



Marco Polo and the Discovery of the World

By John Larner

Download now

Read Online ➔

Marco Polo and the Discovery of the World By John Larner

After many years in Asia, Marco Polo wrote one of the most influential books of the past millennium. No mere travel account, Polo's *Book* is a work that played a key role in the development of European overseas expansion. In this engaging and authoritative book, historian John Larner explores for the first time the full range of influence of Polo's *Book* on the history of geography and exploration. Larner assesses the findings of modern scholarship and offers an original account of Polo and his family, of how and why the *Book* came into being, and of its reception over the centuries.

Beginning with a discussion of the extent of European knowledge of Asia early in the thirteenth century, Larner considers what is known about Marco Polo's life and the composition of his text. He examines the *Book*'s scope and sources (vindicating its author from recent claims that he never visited China), as well as the nature of Polo's cooperation with his co-author Rustichello da Pisa. He traces the manuscript forms and translations of Polo's *Book* in the Middle Ages, its influence on Western cartographers, its fortunes in the climate of fifteenth-century humanism, the possible extent of its encouragement to Columbus, and its later evolution into such new guises as the object of historical scholarship and exotic curiosity. Finally, Larner provides a fresh view of the enigmatic Polo, who, despite a deliberate cultivation of impersonality, continues today to engage the attention of readers.

 [Download Marco Polo and the Discovery of the World ...pdf](#)

 [Read Online Marco Polo and the Discovery of the World ...pdf](#)

Marco Polo and the Discovery of the World

By John Larner

Marco Polo and the Discovery of the World By John Larner

After many years in Asia, Marco Polo wrote one of the most influential books of the past millennium. No mere travel account, Polo's *Book* is a work that played a key role in the development of European overseas expansion. In this engaging and authoritative book, historian John Larner explores for the first time the full range of influence of Polo's *Book* on the history of geography and exploration. Larner assesses the findings of modern scholarship and offers an original account of Polo and his family, of how and why the *Book* came into being, and of its reception over the centuries.

Beginning with a discussion of the extent of European knowledge of Asia early in the thirteenth century, Larner considers what is known about Marco Polo's life and the composition of his text. He examines the *Book's* scope and sources (vindicating its author from recent claims that he never visited China), as well as the nature of Polo's cooperation with his co-author Rustichello da Pisa. He traces the manuscript forms and translations of Polo's *Book* in the Middle Ages, its influence on Western cartographers, its fortunes in the climate of fifteenth-century humanism, the possible extent of its encouragement to Columbus, and its later evolution into such new guises as the object of historical scholarship and exotic curiosity. Finally, Larner provides a fresh view of the enigmatic Polo, who, despite a deliberate cultivation of impersonality, continues today to engage the attention of readers.

Marco Polo and the Discovery of the World By John Larner Bibliography

- Sales Rank: #1101645 in Books
- Published on: 1999-09-10
- Original language: English
- Number of items: 1
- Dimensions: 9.21" h x .69" w x 6.14" l, 1.25 pounds
- Binding: Hardcover
- 264 pages

 [Download Marco Polo and the Discovery of the World ...pdf](#)

 [Read Online Marco Polo and the Discovery of the World ...pdf](#)

Editorial Review

Amazon.com Review

Marco Polo is important not because he traveled extensively in Asia--other 13th-century Europeans did that--but because he wrote down his experiences for others to read. In this excellent study, John Larner of Glasgow University assesses the impact of Polo's *Travels* on the intellectual society of his day. The book's contribution to learning was immense, giving medieval Europeans new information that forever changed their understanding of Europe's place in the world. Larner analyzes different versions of the book, originally written in a Genoa prison and translated into many languages within Polo's lifetime. He illustrates a number of fascinating early maps and analyzes Polo's influence on later geographical and literary treatises. Though Polo says very little about himself, Larner finds clues to his personality. Polo left Venice when he was 17 and remained in Asia until he was 41; Europe must have seemed strange to him, even uncouth, after his decades of service to Kublai Khan, Mongol emperor of China, the richest and most sophisticated country in the world at the time. Polo formed a strong affinity with the Mongolians, which may explain his failure to learn the Chinese language or mention Chinese customs such as tea-drinking or foot binding, occasionally suggested as evidence that he never in fact visited China. *Marco Polo and the Discovery of the World* demonstrates in straightforward language and with satisfying detective work how the record of a man's travels became one the most influential books of the millennium. --*John Stevenson*

From Library Journal

Larner (Culture and Society in Italy 1290-1420) focuses on the book that Marco Polo produced. After setting the stage, he introduces us to both Marco Polo and the man he believes was his coauthor, Rustichello da Pisa (whom Polo met when both were prisoners of the Genoese). He makes his case by arguing that the type of occupation-specific education that Polo, a member of Venice's mercantile class, had received before his journey to China would not have enabled him to write a literate narrative. Rustichello, on the other hand, was a minor author of literary romance, an ideal partner to sort out Polo's notes and arrange them into the work that captivated a generation. (Its geographical content, descriptions of Chinese cities and Mongol customs, and emphasis on the wealth of the East, Larner argues, inspired the Age of Discovery.) He also refutes Frances Wood's theory (in *Did Marco Polo Go to China?*, LJ 9/1/95) that he never went to China by presenting reasoned proof that he couldn't have been anywhere else for 24 years. Of interest to students and lay readers with an interest in history; for academic and larger public libraries. A Robert James Andrews, Duluth P.L., MN

Copyright 1999 Reed Business Information, Inc.

