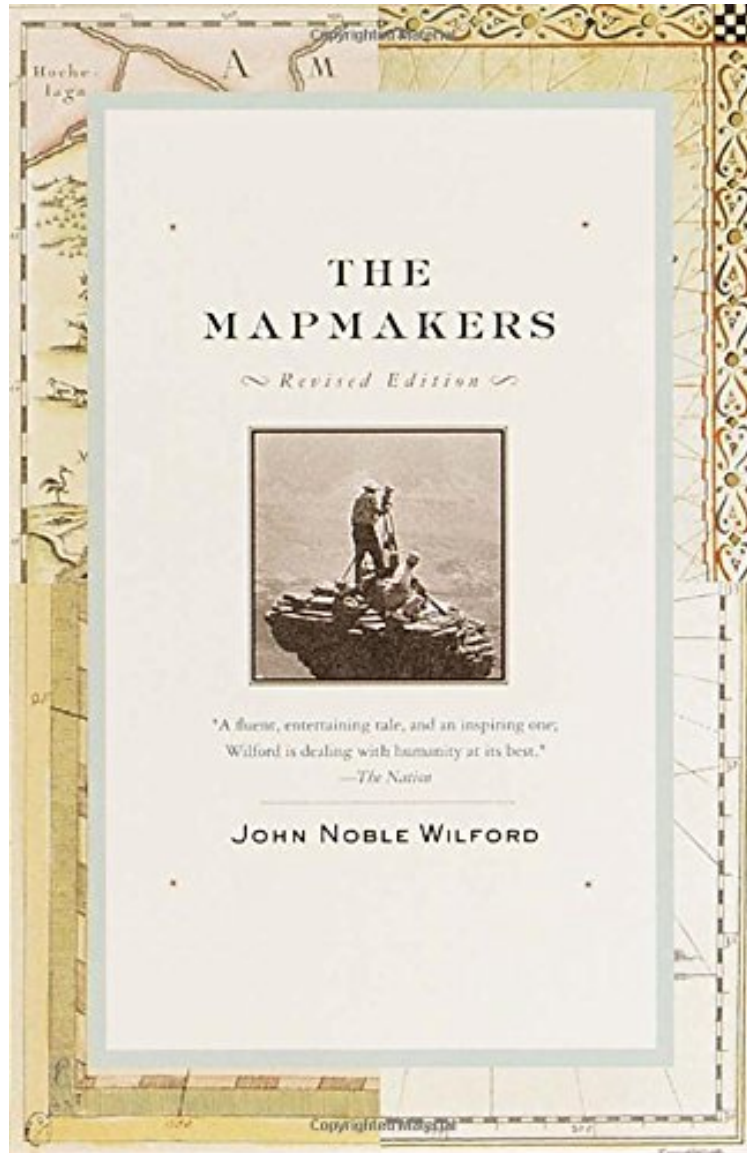


[Download pdf] The Mapmakers: Revised Edition

The Mapmakers: Revised Edition

John Noble Wilford

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John Noble Wilford : The Mapmakers: Revised Edition before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Mapmakers: Revised Edition:

1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Map History BookBy Kenneth RittenmeyerThis book is excellent. It describes in amazing detail what it took to map our world. Read this book if your a fan of maps, interested in geography or are interested in some fascinating historical figures that risked their lives to map our world.1 of 2 people found the following review helpful. What does a theodolite look like?By VerinHaving read Longitude by Nava Sobel,

