

Let The Sea Make A Noise: A History Of The North Pacific From Magellan To Macarthur

Walter A. Mcdougall

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Walter A. Mcdougall : Let The Sea Make A Noise: A History Of The North Pacific From Magellan To Macarthur before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Let The Sea Make A Noise: A History Of The North Pacific From Magellan To Macarthur:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. A wonderful bookBy JohnstonA wonderful history book, it's the best history of the North Pacific I have ever read.0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Entertaining as well as informativeBy WinifredThis is a wonderfully entertaining as well as informative book. I already knew bits and pieces of this history, but McDougall puts it together in a very different way by focusing on the struggle to dominate the north Pacific. I was especially unaware of Russia and Hawaii's roles in the area, and I enjoyed his musings on the complexity of the various power struggles and the errors often committed by the players.1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. A Prismatic View of HistoryBy Theodore KobernickI appreciate the earlier reader comments. But there is a major aspect of Walter A. McDougall's "Let the Sea Make a Noise" they may have missed.McDougal treats the history of events as expressions of viewpoints of those events. It is as though a light shone on the events, and the light passed through a prism, which broke the light into its component colors. All of these colors represent different views of those events. In other words, historical events and their significance will be seen differently by different persons.McDougall is aware of these different views, and he respects them. But perhaps his greatest success as a writer of history is this: he does not merely present the various viewpoints, and let us make up our

underinformed minds. Instead, he fictitiously brings back to life various historical figures, and puts the different opinions in their mouths. Most of these characters disagree with the "author," who expresses McDougall's views. These characters are a brilliant device for presenting conflicting -- or balancing -- views of historical events. In a lighter vein -- when I see a public project where the taxpayers are being ripped off, I think of one of McDougall's characters. He is a Russian, who sees that the U.S.A. is better off than Russia because their big-time ripoff artists merely rob the public, while ours actually do create worthwhile projects. Of course the book was written before our huge financial meltdown. It's a great read. Get it. Enjoy it.

This study is an account of the rise and fall of empires in the last vast unexplored corner of the inhabitable Earth, an area occupying one-sixth of the globe. The book chronicles 400 years of voyages of discovery, feats of pioneering heroism, engineering marvels, political plots, business chicanery, racial clashes and brutal wars. Walter McDougall lets the people who lived the events interpret them - the American-loving ambassador to Washington on the eve of Pearl Harbor, the Russian builder of the Trans-Siberian railway, a Hawaiian queen from the first period of Western competition for the Islands, the American Secretary of State infamous for his "folly" in purchasing Alaska, a Spanish missionary from the period when it looked like the whole area might have become part of the Spanish realm. From the tropical paradise of Hawaii to the island fortress of Japan, from the frozen wastes of Siberia to the California coastline and into the power centres of London, Washington, Tokyo and St Petersburg, the book offers insights into all the twists and turns of the Pacific empire. Walter McDougall is the author of "The Heavens and the Earth".

From Publishers Weekly McDougall chronicles the cultural, racial, economic and military confrontations of the British, Spaniards, Hawaiians and Chinese in the North Pacific since the 16th century. He pays special attention to the intertwined histories of the Americans, Russians and Japanese who made the North Pacific an arena for power politics. A history professor at the University of Pennsylvania (and author of the Pulitzer-winning *The Heavens and the Earth*), McDougall is a first-rate scholar and a marvelous writer. Here he periodically interrupts his headlong narrative to present the minutes of seminars attended by ghosts of the North Pacific past: Father Junipero Serra, a Spanish missionary; Kaahumanu, consort of Hawaiian King Kamehameha; William Seward, Lincoln's secretary of state; Count Sergey Witte, prime minister to Russia's Nicholas II; and Saito Hiroshi, pre-Pearl Harbor Japanese ambassador to Washington. These well-informed, opinionated wraiths discuss and argue with one another (and with the author) about such matters as the theory of the mongrelization of races and the extraordinary profusion of atrocities committed by the Japanese military in WW II. This is an impressive study, breathtaking in scope, entertainingly informative and thought-provoking. Photos. \$25,000 ad/promo; BOMC and QPB alternates. Copyright 1993 Reed Business Information, Inc. From Library Journal McDougall (history, Univ. of Pennsylvania) has given us a stimulating analysis of the interaction of the races and cultures of the North Pacific over the past four centuries. Tracing developments in the United States, Canada, Mexico, Alaska, Russia, Japan, Korea, China, Hawaii, and other north Pacific islands, he examines the history, societies, economics, and geopolitics of the region within the context of three eras defined by technology: "Of Sail and Muscle," "Of Steam and Rails," and "Internal Combustion." His imaginative and original approach includes bringing to life prominent figures from different countries and eras to help interpret the important events in which they participated. A delight to read; highly recommended. - W.L. Wuerch, Micronesian Area Research Ctr., Univ. of Guam Copyright 1993 Reed Business Information, Inc. From Kirkus s Generation-spanning tales of the North Pacific from a Pulitzer-winning historian who's also a gifted storyteller. Given the breadth of the claim he's staked on a vast area that extends along a coastal arc from Baja California to China, it's no wonder that McDougall (...*The Heavens and the Earth*, 1985) chose a Michener-like format for his absorbing if episodic saga. It's the author's elegantly effective conceit that the favorite consort of Hawaii's King Kamehameha has summoned him and others to pass judgment on regional events over a span of nearly four centuries. Among the heavenly guests are Hiresi Saito (Japan's ambassador to the US during the 1930's), Junipero Serra (the Spanish monk whose missions opened Alta California to white settlement), William Henry Seward (Lincoln's secretary of state), and Count Sergey Witte (Tsar Nicholas II's prime minister). With more than a dozen breaks for spirited colloquies with his phantom collaborators, McDougall offers short-take accounts of historical milestones ranging in time from the opening of new sea lanes during the late 16th century through the 1950 outbreak of hostilities between North and South Korea. Covered along the way are oceangoing voyages of discovery (by Captain Cook et al.); development of the fur trade; gold rushes; earthquakes (in Tokyo as well as San Francisco); the impact of transport technologies (steamships, railroads, aircraft); the US purchase of Alaska; imperial Japan's conflicts with Russia; WW II; and more. While offbeat, the author's framework allows him to focus on questions he deems most consequential and to examine them from several standpoints. The discontinuous chronicle addresses substantive issues throughout, concluding, among other matters, that over the years demographic forces have proved far stronger than governmental imperatives. Perceptive, coherent perspectives--mounted in a flashy and accessible text--on a once-remote domain that's a world unto itself. (Thirty-two pages of maps and photos--not seen). -- Copyright 1993, Kirkus Associates, LP. All rights reserved.