Review

In *Marco Polo and the Discovery of the World*, John Larner aims to demonstrate the Venetian's contribution to the age of European discovery by comparing 'what was generally believed about the geography of the world' before Polo wrote his book with what it was afterward. -- *William McGurn, Wall Street Journal*

Larner shows us that the accounts of Polo's experiences opened up for his contemporaries a sensuous world that was wholly new to them. His book gave the West a body of geographical knowledge previously unmatched in scale. The information the book, at first ignored, but later embraced by cartographers, changed forever the European understanding of the world. In this engaging and authoritative study of Polo's great masterpiece, John Larner teases out a fresh sense of the enigmatic man himself. -- *Don DeNevi, Palo Alto Daily News*

Much is alien and strangely wondrous in the history of the book. So John Larner makes clear in his learned

history of the book of travels that Marco Polo, a Venetian merchant who became a minor official of a Mongol khan, co-authored in a 13th century Genoese prison. -- *Tom Engelhardt, Los Angeles Times*

[An] erudite and highly personal book. -- *Jonathan Spence, The New York Times Book Review*

Users Review

From reader reviews:

Amanda Bell:

This Marco Polo and the Discovery of the World usually are reliable for you who want to be described as a successful person, why. The reason of this Marco Polo and the Discovery of the World can be one of many great books you must have is definitely giving you more than just simple looking at food but feed anyone with information that possibly will shock your prior knowledge. This book will be handy, you can bring it almost everywhere and whenever your conditions at e-book and printed ones. Beside that this Marco Polo and the Discovery of the World forcing you to have an enormous of experience for example rich vocabulary, giving you trial run of critical thinking that could it useful in your day exercise. So , let's have it and enjoy reading.

Millard Lopez:

Do you have something that you like such as book? The guide lovers usually prefer to select book like comic, short story and the biggest an example may be novel. Now, why not seeking Marco Polo and the Discovery of the World that give your enjoyment preference will be satisfied simply by reading this book. Reading addiction all over the world can be said as the means for people to know world far better then how they react to the world. It can't be claimed constantly that reading behavior only for the geeky particular person but for all of you who wants to be success person. So , for every you who want to start reading as your good habit, you could pick Marco Polo and the Discovery of the World become your current starter.

Katherine Holt:

You can find this Marco Polo and the Discovery of the World by browse the bookstore or Mall. Just viewing or reviewing it could to be your solve challenge if you get difficulties for your knowledge. Kinds of this e-book are various. Not only by written or printed but in addition can you enjoy this book through e-book. In the modern era such as now, you just looking by your local mobile phone and searching what your problem. Right now, choose your ways to get more information about your publication. It is most important to arrange you to ultimately make your knowledge are still change. Let's try to choose appropriate ways for you.

Terrance Bartholomew:

Do you like reading a publication? Confuse to looking for your selected book? Or your book ended up being rare? Why so many problem for the book? But virtually any people feel that they enjoy intended for reading. Some people likes reading through, not only science book but also novel and Marco Polo and the Discovery of the World or others sources were given expertise for you. After you know how the truly amazing a book,

you feel wish to read more and more. Science book was created for teacher as well as students especially. Those textbooks are helping them to bring their knowledge. In some other case, beside science guide, any other book likes Marco Polo and the Discovery of the World to make your spare time a lot more colorful. Many types of book like this one.

Download and Read Online Marco Polo and the Discovery of the World By John Larner #P1FWEYSX6C8

Read Marco Polo and the Discovery of the World By John Larner for online ebook

Marco Polo and the Discovery of the World By John Larner Free PDF d0wnl0ad, audio books, books to read, good books to read, cheap books, good books, online books, books online, book reviews epub, read books online, books to read online, online library, greatbooks to read, PDF best books to read, top books to read Marco Polo and the Discovery of the World By John Larner books to read online.

Online Marco Polo and the Discovery of the World By John Larner ebook PDF download

Marco Polo and the Discovery of the World By John Larner Doc

Marco Polo and the Discovery of the World By John Larner Mobipocket

Marco Polo and the Discovery of the World By John Larner EPub