very interesting to listen to but that did not translate to her book. It was a slow read and although I can tell she put a great deal of work and research into the book (every author deserves great praise) her 250 pages could have been easily articulated in 70 pages or less. There were lots of redundancy and her great concepts were unfortunately surrounded by fluff. I also caught some contradictions that were a

disappointment given my respect for her ideas in the book. I gave her three stars because of the fluff, redundancy and slow read. If not for those short comings I would have given her 5 stars for her incredible mind, her extensive research, and the many examples she used for this book.

Great insight and interesting subject. It is an easy read and you want to read it quickly to get the whole subject to ponder and then maybe go back and read it again. Coming from a faith background it felt that she is trying to describe spiritual revelation and possible consequences to not heeding heavenly counsel. I hope more comes of it.

Fantastic book. This was a gift for a friend. I bought and read it on Kindle and wanted my friend to read it, too. Loved the sociology, loved the theory and loved the writing. Well documented with a full resource list as well.

An excellent overview of mankind's evolutionary journey toward a sustainable way of life based on rational thinking and an appreciation of how slow biological evolution throttles our ability to solve increasingly complex problems brought on by modern civilization. Yet the author gives us a solution in our awareness of our cognitive threshold and ability to develop enhanced insights to solve these complex problems that will otherwise destroy our civilization. JLO

Excellent!

This should be required reading in high schools, colleges and MBA programs! We think we are so intelligent, but very often we are our own worst enemies!

An excellent look at the intersection of sociology and biology; and, a peek into a world where human evolution and new technologies define our culture.

This is an important book for our times. Rebecca does a great job of connecting the dots in our evolutionary history and presents it in an understandable way. Ultimately she gives hope for the future if we are willing to recognize our collective shortsightedness and implement some basic tools in our solution strategy. I highly recommend it!

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