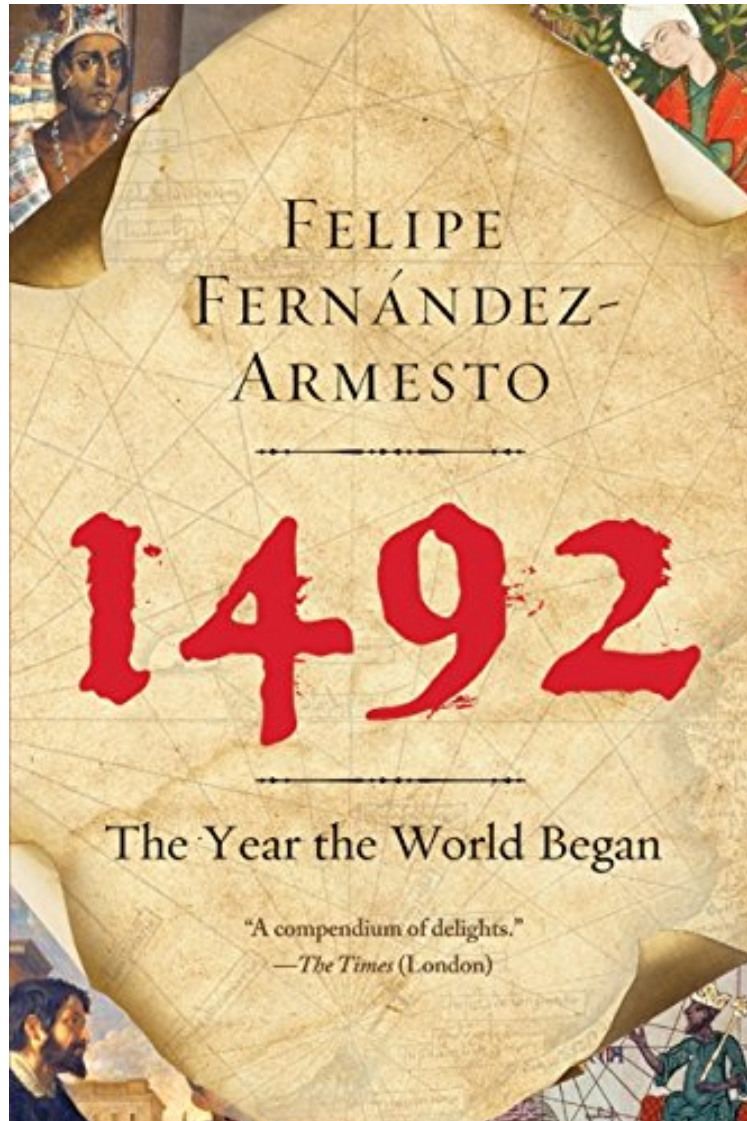


(Mobile library) 1492: The Year the World Began

1492: The Year the World Began

Felipe Fernandez-Armesto
ePub | *DOC | audiobook | ebooks | Download PDF



#232371 in Books 2010-11-02 2010-11-02Original language:EnglishPDF # 1 9.00 x .88 x 6.00l, .80 #File Name: 0061132284352 pages | File size: 31.Mb

Felipe Fernandez-Armesto : 1492: The Year the World Began before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised 1492: The Year the World Began:

5 of 5 people found the following review helpful. Who Knew so Much Happened Concurrently?By HappyManJKEven though I am a businessman, I love reading history books. This one is superb in presenting so many things that happened in various parts of the world at around the same time. A unique approach to focus the book on a date that almost everyone recognizes. This is a fantastic read and well worth the time.Kent Millington0 of 0 people found the

following review helpful. Good historical perspective but needs maps
By Patricia W. Rich
An interesting panoramic world history based on the thesis that the world changed in 1492 not just Columbus' explorations, not just the expulsion of Muslims and Jews from Spain; but according to legends in South America and elsewhere. He seems to be a learned historian, who looks at rulers, regimes, major countries and empires and religions (except very little about Judaism or the Middle East, except as part of the Ottoman Empire. Sadly, reading on Kindle made the few illustrations and maps unusable I really would have appreciated good maps.
0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. A masterful look at the context of 1492
By Eddie Choo
1492 provides sufficient context for the significance of that fateful year. It is not only an explanation, but also provides a little historiography for how historical events have been examined. This book is not about the impact of 1492, for that one can look at Charles Mann's 1491 and 1493.

