### geography of time robert levine

Geography of Time Robert Levine: Understanding How Different Cultures Perceive Time

**geography of time robert levine** is a fascinating exploration into the cultural dimensions of how humans experience and manage time. Robert Levine, a renowned social psychologist, delves deep into the subtle yet profound differences in time perception across the globe. His work offers eye-opening insights into why time feels so different depending on where you are and who you're with, challenging the notion that time is a fixed, universal concept. Whether you're a traveler, a business professional, or simply curious about cultural psychology, Levine's findings in the geography of time are both enlightening and practical.

# Who is Robert Levine and What is the Geography of Time?

Robert Levine is a psychology professor and author who has dedicated much of his career to studying human behavior, especially the way we experience time. His book, \*The Geography of Time: The Temporal Misadventures of a Social Psychologist\*, presents a compelling blend of research and personal anecdotes demonstrating how time is not just a scientific measurement but a social and cultural construct.

Levine's central thesis is that different societies operate on different "time cultures," meaning that the pace of life, punctuality, and even the way people think about the past, present, and future vary widely depending on geographic location. His work challenges the Western-centric idea that time is linear and strictly regimented, showing that time's meaning can be flexible and context-dependent.

# The Core Concepts Behind the Geography of Time Robert Levine Explores

#### **Time as a Social Construct**

One of the most eye-opening aspects of Levine's work is the idea that time is not merely a mechanical ticking of a clock but a social invention shaped by culture. For example, in some countries, schedules are rigid and deadlines are sacred, while in others, relationships and context take precedence over strict timing.

### Monochronic vs. Polychronic Time

Levine discusses the concepts of monochronic and polychronic time, terms borrowed from anthropologist Edward T. Hall. Monochronic cultures (like the United States, Germany, and

Switzerland) view time linearly, focusing on one task at a time and valuing punctuality and schedules. Polychronic cultures (such as many in Latin America, the Middle East, and parts of Africa) view time more fluidly, multitasking and placing higher importance on human interaction over deadlines.

### **Measuring the Pace of Life**

In his studies, Levine measured the pace of life by observing walking speed, postal worker efficiency, and clock accuracy in various cities worldwide. He discovered that people in bustling metropolises like New York and Tokyo move faster, while those in less industrialized or more relationship-oriented cultures tend to take things slower. This pace of life is deeply tied to economic development, cultural values, and even climate.

### **How Geography Influences Time Perception**

#### **Urban vs. Rural Differences**

Levine's research highlights that geography within a country can also influence time perception. Urban areas, with their fast-paced economies and busy lifestyles, often demand punctuality and efficiency. In contrast, rural regions may adopt a more relaxed approach to time, prioritizing community and tradition over strict schedules.

#### **Climate and Time**

Interestingly, geography such as climate can affect how people perceive time. In hotter climates, life tends to slow down, with midday breaks and a more languid pace. Cooler, temperate regions often encourage a more energetic, time-conscious lifestyle.

#### **Economic Development and Time Orientation**

Levine found that wealthier, industrialized nations often emphasize future orientation and planning, while less developed economies may prioritize the present moment or immediate relationships. This economic factor influences how people value time, whether it's spent working toward future goals or nurturing social bonds.

### Practical Insights from the Geography of Time Robert Levine Presents

### **Navigating Cross-Cultural Interactions**

If you've ever traveled abroad or worked with international colleagues, Levine's insights

can help you understand why time-related misunderstandings happen. For instance, what one culture sees as respectful punctuality, another might view as rigid or even rude. Being aware of these cultural differences in time perception can smooth communication and reduce frustration.

### **Tips for Time Management Across Cultures**

- **Adjust Expectations:** When engaging with cultures that view time polychromically, allow for flexibility and prioritize relationships over strict deadlines.
- **Observe Local Norms:** In monochronic societies, be punctual and adhere to schedules to show respect.
- **Communicate Clearly:** Clarify time commitments and deadlines upfront to avoid confusion.
- **Be Patient:** Recognize that a slower pace does not mean inefficiency but a different cultural approach.

### **Implications for Business and Travel**

For international business, understanding the geography of time can be a competitive advantage. Negotiations, meetings, and project timelines may need to be adapted based on the time culture of the participants. Similarly, travelers who grasp these differences often experience less culture shock and greater enjoyment.

