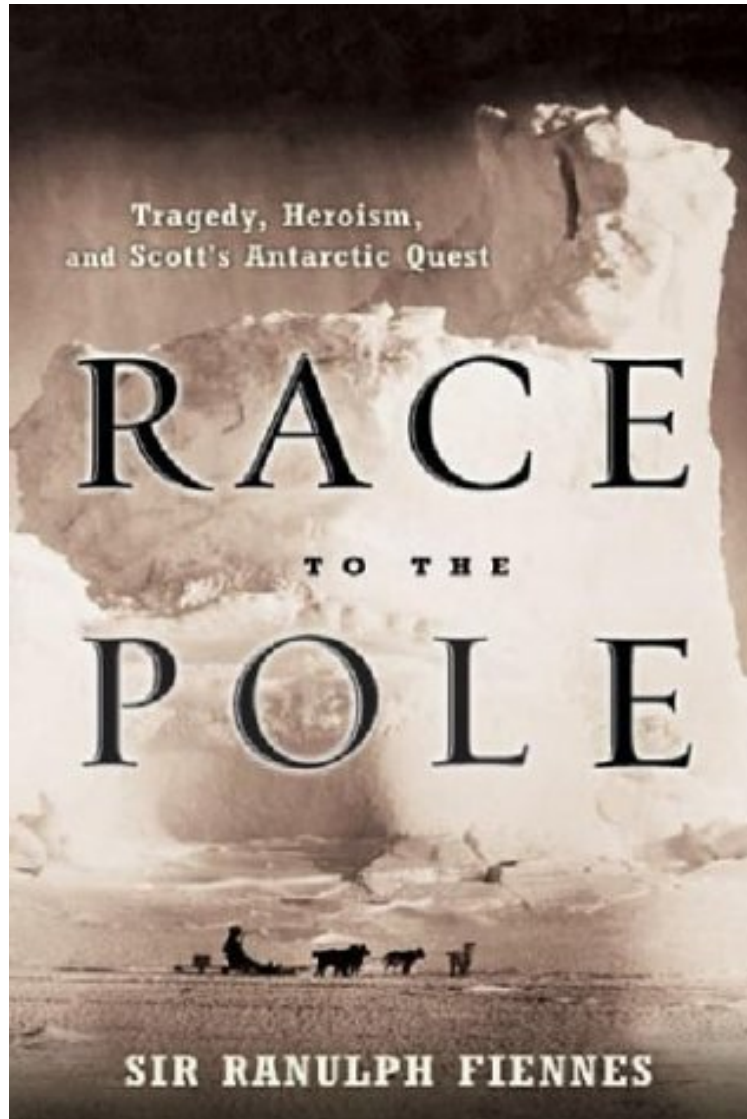


[Ebook free] Race to the Pole: Tragedy, Heroism, and Scott's Antarctic Quest

## Race to the Pole: Tragedy, Heroism, and Scott's Antarctic Quest

*Ranulph Fiennes*

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**Ranulph Fiennes : Race to the Pole: Tragedy, Heroism, and Scott's Antarctic Quest** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Race to the Pole: Tragedy, Heroism, and Scott's Antarctic Quest:

2 of 3 people found the following review helpful. Very exciting book. By Firstsnow I had seen the movie Endurance and decided to read this book. As I began to read, I wondered if the author would be tooting his own horn as much as possible throughout the book in a tedious manner. I was quite wrong. By the end of the book, I realized that only someone with the author's intimate awareness of the subject could have written such a wonderful book. I was thrilled

