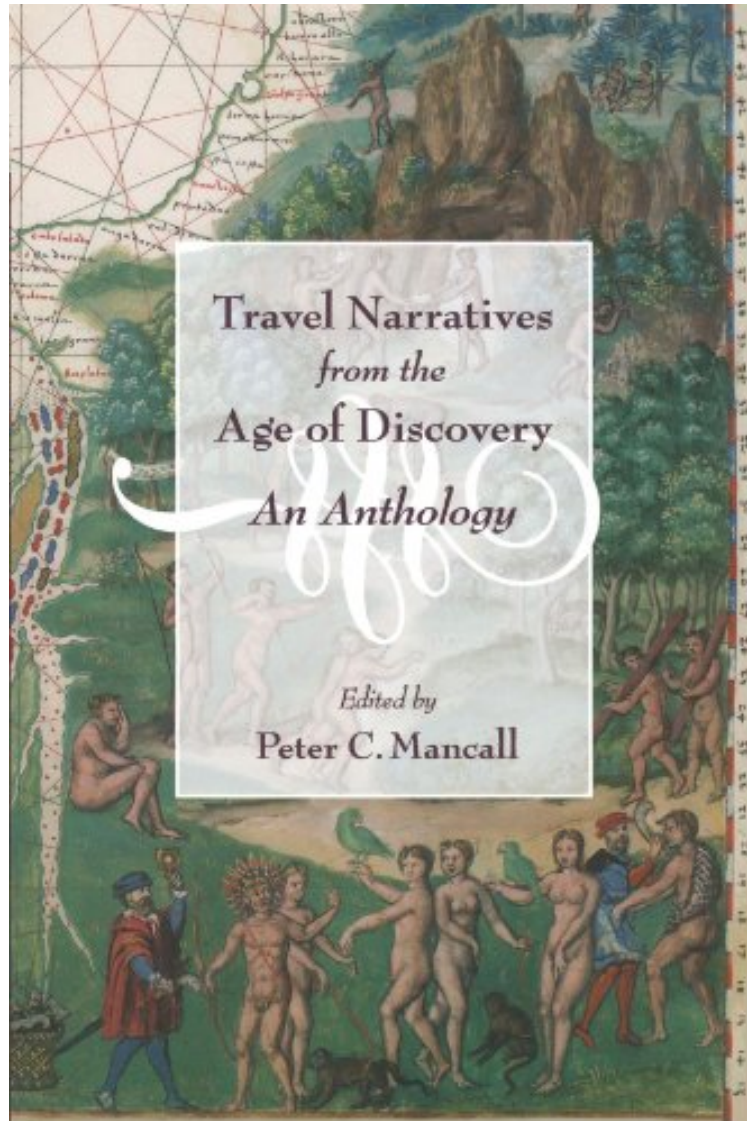


(Download free ebook) Travel Narratives from the Age of Discovery: An Anthology

Travel Narratives from the Age of Discovery: An Anthology

From Oxford University Press

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From Oxford University Press : Travel Narratives from the Age of Discovery: An Anthology before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Travel Narratives from the Age of Discovery: An Anthology:

1 of 4 people found the following review helpful. Pro-globablization propagandaBy Earnest SludgeI guess I should have done my homework a little better before ordering this. I had bought two other travel anthologies taken from works hundreds of years ago and that were also put out by Oxford University and I was quite satisfied by them. But those other anthologies were only intended to entertain and divert. This one has a boring ax to grind.And I most

confess that I didn't read the Columbus, Cartier, Stade, de Lery or Oviedo selections because I'd already read the full accounts. These selections don't even qualify as narrative. They're just dry expositions on religious, social and trading customs. There's also an unpleasant moralizing, preachy tone to many of author's introductory comments, telling us that it was cruel and unjust to have abused and decimated the indigenous of North and South America and to have enslaved the Blacks of Africa. There's one particularly drawn-out, whiny selection by Guaman Poma that harps on and on about how there is "no justice for the poor Indians" of Peru. The main point of this anthology seems to be that the whole world was already nearly or fully civilized so it just made sense that the different centers should reach out and connect. I can't argue with the inevitability of it, it's just impossible for me to take any joy in it. And the dry, static, feet-nailed-to-floor tone of these selections confirms it. There were also quite a few typos in the selected texts. I was surprised since Oxford University is one of the most prestigious universities in the world.