### Why the Geography of Time Still Matters Today

In today's globalized world, where work, communication, and travel span continents, Levine's \*geography of time\* remains highly relevant. The COVID-19 pandemic, remote working trends, and digital communication tools have all shifted how we interact with time, blending cultures and forcing new adaptations.

Understanding Levine's perspective encourages empathy and flexibility. It reminds us that time is not just minutes and hours but a reflection of values, priorities, and ways of life. Whether you're scheduling a meeting across time zones or simply trying to appreciate a slower pace on vacation, the geography of time offers a fresh lens for viewing one of the most fundamental aspects of human experience.

Levine's work invites us to step back and reconsider the "tyranny of the clock" and recognize that time can be as diverse and rich as the cultures that shape it. This awareness not only broadens our worldview but also helps foster patience, tolerance, and connection in a world that often feels rushed and fragmented.

### **Frequently Asked Questions**

### What is the main theme of Robert Levine's book 'The Geography of Time'?

The main theme of Robert Levine's 'The Geography of Time' is how different cultures perceive and manage time, exploring the cultural variations in time orientation and its impact on daily life and social interactions.

### How does Robert Levine illustrate cultural differences in time perception in 'The Geography of Time'?

Levine illustrates cultural differences in time perception through various experiments and observations, such as measuring walking speeds in different cities and analyzing how punctuality and time management vary across cultures.

### Why is 'The Geography of Time' considered important in understanding global communication?

The book is important because it highlights how differing cultural attitudes toward time can lead to misunderstandings in international communication, business, and diplomacy, emphasizing the need for cultural sensitivity.

# What examples does Robert Levine use in 'The Geography of Time' to show the variation in time perception?

Levine uses examples like the contrast between 'monochronic' cultures that value punctuality and schedules, such as in the U.S. and Germany, versus 'polychronic' cultures that have a more fluid approach to time, like in Latin America and the Middle East.

# How can 'The Geography of Time' by Robert Levine be applied in everyday life?

The book can help individuals be more aware of cultural differences in time perception, improving cross-cultural communication, reducing stress related to time expectations, and fostering better personal and professional relationships globally.

#### **Additional Resources**

Geography of Time Robert Levine: Understanding the Cultural Dimensions of Time Perception

**geography of time robert levine** is a phrase that immediately brings attention to the influential work of psychologist Robert Levine, who explored how different cultures perceive

and manage time. In his groundbreaking book, "A Geography of Time: The Temporal Misadventures of a Social Psychologist," Levine investigates the diverse ways societies experience time, challenging the conventional Western understanding of its linearity and uniformity. This exploration not only broadens the conversation on cultural psychology but also offers valuable insights into global communication, business practices, and social interactions.

Levine's work stands out for its empirical approach, combining field observations, interviews, and experiments across numerous countries to illuminate how time shapes human behavior. The concept of the "geography of time" transcends mere clock-watching; it delves deeply into the cultural frameworks underlying punctuality, time management, and the subjective experience of temporal flow. This article examines Robert Levine's contributions, dissecting the central themes of his research while situating them within contemporary discussions about cultural relativism and globalization.

# In-depth Analysis of Robert Levine's Geography of Time

Robert Levine's research began with a simple question: Why do people in different parts of the world seem to have varying attitudes toward time? His initial observations revealed stark contrasts between so-called "fast" cultures and "slow" cultures, classified primarily by their pace of life and adherence to schedules. For instance, Levine noted that cities such as New York and Tokyo exhibit a rapid tempo, characterized by brisk walking speeds and strict punctuality, whereas places like Mexico City and Cairo reflect a more relaxed temporal rhythm.

This categorization into fast and slow cultures is more than anecdotal; Levine employed measurable indicators such as walking speed in downtown areas, the accuracy of public clocks, and the duration of service in restaurants to quantify cultural differences. These metrics revealed that time perception is deeply embedded in societal norms and environmental factors, not just individual preferences or economic development levels.

### The Cultural Relativity of Time

One of Levine's most significant contributions is highlighting the cultural relativity of time. Western societies often conceive of time as linear and segmented—divided into past, present, and future, with a strong emphasis on future planning and efficiency. In contrast, many non-Western cultures adopt a more cyclical or event-based understanding of time, where the focus is on the present moment or the completion of social rituals rather than strict adherence to schedules.

