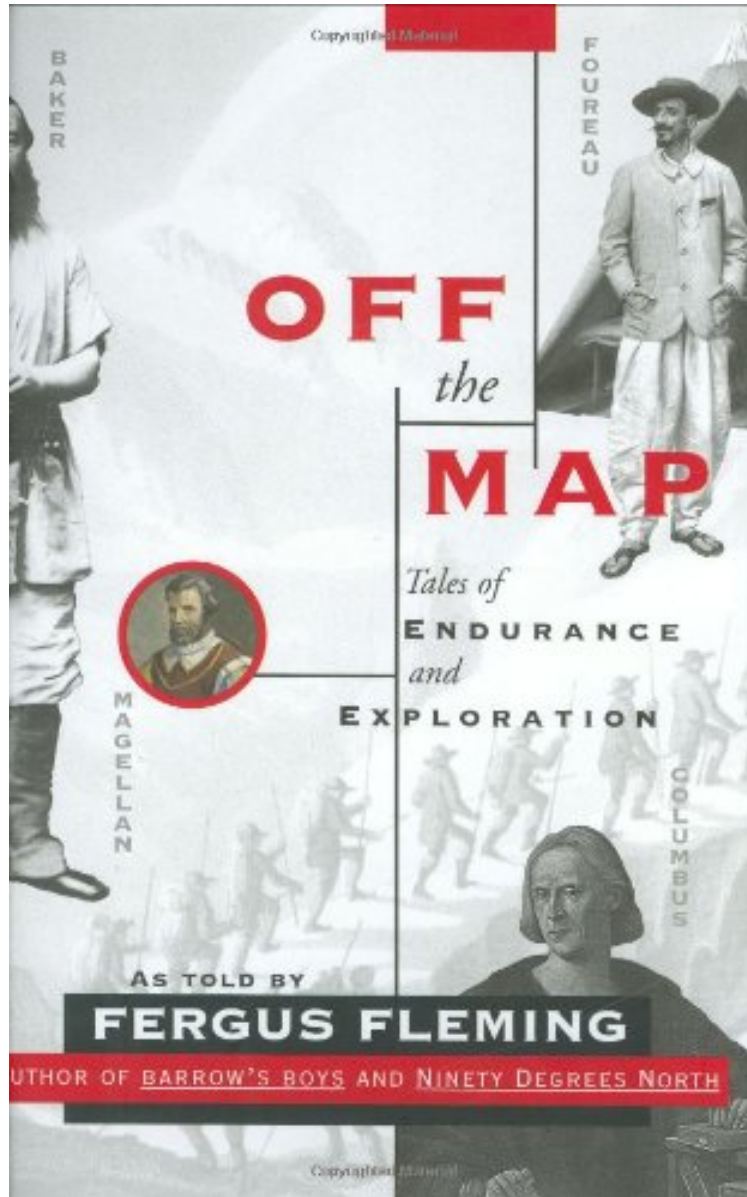


(Free) Off the Map: Tales of Endurance and Exploration

Off the Map: Tales of Endurance and Exploration

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From Brand: Atlantic Monthly Press : Off the Map: Tales of Endurance and Exploration before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Off the Map: Tales of Endurance and Exploration:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Better than I expected By Tom There are about 45 short stories in

chronological order, starting in the 1300's and ending in the 1920's. Each is pretty short, no more than 20 pages, and very well written - you can dip in to the book for a story and then put it away for a while if you choose. Many of the explorations I had heard of, but even more I hadn't (and I've read quite a bit in this area) so it was fun to learn about various journeys that were just as harrowing as Scott's trip to the South Pole, for instance, but got almost no press coverage at the time so have faded in to history - at least until now. My only knock - there is a pretty high percentage of stories focused on Polar exploration. There were lots of expeditions in those areas, but other parts of the globe get a bit shorted - there are only 2 on mountaineering, for instance. This is a minor point though - if you enjoy exploration literature you should have this one.