1492: Not Simply the Year Columbus Sailed the Ocean Blue . . .
In this extraordinary, sweeping history, Felipe Fernndez-Armesto traces key elements of the modern world back to that single fateful year when everything changed.

From Booklist
Surveying the planet entire in 1492, Fernndez-Armesto selects a regional event (frequently the death of a ruler) and elaborates its significance in the redirection of history's flow from a humanity sundered into separate civilizations on several continents, toward a humanity somehow sutured together. Enduring cultural boundaries, such as the western Mediterranean line between Christianity and Islam or the east European marches between Catholicism and Orthodoxy, coalesced around that time, as did Islam reach into western Africa. Recounting them, Fernndez-Armesto displays the popular talent he has demonstrated in previous works (*Amerigo: The Man Who Gave His Name to America*, 2007); his narrative fluidity, not to mention an ability to turn a phrase, converts facts into context in an attractively readable manner. His Columbus is not the explorer per se but the social climber pursuing feudal success, and the voyage of 1492 is more an iteration of ongoing Spanish maritime ventures, such as the colonization of the Canary Islands, than something wholly new. From the Aztecs to Chinese admiral Zheng He, Fernndez-Armesto brilliantly sweeps a startling breadth of history into his unified narrative. --Gilbert Taylor
In this admirable history, Fernndez-Armesto has written a book of travels not unlike those of Marco Polo, filled with marvels and sensations, rich in description and replete with anecdote. 1492 is a compendium of delights. (The Times (London))
In his stimulating new book, Fernandez-Armesto offers a model of how to write popular history: accessible, provocative and full of telling detail. (4 stars) (Mail on Sunday (London))
Fernandez-Armesto's narrative fluidity, not to mention an ability to turn a phrase, converts facts into context in an attractively readable manner....
Surveying the planet entire in 1492, Fernndez-Armesto brilliantly sweeps a startling breadth of history into his unified narrative. (Booklist)
Fernndez-Armesto challenges some long-standing historical thinking. The compiled information adds immensely to the understanding of world that ended and began in 1492. 1492 changes our view of history. (San Antonio Express-News)
From the Back Cover
The world would end in 1492 so the prophets, soothsayers, and stargazers said. They were right. Their world did end. Ours began.
In this extraordinary, sweeping history, Felipe Fernndez-Armesto traces key elements of the modern world back to that single, fateful year. Everything changed in 1492: the way power and wealth were distributed around the globe, the way major religions and civilizations divided the world, and the increasing interconnectedness of separate economies that we now call globalization. Events that began in 1492 transformed the whole ecological system of the planet. Our individualism and the very sense we share of inhabiting one world, as partakers in a common humanity, took shape and became visible in 1492.
In search of the origins of modernity, 1492 takes readers on a journey around the globe of the time, in the company of real-life travelers, drawing together the threads that came to bind the planet. The tour starts in Granada, where the last Islamic kingdom in Europe collapsed, then moves to Timbuktu, where a new Muslim empire triumphed. With Portuguese explorers, we visit the court of the first Christian king in the southern hemisphere. We join Jews expelled from Spain as they cross the Mediterranean to North Africa, Italy, and Istanbul. We see the flowering of the Renaissance in the Florence of Lorenzo the Magnificent and go to the corrupt Rome of Alexander Borgia. We see the frozen frontiers of the dynamic, bloody Russia of Ivan the Great and hear mystical poets sing on the shores of the Indian Ocean. We sail the Atlantic with Columbus. In the depths of an old volcanic crater in the Canary Islands, we witness the start of the first European overseas empire. We observe the Aztecs and Incas laying the foundations of a New World in the Americas. Wars and witchcraft, plagues and persecutions, poetry and prophecy, science and magic, art and faith—all the glories and follies of the time are in this book. Everywhere, new departures marked the start of a new configuration for humankind, revealing how and why the modern world is different from the worlds of antiquity and the Middle Ages.
History seems a patternless labyrinth but a good guide can trace our paths through it back to the moment when some of the most striking features of today's world began.