This divergence affects everything from business negotiations to daily social interactions. For example, Levine observed that in Latin American and Mediterranean countries, arriving "late" to a meeting may not be considered rude but rather a reflection of a more fluid relationship with time. Conversely, in Northern European nations such as Germany and Switzerland, punctuality is a sign of respect and professionalism.

### **Implications for Global Interaction**

The insights from "geography of time robert levine" extend far beyond academic interest. In an increasingly globalized world, understanding temporal differences is critical for effective communication and cooperation. Multinational corporations, diplomats, and travelers benefit from recognizing that time is not a universal constant but a variable shaped by cultural context.

Misinterpretations of time norms can lead to frustration, misunderstandings, and even conflict. For instance, American businesspeople accustomed to tight schedules may view the relaxed time management in some countries as unprofessional, while locals may perceive strict punctuality as rigid or impersonal. Levine's work encourages a more empathetic and flexible approach to intercultural engagement, emphasizing that time management styles are culturally constructed rather than inherently superior or inferior.

# Features of Levine's Temporal Research Methodology

Levine's approach to studying the geography of time is notable for its innovative blend of quantitative and qualitative research methods. His fieldwork methodology included:

- Walking Speed Measurement: Measuring how quickly pedestrians moved in city centers across various countries to assess the pace of life.
- **Public Clock Accuracy:** Checking the synchronization and reliability of public clocks in different urban settings as an indicator of societal time discipline.
- **Service Timing in Restaurants:** Observing how long customers waited for service, reflecting cultural attitudes toward time efficiency.
- **Interviews and Surveys:** Collecting subjective data on individuals' perceptions of time urgency and their attitudes toward punctuality.

These methods provided a comprehensive picture, combining objective data with subjective experiences to reveal the multifaceted nature of time perception.

### **Comparisons with Other Time-Related Theories**

Levine's geography of time intersects with and expands upon existing theories in anthropology and psychology. For example, Edward T. Hall's concept of "monochronic" versus "polychronic" time aligns with Levine's findings. Monochronic cultures view time linearly and value schedules and punctuality, while polychronic cultures emphasize relationships over strict time constraints.

However, Levine's research adds a more global empirical dimension, mapping time perception geographically and providing concrete behavioral evidence rather than relying solely on theoretical frameworks. This geographical mapping reveals patterns linked to climate, economic development, and historical influences, enriching the understanding of temporal diversity.

# Pros and Cons of Levine's Geography of Time Framework

While Robert Levine's geography of time offers profound insights, it is important to critically assess its strengths and limitations.

#### **Pros**

- **Empirical Rigor:** Levine's use of measurable indicators lends credibility and precision to cultural analyses of time.
- **Practical Relevance:** The findings have direct applications in international business, diplomacy, and intercultural communication.
- **Innovative Perspective:** By framing time as a geographical and cultural phenomenon, Levine challenges ethnocentric assumptions.
- **Cross-disciplinary Impact:** The work influences psychology, sociology, anthropology, and even urban planning.

#### Cons

- **Cultural Oversimplification:** Categorizing cultures as "fast" or "slow" risks generalization and may overlook internal diversity.
- **Urban Bias:** Much data comes from city centers, potentially underrepresenting rural or indigenous perspectives on time.
- **Static Snapshot:** The dynamic nature of globalization and digital communication can rapidly alter time perceptions, making some findings time-sensitive.

Despite these limitations, Levine's geography of time remains a seminal reference point for understanding the cultural dimensions of temporality.

### Relevance in Today's Digital and Globalized World

In the era of instant communication, remote work, and global connectivity, Levine's insights into the geography of time acquire fresh significance. The digital age challenges traditional time structures, blurring boundaries between work and leisure and creating new temporal rhythms.

Nonetheless, cultural differences in time perception persist, influencing virtual meetings, deadlines, and collaborative projects. Recognizing these differences is vital for fostering inclusivity and minimizing cross-cultural friction in international teams.

Furthermore, Levine's work prompts reflection on how our own cultural biases shape our relationship with time. By appreciating temporal diversity, individuals and organizations can cultivate patience, adaptability, and respect in an interconnected world.

