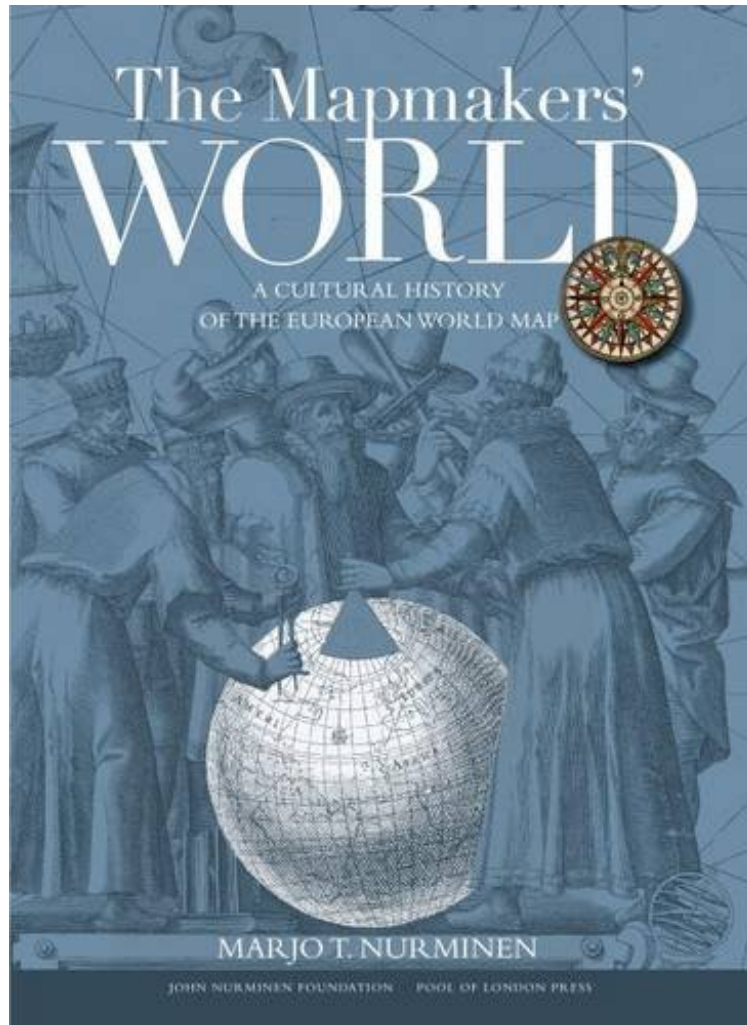


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The Mapmakers' World: A Cultural History of the European World Map

Marjo Nurminen

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Marjo Nurminen : The Mapmakers' World: A Cultural History of the European World Map before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Mapmakers' World: A Cultural History of the European World Map:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. No new theses for the map scholar, but it serves as a fine introduction to the history of European cartography and exploration By Gene Rhea Tucker The Mapmakers World is a coffee-table style book that aims for an educated readership, sort of a condensed, color-image filled complement to various volumes of The History of Cartography by the University of Chicago Press. Providing aid to the author, Marjo T. Nurminen (an archaeologist by training), is her map-collecting husband Juha Nurminen (editor-in-chief) and an

expert advisory panel consisting of names familiar to historians of maps and discoveries: Peter Barber, Evelyn Edson, Gnter Schilder, and Tony Campbell. (Owen F. Witesman and Erik Miller translated the work into English from the original Finnish.) The result is a large volume of about super royal octavo size (13 x 10), an inch and a half thick, with hundreds of images of maps, portraits, and other illustrations. Nurminens narrative history traces the cultural development of the European world map from medieval times to the seventeenth century, with forays to ancient times and the 1800s. The text rests on a wide study of the scholarly secondary literature and abounds in numerous fine color illustrations, many filling an entire page or spanning two. Though *The Mapmakers World* offers no new theses or conclusions to the seasoned map scholar, it serves as a fine introduction and adjunct to the history of European cartography and exploration. *The Mapmakers World* is interesting, lucidly written, and elegantly illustrated with maps and images. As a refresher on the European map and its cultural meaning from the medieval to the modern era, it is grand. The illustrations are superb; Nurminen and her team have chosen many great exemplars from a number of archives. As a showpiece and a general history it is an excellent, scholarly secondary source. A comprehensive bibliography, divided by chapter, a list of images, and index round out the text. *The Mapmakers World* might serve well as a general introduction for an undergraduate cartography course, but graduate students would be better served by directly accessing the work of the scholars in the bibliography. Scholars of cartography and exploration have trod this ground before, but they would still enjoy the text and presentation. 3.5 out of 5 stars

The Mapmakers World illuminates the fascinating cultural history of European world maps: what do historical world maps tell of us, of our perception of the world, and of places and peoples that are foreign to us? Who were the makers of these early world maps? How were the maps created and for whom were they drawn and printed? For what purposes were they used? What kind of information did they pass on? The answers to these questions open up a fascinating narrative of discovery and cartography relating not only to ideology and political power but also the histories of art and science. Rigorously researched and informed by latest academic findings, *The Mapmakers World* is beautifully illustrated presenting some 300 maps from the worlds finest museums, libraries and private collections. The book gives us a revealing and captivating perspective on the development of European world maps from the Early Middle Ages up until the modern period, i.e. from the 8th century until the end of the 18th century. *The Mapmakers World* is a major work which ambitiously showcases all of the early European world map traditions: Medieval world maps (T-O maps, mappa mundis, Beatus maps, etc.); Ptolemys maps; seafarers maps (portolan charts, planispheres and nautical charts), printed world maps and globes from the pre-Renaissance through to the Baroque era. Furthermore, *The Mapmakers World* takes its readers through the history of European global discovery and cartographic research, and also brings to life the exciting times when many of these historical maps were first discovered in the 19th century, after centuries of oblivion. The volume includes dedicated features further exploring 100 of the most important cartographic masterpieces from the period. The book is written as an exciting, flowing narrative, rather than a catalogue or an encyclopedia, and it takes the reader on the ultimate voyage of discovery. REVIEWS illustrated in beautifully pin-sharp colour throughout. The books production values as a whole are exceptional...The reader comes to the end of this beautiful and awe-inspiring book with a profound sense of humility at inheriting the accumulated knowledge of so many who struggled to understand their place in the world. *Times Literary Supplement*, 5/27/16

About the Author Marjo T. Nurminen (born 1967) is an archaeologist by education and specialises in the history of science. She has worked as a TV journalist at the Finnish Broadcasting Company YLE for more than ten years, focusing on science and its popularisation. Her book *Tiedon Tyttret* (Sisters of Science) won the Tieto-Finlandia Award for the Best Finnish Non-Fiction Book in Finland 2008, and has been translated into a number of languages. Nurminen lives in Helsinki with her family. Peter Barber is Head of Map Collections at the British Library. His many books include *The Map Book* (2005) and (with Tom Harper) *Magnificent Maps: Power, Propaganda and Art* (British Library, 2010).