Contents

List of Figures xi
List of Tables xiii
Acknowledgements and Dedications xv
About the Authors xvii
Preface xix

Part I: The Context and Uniqueness of Human Evolution and Adaptation 1

1 The Extraterrestrial Adaptation: Humanity, Evolution and Migration Into Space 3
   How Anthropology Will Assist Human Space Migration 7
      Physical Anthropology 7
      Archaeology 8
      Cultural Anthropology 9
      Linguistic Anthropology 9
   Anthropology and Space Colonization 10
   An Anthropological and Evolutionary Primer for Building an Adaptationist Paradigm for Human Space Migration and Colonization 13
      Anthropology 13
      Evolution 14
      Adaptation 18
      Culture 19
      Humanity 26
      Synthesis 27

2 Stardust: The Origins of Life, Evolution and Adaptation 31
   Origins of the Universe and the Solar System 31
   Formation of the Solar System and the Earth 32
   The Origins of Earth Life 34
   Independent Evolution of Life on Earth 34
   Panspermia 37
   The Major Transitions in the Evolution of Earth Life 41
      Transition 1: Replicating Molecules to Populations of Molecules in Compartments 41
      Transition 2: Unlinked Replicators to Chromosomes 44
      Transition 3: RNA to DNA 44
      Transition 4: Prokaryotes to Eukaryotes 45
      Transition 5: Asexual Replication to Sexual Replication 45
Emigrating Beyond Earth

| Transition 6: Protists to Multicellular Organisms | 47 |
| Transition 7: Eusocial Societies | 48 |
| Transition 8: Language and Symbolism | 52 |
| Larger Revolutions in the Evolution of Earth Life | 52 |
| Lessons from the Evolution of Earth Life | 53 |
| Early Hominin Origins and Evolution | 54 |
| Adaptive Evolutionary History of the Primate Order | 55 |
| The Early Hominins | 56 |
| Why Bipedalism? | 58 |
| The Australopithecines | 60 |
| Gracile australopithecines | 61 |
| Robust australopithecines | 63 |
| Evolution of Early Homo | 64 |
| Evolutionary Fate of the Australopithecines | 66 |
| The World of Early Homo | 67 |
| Increased Brain Volume | 69 |
| Increased Stone Tool Use | 71 |
| Increased Animal Tissue Consumption | 73 |
| Increased Body Stature | 74 |
| Decreased Tooth Size | 75 |
| Early Hominin Ecology, Behavior and Culture | 76 |
| Adaptive Lessons for Human Space Colonization | 78 |

3 The Adaptive Equipment of the Genus *Homo*: Symbolism and Niche Construction | 81 |
| Evolution of the Modern Mind | 81 |
| The Donald Model: Representing Reality | 82 |
| Echoes of Representation | 85 |
| The Mithen Model: Cognitive Fluidity | 86 |
| Echoes of Fluidity | 88 |
| Synthesis: One Mind, Two Models? | 90 |
| Major Adaptations in Human Subsistence and Social Organization | 95 |
| Niche Construction and Major Adaptations in the Evolution of *Homo* | 100 |
| Adaptations of the Genus *Homo*: Overview and Lessons for Human Space Colonization | 105 |

Part II: Arguments For and Against Human Space Colonization | 111 |

4 A Choice of Catastrophes: Common Arguments for Space Colonization | 113 |
| Extinction | 115 |
| Civilization Collapse | 116 |
| Natural Threats to Humanity and Civilization | 123 |
| The End-Ordovician Mass Extinction | 126 |
| “The Great Dying”: The End-Permian Extinction | 129 |
| The End-Cretaceous Mass Extinction | 132 |
Contents

Extinction of Humanity vs Extinction of Civilization 136
Human Threats to Humanity and Civilization 137
   Civilization Collapse: Where Are the Maya? 137
   Splendid Isolation: The Great Leap Backward of Ming Dynasty
   China 139
   Nuclear Conflict 142
   Pandemics 143
   The Worst-Case Scenario 145
The Only Way Out is Up 147

5 False Choices: Common Objections to Human Space Colonization 151
   Introduction 151
   The Usual Objections: Humans Cannot Colonize Space 152
   Space Colonization Would Be Too Technically Challenging 152
   Humanity is Not Meant to Live in Space 159
   The Usual Objections: Humans Should Not Colonize Space 165
      Space Colonization Would Cost Money That Should be Spent on
      Earth Problems 165
      Space Colonization Will Only Move Human Problems Off of
      Earth 170
      Space Colonization Would Simply Be An Unnatural, Technocratic
      Project 172
      Space Colonization Would Be Immoral 175
   Conclusions 177

Part III: Human Adaptation to Space: Lessons from the Past
   and Shaping the Future 179

6 Starpaths: Adaptation to Oceania 181
   Oceania: Initial Colonization of the Western Pacific 182
      The Lapita Culture 183
      Lapita Subsistence 184
      Lapita Raw Materials and Tools 184
      Lapita Social Organization 187
   Post-Lapita Voyagers and Colonists of the Pacific 189
      Traditional Polynesian Sailing Vessels 189
      Traditional Polynesian Navigation 195
      Traditional Polynesian Sailing Voyages 199
   The Traditional Polynesian Voyaging Ethos of Exploration 201
   Oceanic Adaptive Lessons for Human Space Colonization 202

7 Building an Adaptive Framework for Human Space Colonization 205
   A Closer Look at Adaptation 206
      Defining Adaptation 206
      Learning from Adaptation for Human Space Colonization 207
         Lesson 1: Adaptations Arise from Ecological Opportunities 208
Lesson 2: Successful Adaptations in Nature Can Be Characterized and Learned From 209
Lesson 3: Benefits of Collaboration 212
Lesson 4: Biological Adaptations are Sustainable 213
A Framework for Human Space Colonization 214
Cognitive Shifts Necessary to Promote Human Space Colonization 217
Cold War/Militaristic → Humanistic/Families in Space/People 217
Industrial/Mechanical → Human/Organic 217
‘The Right Stuff’/NASA Complex/Professional → Everyman/Pioneer 218
Short-term, Limited Goals → Long-Term, Infinite Future 218
Exploration → Colonization 219
Conquest of Nature → Adaptation to Nature 219
Limitations to Humanity → Increasing Human Options 220
 Barely Possible → Possible and Routine 220
 Destiny/March of Progress → Human-Directed Evolution 221
 Costly Luxury → Responsible Investment 221
 Spinoff Mentality → Survival Mentality 222
 Technospeak→ Common Speech 222
Principles of an Evolutionary/Adaptive Framework for Human Space Colonization 223
Values 225
Build Towards Evolutionary Success 226
Use Adaptive Principles 226
Use the Potential of Exaption 226
Remember Proaction 227
Use of Nature-Based & Evolutionary Technologies 227
Use Technology for Humanity/Build Better Information Ecologies 227
Generate Cognitive Variation and Creativity by Encouraging Do-It-Yourself Projects 228
Continue Pure-Knowledge Research in Biology, Adaptation and Extinction, and Learn From Them 228
Grow More Effective Human Space Colonization Decision Cultures 230
Work to Human Strengths, and Beware Human Weaknesses 232
Strengths 232
Weaknesses 232
Synthesis 233

8 Distant Lands Unknown: Informed Speculation on the Human Future in Space 241
Where Can We Go? The Moon 242
Where Can We Go? Mars 243
Farther Afield: Worlds Beyond our Sun 247
What Will Change in Human Extraterrestrial Cultures? 249
What Will Change in Human Extraterrestrial Biology? 251