The geography of time, as Robert Levine elucidates, is not merely an academic curiosity but a living, evolving aspect of human life that continues to shape interactions on personal, societal, and global scales.

#### **Geography Of Time Robert Levine**

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geography of time robert levine: A Geography Of Time Robert N. Levine, 2008-08-01 In this engaging and spirited book, eminent social psychologist Robert Levine asks us to explore a dimension of our experience that we take for granted—our perception of time. When we travel to a different country, or even a different city in the United States, we assume that a certain amount of cultural adjustment will be required, whether it's getting used to new food or negotiating a foreign language, adapting to a different standard of living or another currency. In fact, what contributes most to our sense of disorientation is having to adapt to another culture's sense of time. Levine, who has devoted his career to studying time and the pace of life, takes us on an enchanting tour of time through the ages and around the world. As he recounts his unique experiences with humor and deep insight, we travel with him to Brazil, where to be three hours late is perfectly acceptable, and to Japan, where he finds a sense of the long-term that is unheard of in the West. We visit communities in the United States and find that population size affects the pace of life—and even the pace of walking. We travel back in time to ancient Greece to examine early clocks and sundials, then move forward through the centuries to the beginnings of "clock time" during the Industrial Revolution. We learn that there are places in the world today where people still live according to "nature time," the rhythm of the sun and the seasons, and "event time," the structuring of time around happenings(when you want to make a late appointment in Burundi, you say, "I'll see you when the cows come in"). Levine raises some fascinating questions. How do we use our time? Are we being

ruled by the clock? What is this doing to our cities? To our relationships? To our own bodies and psyches? Are there decisions we have made without conscious choice? Alternative tempos we might prefer? Perhaps, Levine argues, our goal should be to try to live in a "multitemporal" society, one in which we learn to move back and forth among nature time, event time, and clock time. In other words, each of us must chart our own geography of time. If we can do that, we will have achieved temporal prosperity.

geography of time robert levine: A Geography Of Time Robert N. Levine, 1998-07-23 In this engaging and spirited book, eminent social psychologist Robert Levine asks us to explore a dimension of our experience that we take for granted—our perception of time. When we travel to a different country, or even a different city in the United States, we assume that a certain amount of cultural adjustment will be required, whether it's getting used to new food or negotiating a foreign language, adapting to a different standard of living or another currency. In fact, what contributes most to our sense of disorientation is having to adapt to another culture's sense of time. Levine, who has devoted his career to studying time and the pace of life, takes us on an enchanting tour of time through the ages and around the world. As he recounts his unique experiences with humor and deep insight, we travel with him to Brazil, where to be three hours late is perfectly acceptable, and to Japan, where he finds a sense of the long-term that is unheard of in the West. We visit communities in the United States and find that population size affects the pace of life—and even the pace of walking. We travel back in time to ancient Greece to examine early clocks and sundials, then move forward through the centuries to the beginnings of "clock time" during the Industrial Revolution. We learn that there are places in the world today where people still live according to "nature time," the rhythm of the sun and the seasons, and "event time," the structuring of time around happenings(when you want to make a late appointment in Burundi, you say, "I'll see you when the cows come in"). Levine raises some fascinating questions. How do we use our time? Are we being ruled by the clock? What is this doing to our cities? To our relationships? To our own bodies and psyches? Are there decisions we have made without conscious choice? Alternative tempos we might prefer? Perhaps, Levine argues, our goal should be to try to live in a "multitemporal" society, one in which we learn to move back and forth among nature time, event time, and clock time. In other words, each of us must chart our own geography of time. If we can do that, we will have achieved temporal prosperity.

**geography of time robert levine:** Guidelines Ruth Spack, 2007 Guidelines Third edition is an advanced reading and writing text designed specifically to strengthen students' academic writing. Guidelines is a classic reading/writing text that teaches academic essay and research writing. The book contains stimulating cross-cultural readings that provide source materials for critical thinking and writing. The book concludes with a hundred-page handbook that contains information on how to document sources and how to draft, review, revise, and edit.

