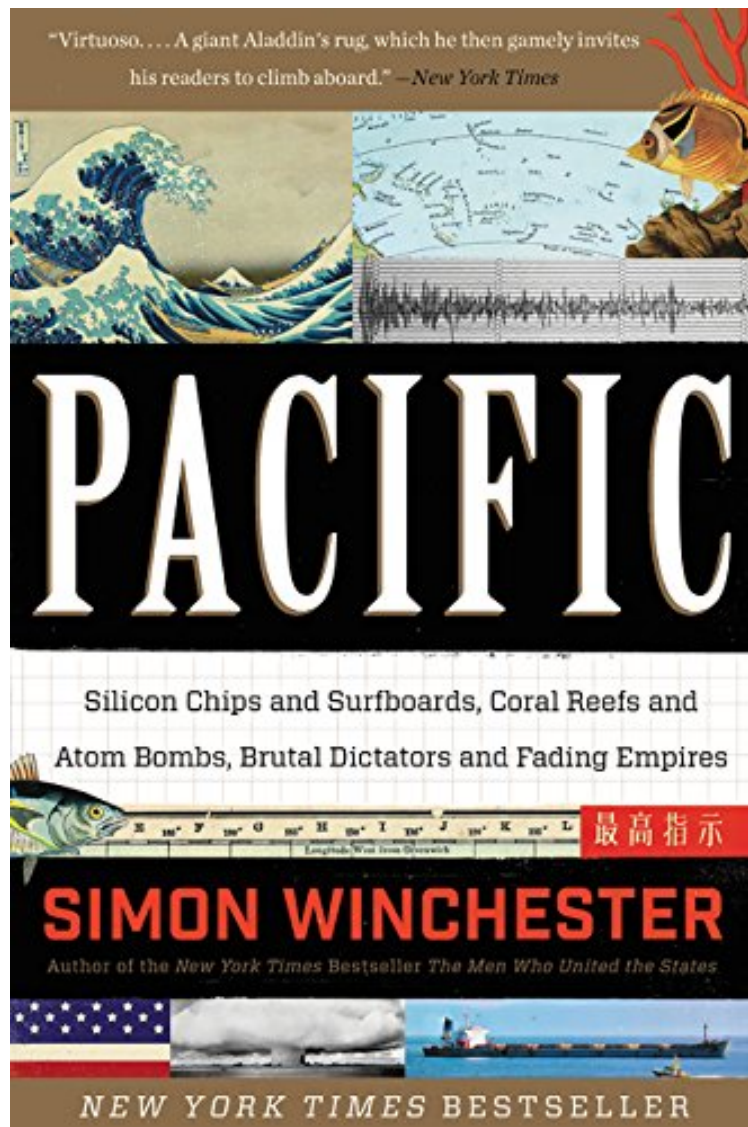


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Pacific: Silicon Chips and Surfboards, Coral Reefs and Atom Bombs, Brutal Dictators and Fading Empires

Simon Winchester

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#33737 in Books Winchester Simon 2016-10-25 2016-10-25 Original language: English PDF # 1 8.00 x 1.15 x 5.311, .0 #File Name: 0062315420512 pages Pacific Silicon Chips and Surfboards Coral Reefs and Atom Bombs Brutal Dictators and Fading Empires | File size: 31.Mb

Simon Winchester : Pacific: Silicon Chips and Surfboards, Coral Reefs and Atom Bombs, Brutal Dictators and Fading Empires before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Pacific: Silicon Chips and Surfboards, Coral Reefs and Atom Bombs, Brutal Dictators and Fading Empires:

72 of 73 people found the following review helpful. Good read, but take with a grain of Pacific sea salt
By Carl E. Johnson Jr. Simon Winchester is a wonderful writer -- an expert user of the English language. I love to read him just for the writing. Beyond that, not so much. This book is a collection of stories or essays about political, scientific, social and ecological issues that touch the Pacific region. E.g., the development of the transistor radio in Japan by what's now called Sony Corp., America's atomic and hydrogen bomb testing, volcanic eruptions, China's increasing interest in control of the South China Sea, the USS Pueblo affair, surfing, how world weather patterns are driven by the Pacific region, and more. Most of this a well-read person of a certain age will already know about, but pick up some interesting details and have a refresher course. However, it's all very superficial, and I kept asking myself, "Is this really right? There must be more to it." And finally, factual errors. I kept thinking, "I need to check that out." Then on pages 424-425 Winchester places Des Moines, Iowa, USA, on the Mississippi River, which it is not, and both Hannibal, Missouri, and Des Moines south of St. Louis, Missouri, which they are not. I did not have to look that up. Don't publishers (Harper, in this case) use fact checkers any more?
6 of 6 people found the following review helpful. Great information!
By M. Rusk The information in this book is invaluable. I bought it on my kindle, but this is the kind of book one should have as a reference, though of course I can go back, but it's just harder on the kindle. So much good information about areas of the Pacific I had never thought about, as well as the power of that huge body of water!
3 of 3 people found the following review helpful. Another Fine Sea Story
By PTA45I don't start a Winchester sea story unless I know I will be able to finish it. PACIFIC combines stories of discovery and beauty with those of war, defilement of nature, and existing and evolving threats to the world as we know it. He concludes with the question "why can't we all get along?" That is a good question indeed for anyone who has a few minutes to think about it on any beach in the world.

