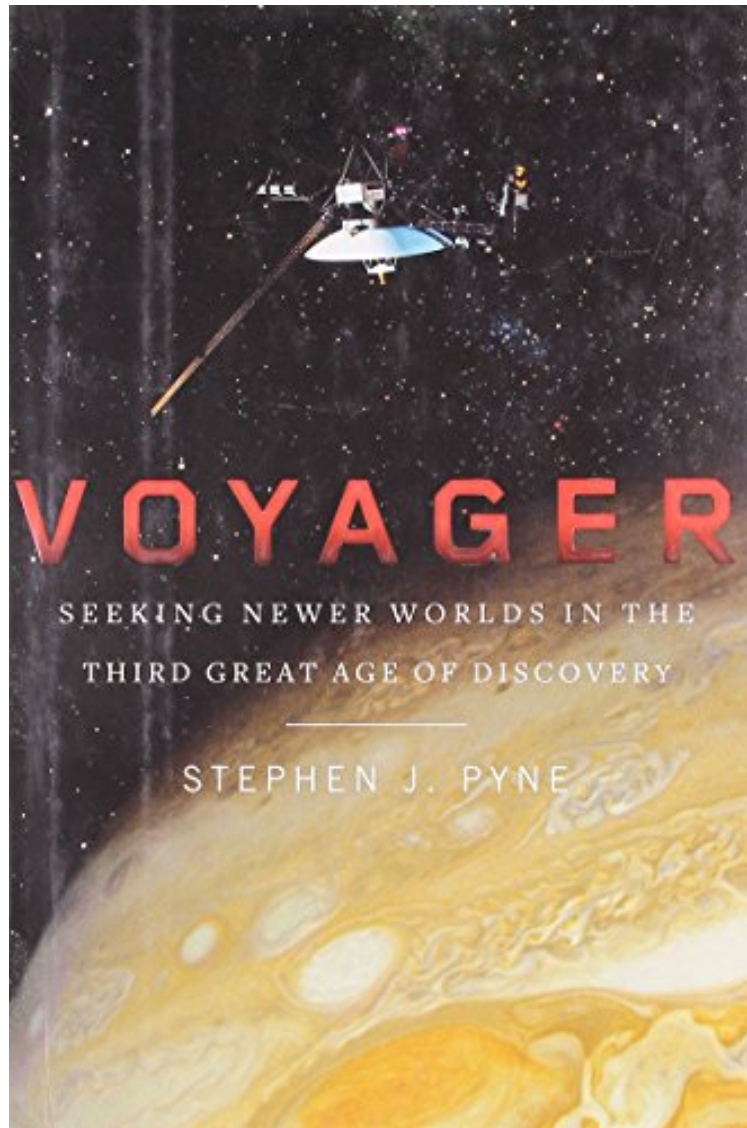


Voyager: Seeking Newer Worlds in the Third Great Age of Discovery

Stephen J. Pyne

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Stephen J. Pyne : Voyager: Seeking Newer Worlds in the Third Great Age of Discovery before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Voyager: Seeking Newer Worlds in the Third Great Age of Discovery:

2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. Um...By Demetria I was interested in learning more about the Voyager missions, but I should have done more research on this book paid attention to the particular part of the title

"..and the Third Great Age of Discovery."The author spends a good amount of pages delving into past explorations (not space, but period). I don't care about those past sailing missions....I tried to keep up with it, but I eventually tossed the book aside.0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Who invented Voyager?By J. BrewStephen Pyne does an excellent job illuminating the nature of modern space exploration. Another area that I will need to read again to understand is the relationship of modern space exploration to past explorers. I think Pyne has captured the science and engineering that went into the Voyager mission very well. He says: Gravity assist was one of dozens of ideas - inventions, if you will - that made Voyager possible. Who invented Voyager? Who invented the Grand Tour?" Read this fascinating and complex book to find answers to those questions.4 of 5 people found the following review helpful. FrustratingBy LarryAlas, I purchased this book thinking it would lay bare everything concerning the two Voyager spacecraft, but instead I'm told about the wonderful color pictures they took (with only a few lame ones shown in black and white), countless comparisons to the great oceangoing explorers in of past centuries, and a few nice Voyager facts. I found it hard to read, and finally just skipped over any paragraph that mentioned Magellan or Vasco De Gama. I found myself looking at the cover to see what the book was titled, in case it was actually called "Explorers Who Died a Long Time Ago".After finally managing to force my way through it, I checked out NASA's website and Wikipedia where I found loads of facts, pictures, and details. There are some interesting and enlightening Voyager facts mentioned in this book, but far too few for anything longer than a comic book. Hey, I love to read and learn about a very wide variety of subjects, but when you're wanting to learn about a great feat of late 20th century engineering, constantly bringing up the 17th century just becomes annoying.Ok, I feel better now.