**geography of time robert levine: Time** Sarit Kattan Gribetz, Lynn Kaye, 2023-08-21 Time permeates language, society, and individual lives, but time eludes definition. From grand scales of geologic time to the exasperation of waiting in endless bureaucratic lines, from the unifying sense of ancestral presence at an ancient monument to the imminent question of climate resilience, this volume presents conceptions of time through a kaleidoscope of cultures and disciplines. Accessible to students and scholars alike, the book demonstrates that far from natural, stable, or singular, time is culturally dependent, historically contingent, socially constructed, and disciplinarily specific – and that multidisciplinary and cross-cultural conversations transform our understanding of time.

geography of time robert levine: Untersuchungen zur Zeitkonzeption in Kants Kritik der reinen Vernunft Karin Michel, 2013-04-09 Karin Michels Werk hebt sich von der bisherigen Literatur zum Thema deutlich ab, indem sie zeigt, dass Kants Zeittheorie nicht ohne seine Theorie des Raumes und seine Idealismuskritik verständlich zu machen ist. Die Autorin legt eine Rekonstruktion von Kants Beweis der genuinen Subjektivität der Zeit vor. Sie berücksichtigt dabei Beweisform sowie Beweisinhalt und setzt sich außerdem durchgehend mit Kant-Kommentatoren und -kritikern auseinander. Verständlich wird dadurch nicht nur Kants radikaler Neuansatz in der

Zeitphilosophie, sondern auch die Bedeutung des Beweises für sein Gesamtprojekt der Vernunftkritik.

geography of time robert levine: Das Universum in dir Neil Shubin, 2014-07-24 Die Gesamtgeschichte der Erde und des Menschen und von Allem – ungewöhnlich, unterhaltsam und packend! Seit dem Urknall haben sich Galaxien, Sonnensysteme und Planeten gebildet und im Laufe der Äonen entwickelte sich das Leben auf der Erde. Angesichts dessen könnten wir Menschen uns unbedeutend vorkommen – doch tief in uns verborgen liegt das große Wunder des Lebens: Das Universum ist in uns! Der weltbekannte Paläontologe Neil Shubin geht in seinem neuen Buch den Rätseln unseres Lebens nach: Er erzählt von der Zusammensetzung der Moleküle, findet eine Erklärung dafür, weshalb wir einen Regenbogen sehen können und zeigt, wie das Universum unseren Schlafrhythmus und die Geschwindigkeit beeinflusst, mit der sich unsere Zellen teilen. Ein wissenschaftliches Abenteuer, nach dem wir besser verstehen, wer – und was – wir sind.

**geography of time robert levine:** Das Spiel: Muster und Metapher der Mediengesellschaft Caja Thimm, 2009-10-27 Heute kommt dem Spiel im Kontext digitaler Medien als Topos und als Metapher eine neue Bedeutung zu. Spiele werden zu "Spielwelten" und damit zur Metapher neuer, sich schnell entwickelnder Parallelwelten, so z.B. in den komplexen Welten von Onlinespielen oder virtuellen Welten. Spiel ist dabei kulturtheoretisch zu erfassen und wird mehr und mehr zur Metapher menschlichen Verhaltens und kommunikativer Strukturen. Der Band enthält Beiträge zur Theorie und Praxis des Spiels aus der Sicht interdisziplinärer Forschung.

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geography of time robert levine: Lebensalter Christian Grethlein, 2019-08-31 Menschen leben in verschiedenem Alter. Welchen Sinn hat das? Historisch zeigt sich, dass die Lebensalter immer wieder neu verstanden werden. Teilweise verdanken sie sich - wie Kindheit, Jugend oder Drittes Alter - bestimmten gesellschaftlichen Konstellationen. Biblisch eröffnet das Kinder-Evangelium (Mk 10,13-16) eine neue Perspektive. Nicht die leistungsfähigen Erwachsenen, sondern die auf Zuwendung angewiesenen Kinder erscheinen als beispielhaft für menschliches Leben. Ähnliches gilt wohl für pflegebedürftige Alte. Von daher gewinnt eine schöpfungstheologisch begründete Sicht auf die Lebensalter eine eminent gesellschaftskritische Ausrichtung. Sie weist auf eine Lebensform hin, die nicht Welt verbraucht, sondern sich empfangend zur Schöpfung und damit zu Gott verhält. Stages of Life. A Theological Theory People live at different stages of life. What is the meaning of this? Historically it has been shown that the stages of life are always understood anew. The view on some of them - such as childhood, youth or third age - depends on certain social constellations. Biblically the children's gospel (Mk 10,13-16) opens a new perspective. Not the capable adults, but the children, dependent on caring, appear as exemplary for human life. The same applies to old people in need of care. For this reason, a view on the stages of life based on a theology of creation gains an eminently socio-critical orientation. It points to a way of life that does not consume the world, but that behaves in a receiving way towards creation and thus towards God.