One of Library Journals 10 Best Books of 2015
Following his acclaimed *Atlantic* and *The Men Who United the States*, New York Times bestselling author Simon Winchester offers an enthralling biography of the Pacific Ocean and its role in the modern world, exploring our relationship with this imposing force of nature. As the Mediterranean shaped the classical world, and the Atlantic connected Europe to the New World, the Pacific Ocean defines our tomorrow. With China on the rise, so, too, are the American cities of the West coast, including Seattle, San Francisco, and the long cluster of towns down the Silicon Valley. Today, the Pacific is ascendant. Its geological history has long transformed tremendous earthquakes, volcanoes, and tsunamis but its human history, from a Western perspective, is quite young, beginning with Magellan's sixteenth-century circumnavigation. It is a natural wonder whose most fascinating history is currently being made. In telling the story of the Pacific, Simon Winchester takes us from the Bering Strait to Cape Horn, the Yangtze River to the Panama Canal, and to the many small islands and archipelagos that lie in between. He observes the fall of a dictator in Manila, visits aboriginals in northern Queensland, and is jailed in Tierra del Fuego, the land at the end of the world. His journey encompasses a trip down the Alaska Highway, a stop at the isolated Pitcairn Islands, a trek across South Korea and a glimpse of its mysterious northern neighbor. Winchester's personal experience is vast and his storytelling second to none. And his historical understanding of the region is formidable, making *Pacific* a paean to this magnificent sea of beauty, myth, and imagination that is transforming our lives.

Revealing... delightful... fascinating... highly recommended. (Janet Napolitano, San Francisco Chronicle)
Winchester does a virtuoso job. ... A giant Aladdin's rug, which he then gamely invites his readers to climb aboard. (New York Times)
Fascinating, provocative, and at times, mildly terrifying. ... The hallmarks of Winchester's best work -- a fertile, curious mind, impeccable research and command of complex material -- are on full display here. (Miami Herald)
Winchester has a smooth and easy prose style, one that is trustable and clear. ... He excels at guiding the reader with a contagious sense of wonder. (Boston Globe)
[Winchester is] a terrific raconteur with a knack for making connections that might have eluded you between events behind the headlines. ... Where *Pacific* opts to go, it goes with savvy and verve. (Seattle Times)
Winchester writes books like someone telling a good yarn around the fireplace... by interweaving history, fascinating trivia, and acute observation. (New York Times Book)
A series of high-resolution literary snapshots. ... As we've come to expect from Winchester, there are plenty of delights. ... Winchester's passionate research... undergirds this superb analysis of a world wonder. (Kirkus's (starred review))
Winchester is a terrific helmsman, both confident and smooth. (Telegraph (UK))
Winchester has prodigious gifts as a popular historian and an explainer of faraway events. (Los Angeles Times)
Provocative... and lively. (Wall Street Journal)
Popular history at its finest. (Library Journal)
Winchester's vigorous prose and tireless dragnetting of interesting lore make this an entertaining read. (Publishers Weekly)
ONE OF THE WALL STREET JOURNALS BEST BIOGRAPHIES OF 2015 (No Source)
ONE OF KIRKUS REVIEWS BEST BOOKS OF 2015 (No Source)
From the Back Cover
Winchester recounts the atomic tests on the atoll of Bikini. He takes us to the launch of Gidget and her surfboards that would forever change how the world's youth views a rising wave. He also tells the story of the little transistor radio and how it sparked the digital revolution, from Japan to Silicon Valley, altering the ocean's destiny. Winchester includes tales of alarming discoveries on the Great Barrier Reef and grand expeditions to mysterious vents on the ocean's floor. He

examines the geopolitical shifts that shaped the oceans vast land areas, from the rise of North Koreas rogue state to the environmental degradation and climate shifts that now threaten this majestic body of water. Pacific calls upon Winchesters many journeys throughout the Pacific and its surrounding areas, his formidable historical understanding, and his singular talent for storytelling in a paean to this magnificent sea of beauty and myth. About the Author Simon Winchester is the acclaimed author of many books, including *The Professor and the Madman*, *The Men Who United the States*, *The Map That Changed the World*, *The Man Who Loved China*, *A Crack in the Edge of the World*, and *Krakatoa*, all of which were New York Times bestsellers and appeared on numerous best and notable lists. In 2006, Winchester was made an officer of the Order of the British Empire (OBE) by Her Majesty the Queen. He resides in western Massachusetts.