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Great Discovery By Frederick McDermott Great, short, efficient essays on a discovery starting with the earliest explorers (Marco Polo) up to Mallory on Everest. You know some of these guys but not all, and not in Fleming's way. Great place to start on any particular explorer.

5 of 5 people found the following review helpful. Outstanding tales of Exploration By Robert R. Briggs If you love reading about exploration and adventure, this is the book for you! Fergus Fleming is one of the best story tellers when it comes to relating tales of man's greatest efforts in the world of exploration. This is an easy read, covering many different stories from Marco Polo to Ernest Shackleton. Virtually all parts of the world are covered from the Arctic to the Antarctic, from the Jungles to the Deserts. Each story is unique and written in a style that will capture you and put you right along side the explorer. The accounts are short but quite inclusive of the important points. If anything, they will peak your interest to read a more detailed account of those stories the reader finds particularly interesting. Truly, a great book and one of Fleming's best!

On John Franklin's 1820 expedition to find the North-West Passage, Michel Teroahaute cannibalized two team members and was preparing a third when he was caught and killed. When Rene la Salle set off for the Mississippi Delta in 1684, he missed the target by five hundred miles, but on landing immediately built a prison for those who fell asleep on watch. Consummate storyteller Fergus Fleming brings together these and forty-three other gripping stories of adventure and endeavor. *Off the Map* recounts episodes both classic and forgotten: the "classics" are brought to life in more vivid colors than ever before; the lesser known stories offer accounts of feats that are no less heroic or extraordinary but have long lain hidden in the undergrowth of history. From the Renaissance golden age of Columbus, da Gama, and Magellan to the twentieth-century heroics of polar explorers such as Peary, Scott, and Amundsen, this is an unforgettable journey into the annals of adventure.

From Publishers Weekly No activity embraces risk like exploration. Success means glory and wealth; failure most likely entails an undocumented demise thousands of miles from home. This sturdy work recounts the memorable circumstances of history's greatest journeys of discovery. Former Time-Life Books editor Fleming (*Killing Dragons*) has mastered the craft of imparting huge swaths of information in an accessible way. Thematically (and sensibly) divided into three sections covering "Reconnaissance," "Inquiry" and "Endeavour," the book's 45 accounts lie at the intersection of individual obsessiveness and collective, often imperial, ambition. Whether elaborating on von Humboldt's accidental exploitation of guano (bird manure fertilizer), Henry Hudson's encounter with a mermaid or the French search for a Saharan field of emeralds, Fleming's writing is informative and vivid, never stinting on such basic human drives as greed, glory and geopolitical domination. As the book inexorably moves from 1271 (Marco Polo) to 1928 (Umberto Nobile, pioneering North Pole pilot), the narratives inevitably shift from such weighty matters as the modern European explorations of China, North America, India and Brazil to geographical poles and inaccessible peaks. Almost comprehensive enough to serve as a reference, this densely packed tome supplies a bewildering wealth of information about some of humanity's most compelling adventures. Bw photos, maps. Copyright Reed Business Information, a division of Reed Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved.

From Booklist Fleming presents 45 narratives of unparalleled achievements in the long history of exploration, dividing his the book into three eras--the age of reconnaissance, the age of inquiry, the age of endeavor--and beginning each chapter with an essay. Among the explorers are such famous names as Marco Polo, Christopher Columbus, Ferdinand Magellan, Henry Hudson, Lewis and Clark, W. E. Parry, Stanley and Livingstone, Peary and Cook, Scott and Amundsen, and Ernest Shackleton. Less-known adventurers include Ibn Battuta, who traveled across North Africa to the Middle East; Rene La Salle, who helped colonize the American wilderness; John Ross, who spent four years in the Arctic; Robert Burke and William Wills, who crossed the Australian continent; George Mallory and Sandy Irvine, who climbed Mount Everest (and did not survive); and Umberto Nobile, who flew over the North Pole in a dirigible. With 24 pages of black-and-white illustrations, the book will allow more-timid readers to experience achievements beyond their wildest dreams. George Cohen Copyright American Library Association. All rights reserved