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throughout their lives. With a focus on effective communication skills and career success, bestselling authors Teri Kwal Gamble and Michael K. Gamble give students clear explanations of core concepts followed by practical learning activities—encouraging students to think critically about why good communication is important and how the concepts can be applied to today's classroom, workplace, and community. Perfect for the hybrid communication course with coverage of public speaking, this concise text has been strategically separated into tabbed chapters—making it easier for readers to navigate, digest, revisit, and review the content. As good communication is the foundation of everyday life, The Communication Playbook primes students for success in both their courses and their careers.

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**geography of time robert levine:** Die Culture Map Erin Meyer, Andreas Schieberle, Marlies Ferber, 2018-01-04 Ob man zu Hause arbeitet oder im Ausland, Geschäftserfolg in unserer immer mehr globalisierten und virtuellen Welt erfordert die Fähigkeit, durch kulturelle Unterschiede zu navigieren und fremde Kulturen zu entschlüsseln. Die renommierte Expertin Erin Meyer ist Ihr Guide durch dieses schwierige, manchmal trügerische Gelände, in dem von Menschen mit gänzlich unterschiedlichem Background erwartet wird, harmonisch zusammenzuarbeiten. Selbst mit Englisch als globaler Sprache ist es leicht in kulturelle Fallen zu tappen, die die Karriere gefährden oder Abschlüsse zunichtemachen können. Zum Beispiel wenn ein brasilianischer Manager versucht, zu ergründen, wie sein chinesischer Lieferant Dinge erledigt; oder ein amerikanischer Chef versucht, mit den Dynamiken innerhalb seines Teams zwischen russischen und indischen Teammitgliedern umzugehen. In der Culture Map liefert Erin Meyer nun ein praxiserprobtes Modell, einen Kompass, um zu dekodieren, wie kulturelle Unterschiede internationalen Erfolg beeinflussen. Sie kombiniert ein kluges analytisches Framework mit praktischen Tipps für mehr Erfolg in einer globalen Welt. Im Modell der Culture Map werden 8 Dimensionen (unter anderem Kommunizieren, Führen, Vertrauen, Entscheiden) betrachtet. Diese Dimensionen steigern die Effektivität der Arbeit - egal, ob man seine Mitarbeiter motivieren, Kunden erfreuen will oder einfach nur einen Conference-Call plant, an dem Mitglieder unterschiedlicher Kulturen teilnehmen. Die Leser werden in die Lage versetzt, sich und ihre Position gegenüber den anderen einzuordnen und zu entschlüsseln, wie die Kultur die eigene internationale Zusammenarbeit (Kollaboration) beeinflusst, um unangenehme Situationen oder Fiaskos zu vermeiden. Die deutsche Ausgabe des Buches wird von der Autorin aktualisiert und für den deutschsprachigen Raum relevante Länder in die Betrachtung zusätzlich aufgenommen.

geography of time robert levine: Qualitative Freiheit Claus Dierksmeier, 2024-01-17 Gegen politische und religiöse Fundamentalisten verteidigt Claus Dierksmeier die Idee der Freiheit als Leitwert der Globalität. Individuelle Freiheit schließt aber Verantwortung für ihren sozial und ökologisch nachhaltigen Gebrauch ein. Dabei müssen wir abwägen, welche und wessen Freiheiten jeweils Vorrang erhalten sollen. Und hierbei, so zeigt Dierksmeier in historisch-systematischer Grundlegung, kommt es zuerst auf die Qualität – und nicht die Quantität – unserer Freiheiten an. Denn Freiheit heißt nicht, die Optionen einiger weniger zu maximieren, sondern die Chancen aller Weltbürger zu optimieren.

**geography of time robert levine: A Geography of Time** Robert Levine, 2006 Levine presents an illuminating portrait of time as a human construct, tracing its evolution through its history and

exploring its various incarnations in cultures throughout the world.

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