by it and couldn't put it down. I don't believe the subject matter alone is the reason for my excitement, Fiennes is an engaging and insightful author. Highly recommended. 3 of 5 people found the following review helpful. Well, he DOES know of what he speaks. By MaynardGC Clearly, as has been stated, there is a de-constructive zeal that's been applied to almost all of our traditional heroes for decades, a trend I find deplorable and, I think, based on the most obvious of politically correct motives. At the end Fiennes identifies the national self-loathing and malaise that Britain has allowed itself to slide into, and into which America has been sliding for some time. A society and culture that despises itself can not have the will to defend itself. Fortunately in this case, Fiennes is one of the few on this planet that can speak with authority and from experience on the subject of polar man-hauling and general survival in those regions. Fiennes's de-construction of Huntford and subsequent biographers has changed my mind about Scott, a man about whom I had a most negative opinion since I read Huntford's "Scott Amundsen" in 1990. Scott has been de-bunked and rehabilitated for me. 2 of 3 people found the following review helpful. "Ridiculous...A Waste of Time" By EPluribusUnum100 Fiennes tries desperately to "restore" the reputation of R.F. Scott--and also trash Amundsen for the multiple sins of 1) Getting to the South Pole first, 2) Not losing a man, 3) Not being British. He also does his best to try to attack Roland Huntford and all those who question Scott's leadership. Though Sir Ranulph has indeed gone to the South Pole and climbed Mt. Everest, this does not make him a great historian. Detractors of Huntford and Amundsen still have no good explanation for Apsley Cherry-Garrard's verdict on the Scott/Amundsen race for the South Pole. In his epic book THE WORST JOURNEY IN THE WORLD, Cherry Garrard concludes his story with a chapter titled, NEVER AGAIN. It is worth quoting in full here: "I shall inevitably be asked for a word of mature judgment of a kind that was impossible when we were all close up to it, and when I was a subaltern of 24, not incapable of judging my elders, but too young to have found out whether my judgment was worth anything. I now see that though we achieved a first-rate tragedy, which will never be forgotten just because it was a tragedy, tragedy was not our business. In the broad perspective opened up by ten years' distance, I see not one journey to the Pole, but two, in startling contrast, one to another. On the one hand, Amundsen going straight there, getting there first, and returning without the loss of a single man, and without having put any greater strain on himself and his men than was all in the day's work of polar exploration. Nothing more business-like could be imagined. On the other hand, our expedition, running appalling risks, performing prodigies of superhuman endurance, achieving immortal renown, commemorated in august cathedral sermons and by public statues, yet reaching the Pole only to find our terrible journey superfluous, and leaving our best men dead on the ice. To ignore such a contrast would be ridiculous: to write a book without accounting for it a waste of time." As Sir Ranulph appears determined to do just this in his book, we'll let Cherry-Garrard (a man who was actually there at the time) stand as the counter-argument.

The real story of Captain Robert Scott's legendary Antarctic quest, told by the man whom the Guinness Book of World Records has proclaimed "the world's greatest living explorer," Sir Ranulph Fiennes. During the Golden Era of Exploration, Captain Robert Scott and his competitor Roald Amundsen conquered the unconquerable: Antarctica. This perilous race to the South Pole claimed the life of Scott and became the stuff of legend, as well as endless scrutiny. In this compelling, meticulously researched biography of Captain Scott and his fatal journey, renowned modern-day explorer Sir Ranulph Fiennes, holder of 10 expeditionary records, has written what is sure to become the definitive book on this hotly debated subject. Race to the Pole provides a level of immediacy and accuracy that no other account has ever approached. Fiennes gained the exclusive cooperation of the Scott estate, as well as access to the descendants of key players, including those of Amundsen. As an explorer who has led over 30 expeditions, including the first polar circumnavigation of the earth and the first unsupported crossing of the Antarctic continent, he has firsthand knowledge of the grueling feat that Scott and his team undertook, as well as the physical tortures they endured. Infused with the intensity of fiction and exhibiting an exhaustive eye for detail found in the greatest historical biographies, Race to the Pole is a prodigious achievement and certain to become a classic in the literature of exploration.

From Publishers Weekly "We are weak, writing is difficult, but... I do not regret this journey," quotes Fiennes from one of the last letters of Capt. Robert Scott, who reached the South Pole in the summer of 1912 and then perished on the return trip. For generations of Englishmen, Scott was a hero. In the late 1970s, however, a bestselling biography called Scott's exploits into question and his reputation suffered. In this finely honed and riveting account of adventure, death and betrayal, Fiennes, who was the first man to reach both poles by land, seeks to reclaim Scott's place in the pantheon of great and honorable explorers. Fiennes details the tortuous conditions and grim reality of Antarctic exploration at the turn of the last century. Throughout the ordeal, Scott showed leadership, compassion and an unquenchable will to live. Alas, these attributes proved insufficient in the face of a blinding blizzard; he starved and froze to death on his journey home. In a gentle and urbane tone, Fiennes frequently cites his own extraordinary experiences to give perspective to Scott's story. In Fiennes's estimation, Scott succeeded where others failed: he respected his men, was the pride of an empire and made a legitimate and lasting contribution to scientific understanding. Four 8-page bw photo inserts, maps. Copyright Reed Business Information, a division of Reed Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved. From Booklist Robert Scott, a British naval captain, entered into legend when the Antarctic exploration party he headed in

the polar summer of 1911-12 failed to return home. Fiennes, an accomplished explorer and travel writer, evokes a ringing you-are-there tone in his authoritative reconstruction of that fateful trip in a book that also serves as a comprehensive biography of Scott himself. Scrupulously researched (with the cooperation of the Scott estate) and astonishingly felt--given Fiennes' extensive travel exploration experience, including polar trips--this account follows a fascinating and difficult man, "born delicate, weak chested, moody, quick tempered, and inclined to laziness," who tested himself all the way to his last act: freezing and starving to death on the unsuccessful return leg of his exploratory push to the pole. Fiennes' treatment defines creative nonfiction; of the many books, several of them recent, on Scott's expedition, this one will prove a popular addition to active travel-literature collections. Brad Hooper

Copyright American Library Association. All rights reserved "Fiennes' keen observations give Scott's now-familiar story a fresh and unique power." -- Entertainment Weekly