The fifteenth and sixteenth centuries ushered in a new era of discovery as explorers traversed the globe, returning home with vivid tales of distant lands and exotic peoples. Aided by the invention of the printing press in Europe, travelers were able to spread their accounts to wider audiences than ever before. In *Travel Narratives from the Age of Discovery*, historian Peter C. Mancall has compiled some of the most important travel accounts of this era. Written by authors from Spain, France, Italy, England, China, and North Africa describing locations that range from Brazil to Canada, China to Virginia, and Angola to Vietnam, these accounts provided crucial insight into unfamiliar cultures and environments, and also betrayed the prejudices of their own societies, revealing as much about the observers themselves as they did about faraway lands. From Christopher Columbus to lesser-known figures such as the Huguenot missionary Jean de Lry, this anthology brings together first-hand accounts of places connected by the Atlantic, Pacific, and Indian oceans. Unlike other collections, *Travel Narratives from the Age of Discovery* offers a global view of travel at a crucial stage in world, and human, history, with accounts written by non-European authors, including two new translations. Included here are the Mughal Emperor Babur's first thoughts of India upon establishing his empire there, the Chinese chronicler Ma Huan's report detailing Chinese travel to the Middle East during the fifteenth century, and an account of Africa written by the man known as Leo Africanus. In addition to these travel narratives, this anthology features rare pictures from sixteenth-century printed books, including images of Brazil, Roanoke, Guiana, and India, which, together with the accounts themselves, provide a detailed understanding of the many ways in which fifteenth and sixteenth century travelers and readers imagined other worlds.

"A very attractive and informative collection of material on a subject of enduring interest."--John C. Appleby, *Archives*"Peter Mancall has skillfully juxtaposed narratives of voyages to Africa, Asia, America and Europe over two hundred years. He lets us see the world through European eyes--though a few non-Europeans tell their fascinating tales--and inspires us to think anew about the uses of description."--Natalie Zemon-Davis, author of *Trickster Travels: A Sixteenth-Century Muslim Between Worlds*"Truly global and comparative, Mancall's rich and useful anthology puts the travels of Europeans like Columbus, Vespucci, Raleigh, and Lry in company with those of a Ming admiral, a Moroccan ambassador, a Mogul emperor, and an Inca lord. Europe, Asia, Africa, and the Americas all receive attention in this dazzling blend of the familiar and strange."--Mary C. Fuller, author of *Voyages in Print*From the Publisher"Peter Mancall has skillfully juxtaposed narratives of voyages to Africa, Asia, America and Europe over two hundred years. He lets us see the world through European eyes--though a few non-Europeans tell their fascinating tales--and inspires us think anew about the uses of description."--Natalie Zemon-Davis, author of *Trickster Travels: A Sixteenth-Century Muslim Between Worlds* "Truly global and comparative, Mancall's rich and useful anthology puts the travels of Europeans like Columbus, Vespucci, Raleigh, and Lry in company with those of a Ming admiral, a Moroccan ambassador, a Mogul emperor, and an Inca lord. Europe, Asia, Africa, and the Americas all receive attention in this dazzling blend of the familiar and strange."--Mary C. Fuller, author of *Voyages in Print*About the AuthorPeter C. Mancall is Professor of History at the University of Southern California and the Director of the USC-Huntington Early Modern Studies Institute. He is the author and editor of many titles, including *Deadly Medicine: Indians and Alcohol in Early America*.