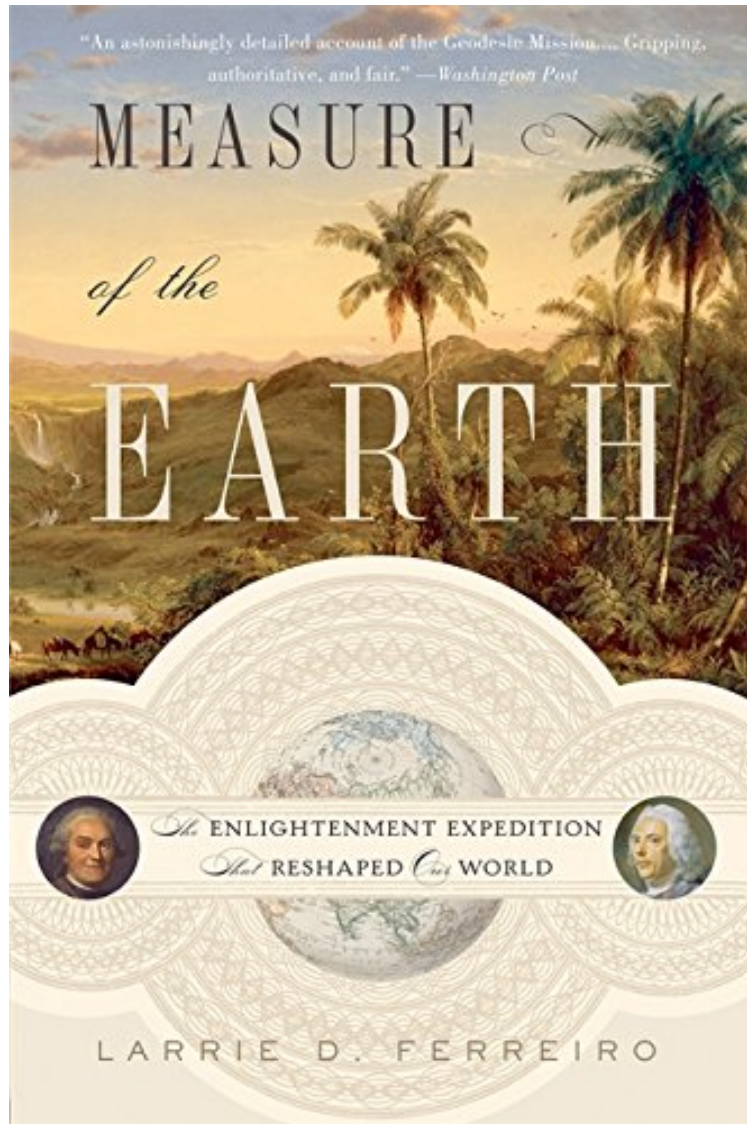


[Ebook free] Measure of the Earth: The Enlightenment Expedition That Reshaped Our World

Measure of the Earth: The Enlightenment Expedition That Reshaped Our World

Larrie D. Ferreiro

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#1039961 in Books Larrie D Ferreiro 2013-06-25 2013-06-25Original language:EnglishPDF # 1 8.27 x .84 x 5.511, .85 #File Name: 0465063810376 pagesSigned by author | File size: 69.Mb

Larrie D. Ferreiro : Measure of the Earth: The Enlightenment Expedition That Reshaped Our World before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Measure of the Earth: The Enlightenment Expedition That Reshaped Our World:

2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. Wonderful historyBy SteverA great book, similar to to Ken Adler's 'The Measure of all Things'. The persistence of these 18th C. astronomer-surveyors to measure a small section of the

Earth in the equatorial Andes is astounding. Their personalities and surveying techniques are described, and the background political and scientific context of the expedition is covered. This book goes a long way toward enabling a layperson understand what life was like in 18th C. Europe and Spanish Peru (now Ecuador). The book does not shy away from the immoral activities of colonial powers and people. Nevertheless, the quest of these Enlightenment scientists to understand the world rationally was truly ground-breaking and that philosophy underpins modern prosperity. Mr Ferreiro's book describes a wonderful slice of intellectual history that I hope will inspire young people to carry on the Enlightenment project to all parts of the modern world; it sorely needs it. 2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. *Mystical Ecuador's Hidden History* By Customer Mr. Ferreiro just became one of my favorite writers! Well done is more than enough said of this well written and intensely interesting work. Dang I'm glad he wrote this and got it out on the streets before another day passed without this most interesting story being widely known. A must read for any adventurous reader out there! Don't miss this historical treat! Kurt Hibbert, Sugar City, Idaho. 2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. *Intriguing account of early attempts to measure the divergence of ...* By Paul Foerster *Intriguing account of early attempts to measure the divergence of the earth from a perfect sphere. An interesting historical account including the scientific principles behind the two conflicting theories, oblate or prolate shape.*

In the 18th century, Europe's scientific community was torn between two opposing theories: Descartes' argument that the Earth was spherical, and Newton's contention that it was flattened at the poles. Recognizing that the answer was the key to securely navigating the earth's oceans, France and Spain organized a joint expedition to colonial Peru. Their goal was to measure a degree of latitude at the Equator; by comparing this measurement to one taken back in Europe, they would be able to determine the planet's shape and put an end to the debate. But what seemed a straightforward scientific exercise was almost immediately marred by a series of unforeseen catastrophes: treacherous terrain, deeply suspicious locals, and the voyagers' own hubris. A thrilling tale of adventure, political history, and scientific discovery, Larrie D. Ferreiro's *Measure of the Earth* recounts the greatest scientific exhibition of the Enlightenment through the eyes of the men who completed it pioneers who overcame tremendous adversity to traverse the towering Andes Mountains and discern the Earth's true shape.

Andrs Resndez, author of *A Land So Strange* The greatest achievement of Larrie D. Ferreiro's wonderful book is to walk us with perfect ease through remote locales and arcane subjects. Mr. Ferreiro seems no less at home in Guayaquil than in Paris or London and no less lucid in explaining the debates over the shape of the earth between Newtonians and Cartesians than in describing the intrigues surrounding the French Academy or the excruciating logistics of a scientific mission unfolding in colonial South America. Kim MacQuarrie, author of *The Last Days of the Incas* The story of the race to determine the shape of the Earth is one of history's most engaging yet least-known stories. In *Measure of the Earth*, Larrie Ferreiro takes us inside the scientific expedition that set off from France to South America in the 18th century to discover the answer. Ferreiro not only brings to life the band of characters that embarked on this journey, with all of their intrigues and rivalries, but he also details the huge stakes involved. Whichever country discovered the Earth's correct shape would take a giant leap forwards in enhancing their military and economic power. A fascinating account of scientific inquiry thoroughly enmeshed in the race for power and empire.