A brilliant new account of the Voyager space program-its history, scientific impact, and cultural legacy Launched in 1977, the two unmanned Voyager spacecraft have completed their Grand Tour to the four outer planets, and they are now on course to become the first man-made objects to exit our solar system. To many, this remarkable achievement is the culmination of a golden age of American planetary exploration, begun in the wake of the 1957 Sputnik launch. More than this, Voyager may be one of the purest expressions of exploration in human history. For more than five hundred years the West has been powered by the impulse to explore, to push into a wider world. In this highly original book, Stephen Pyne recasts Voyager in the tradition of Magellan, Columbus, Cook, Lewis and Clark, and other landmark explorers. The Renaissance and Enlightenment-the First and Second Ages of Discovery- sent humans across continents and oceans to find new worlds. In the Third Age, expeditions have penetrated the Antarctic ice, reached the floors of the oceans, and traveled to the planets by new means, most spectacularly via semi-autonomous robot. Voyager probes how the themes of motive and reward are stunningly parallel through all three ages. Voyager, which gave us the first breathtaking images of Jupiter and Saturn, changed our sense of our own place in the universe.

From Publishers WeeklyStarred . The saga of the Voyagers' trek is carrying the inherited narrative of exploration to its outer limits, writes environmental historian Pyne (How the Canyon Became Grand). By looking at the mission of Voyager 1 and Voyager 2 and comparing it with past voyages of discovery on Earth, Pyne offers a unique and engrossing history of the Western world's love affair with such journeys. The two space probes were launched on a Grand Tour of space in 1977; both are still traveling and returning data to Earth, with Voyager 2 leaving the solar system. Pyne calls the Voyager mission the hallmark of a Third Great Age of Discovery, similar to ambitious seagoing expeditions in the 16th and 18th centuries. As with those earlier journeys, Voyager was motivated by a mix of desires: military, political, economic, and a love of pure discovery. By narrating both the Voyagers and past voyagessuch as Henry the Navigator'sPyne captures the Western passion for exploration and the lure of the unknown, while relating the fascinating story of two fragile spacecraft continuing after three decades their brave quest across space and time. Illus. (July 26) Copyright Reed Business Information, a division of Reed Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved.From BooklistFor this history of the Voyager missions to the outer solar system, Pyne goes beyond technological description. Comparing them to Renaissance and Enlightenment explorations, he raises points of cultural and mechanical similarity between the spacecrafts and, for example, Columbus and his ships. Pyne is interested in the impulses for geographical exploration past and present and discusses Spanish and Portuguese rivalry or British and French competition as analogues to the cold war context of American and Soviet planetary missions. This authorial concern, while offering historical precedents to the spectacular revelations of Voyager, might surprise a reader expecting a space-mission narrative. To be sure, Pyne covers milestones from the conception of a deep-space journey to the Voyagers' present positions on the verge of interstellar space, but he is equally interested in the society that launched them. He reflects on justifications for Voyager by enthusiasts and how its missions are merely the modern version of venturing to new lands. Humanity could see such lands first but once: Voyager did that, justification enough for Pynes' cultural framework for recounting its trailblazing reconnaissance. --Gilbert Taylor "A challenging but immensely rewarding read." -Kirkus (starred) "Pyne's book isn't just an overview of the Voyager program; it's a sweeping history of what Pyne calls the "third age of discovery," beginning with the first sputterings of Sputnik and reaching all the way to our recent space shuttle disasters. Along the way, we're treated to a dense but intriguing sweep of the eras of exploration past." -Salon.com "For space geeks, it's a sweet read; for everyone else, it's an eye opener." -

Time "Today both Voyagers are still in operation and are passing beyond the edge of the solar system, serving as distant ambassadors for humankind. In this book, Pyne puts that quest in grand perspective." -Science News "The Voyager story itself is an amazing one, and Mr. Pyne tells it skillfully...Mr. Pyne deftly shows how the development of rocketry, of orbital science and of computer technology all came together just in time to take advantage of a once-every-176-years planetary alignment that would allow a spacecraft to make close passes of outer planets- Jupiter, Saturn, Uranus and Neptune-all in one long trip." -The Wall Street Journal "Even the most passionate aficionado, who devoured every digital bit sent back by the Voyagers, will find this overview enriching." -The Washington Post "Pyne manages to set alight the story of the Voyagers as few space writers have ever done. In a marvelous twist on the usually self-important chronicles of space missions, he places the Voyagers in their historical and sociological context." -Dallas Morning News "This is not just a history of the remarkable Voyager programme. Instead, it is an attempt to analyse it as part of the broad sweep of exploration stretching back to the likes of Christopher Columbus, focusing more on the politics and culture behind these ventures than on their scientific returns." -New Scientist "The Voyager spacecraft have not only clocked up a far better understanding of the outer planets, they also illustrate mankind's third great age of discovery, according to Stephen Pyne in a fascinating new book." -The Economist "If NASA's historic achievement in manned spaceflight is a source of wonder and pride for all Americans, the agency's epic triumphs with satellites should be just as widely known and celebrated. Stephen Pyne's masterful Voyager show us just how the U.S. continues to command the forefront of a third age of discovery in exploring our beautiful and astonishing universe." -Craig Nelson, author of the New York Times bestselling Rocket Men Praise for How the Canyon Became Grand "This extraordinary book puts the national landmark in the context of nothing less than the intellectual history of western civilization-in 200 pages." -Newsday "Unique and revealing...offers great grist for discussion, perhaps as deep as the Grand Canyon itself." -USA Today Praise for Year of the Fires "This fusion of action and history firmly lands Year of the Fires in the realm of such literary disaster tales as The Perfect Storm and Into Thin Air." -Chicago Tribune "Readers...of this unusual book will find themselves in a world seldom visited by historians, let alone to the general public...Year of the Fires is a pleasure to read." -The New York Times Book "Powerful and absorbing." -Austin American-Statesman