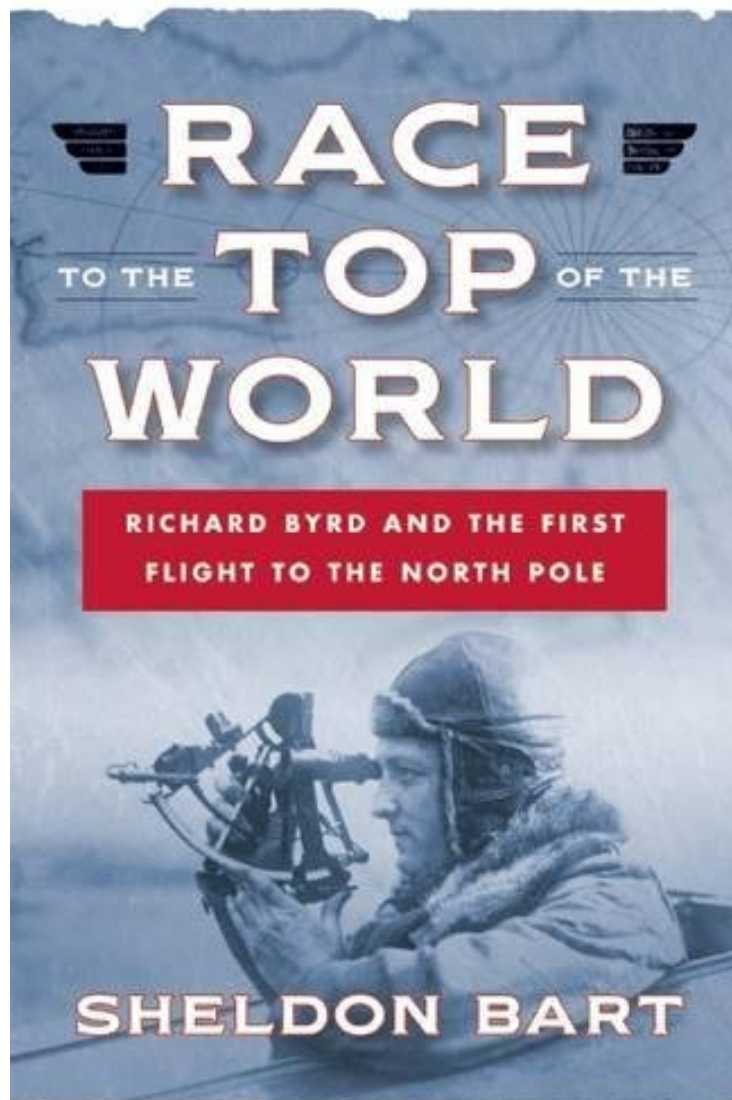


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Race to the Top of the World: Richard Byrd and the First Flight to the North Pole

Sheldon Bart

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#2078581 in Books Regnery History 2013-09-23Original language:EnglishPDF # 1 9.10 x 1.80 x 6.10l, 1.80
#File Name: 1621570827328 pages | File size: 20.Mb

Sheldon Bart : Race to the Top of the World: Richard Byrd and the First Flight to the North Pole before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Race to the Top of the World: Richard Byrd and the First Flight to the North Pole:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. A Worthwhile ReadBy Millicent EidsonSheldon Bart takes on a story that has been controversial since Bernt Balchen publicly accused Admiral Richard Byrd of contriving a hoax

shortly after Byrd's death. Others have subsequently "analyzed" Byrd's flight in an effort to condemn his claim of being the first to fly over the North Pole. Bart takes on these challenges methodically and logically, presenting evidence to the contrary. His explanation of the navigation tools and techniques available in the 1920's was especially enlightening. This is a well-researched and well-written account of a competition among polar explorers who would meet again at the opposite end of the earth and each establish their own "first." 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. A must read for the 1920's and the history early aviation. By chance G. This is an impressive book, both in its writing and in the research. Bart has done much research on topics of considerable controversy (e.g. Richard Byrd's flight to the North Pole in 1926) and has depicted the era and characters in a vivid and entertaining way. Anyone who has an interest in the history of early aviation, the 1920's, and the career of Richard Byrd should read this book. Particularly noteworthy are the chapters entitled "The Grassy Knoll of Aviation." Byrd's achievement of the North Pole has been in doubt in recent years and Bart reviews the charges of fraud and incompetence and provides evidence that supports Byrd. In the book, Byrd is an accomplished navigator, a meticulous organizer, and one who advanced the progress of aviation, especially in aerial navigation and engineering. Well done! Throughout the book keeps ones interest, as Bart has a lively literary style. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. An exciting story packed with information! By Teo Enjoyable, well written, and extensively researched! Race to the Top of the World blends history, technology and personalities into an exciting story that accelerates toward the book's end. The author's extensive research is delivered effectively, in an easy to digest form. In particular, navigation issues are described at just the right level to be appreciated by readers. The three featured expeditions take place during a period of dynamic change involving the use of aircraft, short-wave radio communications, advancing navigation techniques, and the always uncertain environment. Richard Byrd is portrayed as a gentleman, planner, and adventurer. His personal relationships, commitment to honor, management savvy and technical skills make great reading and encourage one to learn more of Byrd's following accomplishments which include flying over the South Pole.

In the age of adventure, when dirigibles coasted through the air and vast swaths of the Earth remained untouched and unseen by man, one pack of relentless explorers competed in the race of a lifetime: to be the first aviator to fly over the North Pole. What inspired their dangerous fascination? For some, it was the romantic theory about a lost world, a hidden continent in the Arctic Ocean. Others were seduced by new aviation technology, which they strove to push to its ultimate limit. The story of their quest is breathtaking and inspiring; the heroes are still a matter of debate. It was the 1920s. The main players in this high stakes game were Richard Byrd, a dashing Navy officer and early aviation pioneer; and Roald Amundsen, a Viking in the sky, bitter rival of Byrds and a hardened veteran of polar expeditions. Each man was determined to be the first aviator to fly over the North Pole, despite brutal weather conditions, financial disasters, world wars, and their own personal demons. Byrd and Amundsens epic struggle for air primacy ended in a Homeric episode, in which one man had to fly to the rescue of his downed nemesis, and left behind an enduring mystery: who was the first man to fly over the North Pole? Race to the Top of the World: Richard Byrd and the First Flight to the North Pole is a fast-paced, larger-than-life adventure story from Sheldon Bart, the only historian with unprecedented access to Richard Byrds personal archives. With powerful, never-before-seen evidence of the race to pioneer one of Earths last true frontiers, Race to the Top of the World is a story of a day when men were heroes and the wild was untamed.

About the Author Sheldon Bart is president and founder of the Wilderness Research Foundation and is governor of the American Polar Society. A published author and an authority on polar pioneer Admiral Richard E. Byrd, Bart has lectured at the Explorers Club, the Geographical Society of Philadelphia, the Elisha Kent Kane Historical Society, Hunter College of the City University of New York, and the Byrd Polar Research Center at Ohio State University. He organized and led the 1996 American Expedition to Baffin Island in the Canadian Eastern Arctic and was project manager of the WRF Antarctic Peninsula program. He is also a senior associate of LAPA/Laurence A. Pagnoni Associates, a consulting firm based in New York City.