and having a long interest in maps and atlases, and reading some very favorable reviews, I decided to read *The Mapmakers*. It started out in a very interesting way, tracing the history of maps...but the book's two biggest flaws quickly became apparent: (1) It is woefully dated; (2) the photos (what few there are, rather astonishing in a book about maps) are fuzzy, hard to view...and entirely in black and white. This is a book that calls out for frequent illustrations if ever a book did, making the lack a major stumbling block to enjoyment--if only there were a single picture of a theodolite, or a plane table, or any other of the many tools mentioned, it would have made comprehension so much easier. Regarding the first flaw, it made the reading of successive chapters more and more painful...reading quotes from scientists about they doubt there's a real market out there for personal handheld GPS devices. Obviously that idea made sense to them at the time, given what they knew, but standing on the other side of history (and being a regular user of Waze), it just shows how much the book needs updating in order to appreciate the vast changes in cartography that occurred since 2001 (when this 'revised' version came out). I enjoyed reading about the Cassini family, about westward discovery in the United States, and about mapping the oceans...topics I knew something about but not nearly. But it was a long slog to finish, and I did so just to say I'd done so (and for my 2017 self-imposed book challenge). 1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Maps of the world and beyond By Gary Sprandel This book is a history of map making, and hence a history of the world. Starting with the earliest known maps in Iraq in -2300 BCE, both the history of discovery of the world and the cartographic principles are traced. For those of us that were taught that Columbus discovered the world is round, the calculation of the earth's diameter in 300 BC shows this was widely known. Ptolemy's first cartographic principles are presented. Past the middle ages and their mythical maps, we are introduced to Mercator's projection, a measurement of degrees, and John Harrison's lifetime quest for measuring longitude (readers of this will enjoy Dava Sobel's book *Longitude*). Three chapters are devoted to the mapping of America (there is more than just Lewis and Clark). The final two parts of the book discuss some of the newer mapping techniques including aerial and radar mapping; geologic and seismic mapping, Antarctica, and Oceanic sea floor. Although large expanses, some of these areas have just been mapped in the 20th century. The final part discusses Global Position Systems, and mapping of the moon, Mars, and the cosmos. For those of us working with Geographic Information Systems (GIS) this book provides a nice antidote to thinking that mapping starting with the computer. The book is well illustrated, but some of the pictures could really have improved with a little color. The book does really well at presenting a background of the people involved, and realizing their own personal quests. Some of the underlying cartographic principles are also presented.

In his classic text, two-time Pulitzer Prize-winner John Noble Wilford recounts the history of cartography from antiquity to the space age. They are among the world's great pioneers and adventurers: the mapmakers who for centuries have been expanding our knowledge of who and where we are, and where we want to go. From the surprisingly accurate silk maps prepared by Chinese cartographers in the second century B.C., to medieval mapmakers who believed they had fixed the location of paradise, through to the expeditions of Columbus and Magellan, John Noble Wilford chronicles the exploits of the great pioneers of mapmaking. Wilford brings the story up to the present day as he shows the impact of new technologies that make it possible for cartographers to go where no one has been before, from the deepest reaches of the universe (where astronomers are mapping time as well as space) to the inside of the human brain. These modern-day mapmakers join the many earlier adventurers including ancient Greek stargazers, Renaissance seafarers, and the explorers who mapped the American West whose achievements shape this dramatic story of human inventiveness and limitless curiosity.

The Greco-Egyptian emperor Ptolemy III made a shrewd hire when, in about 240 B.C., he appointed a bookworm and poet named Eratosthenes to be the librarian of the great Alexandrian Museum. Eratosthenes, derided by his envious colleagues as a second-stringer, nursed an insatiable curiosity about the natural world. Acting on hunches and sailors' reports, he decided to conduct an experiment to measure the earth's circumference, which he eventually reckoned to be 46,000 kilometers--a little far off the actual mark of 40,000 kilometers but close enough that both Eratosthenes and Ptolemy entered history as founding fathers of the modern science of cartography. In this vigorous history of maps and their creators, New York Times science writer John Noble Wilford recounts the accomplishments of dozens of cartographers from many cultures and times, among them Gerardus Mercator, Francis Beaufort, Charles Mason, and Jean Fernel. Ranging from ancient Chinese scrolls to the latest satellite images of distant planets, he renders a history full of "heroics and everyday routine, of personal and national rivalries, of influential mistakes and brilliant insights." He also reviews key scientific and technological advances that have accompanied the rise of modern maps, among them the development of fractal geometry, geosynchronous displays, remote sensing, and ever more accurate surveying instruments and techniques. --Gregory McNamee 'A winning chronicle of mapmakers over time and space... Wilford has combined the accounts to offer a variety of adventures and perceptions not so often well described.' Scientific American 'Fascinating... Wilford manages to make everything from the discovery of the longitude to advanced laser-beam technology clear.' Newsweek 'One begins to sense how very much of what we know about the makeup of our planet has come to light just the other day as history goes... Wilford has produced a brisk

intelligent history.' New York Times Book From the Inside FlapIn his classic text, two-time Pulitzer Prize--winner John Noble Wilford recounts the history of cartography from antiquity to the space age. With this revised edition, Wilford brings the story up to the present day, as he shows the impact of new technologies that make it possible for cartographers to go where no one has been before, from the deepest reaches of the universe (where astronomers are mapping time as well as space) to the inside of the human brain. These modern-day mapmakers join the many earlier adventurers-including ancient Greek stargazers, Renaissance seafarers, and the explorers who mapped the American West-whose exploits shape this dramatic story of human inventiveness and limitless curiosity."