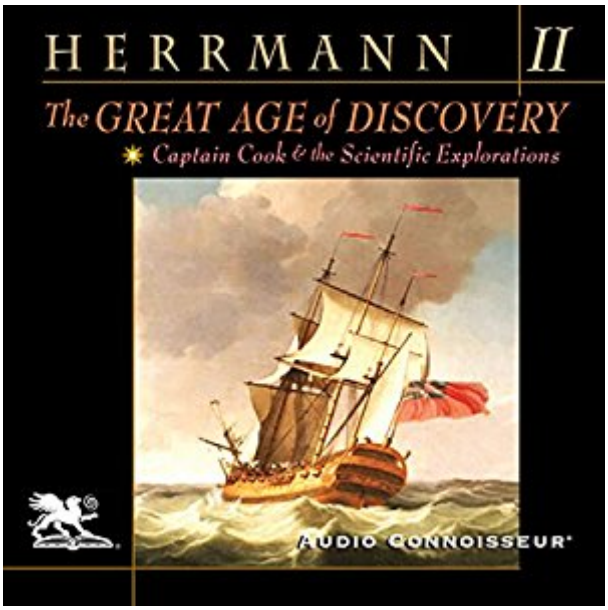
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The Great Age Of Discovery, Volume 2: Captain Cook And The Scientific Explorations



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Synopsis

As the 18th century approached its midpoint, commercial and military competition between the European states became fierce. And whoever obtained accurate information about distant lands would hold an advantage. Were there continental landmasses in the Pacific? Was there a Northwest Passage to Japan and China? What lay in the interior of Africa? Was it possible to cross the Sahara? Where did the rivers Nile and Congo originate?The concluding volume of The Great Age of Discovery follows the explorations that mapped the vast Pacific ocean and the menacing interior of Africa. The names of three men figure prominently in this saga: Captain James Cook, David Livingstone, and Henry Morton Stanley. But there were many equally brave men who are not so well known and whose incredible achievements deserve recognition. Author Paul Herrmann gives them their due with grace and vigor.There have never been explorers like these, and probably never will be again. Through frightening storms at sea, vast wastelands of sand, and dark, impenetrable jungle, these men carried the light of knowledge so that all who followed after could see.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

This book describes exactly what it says, the great age of discovery. Beginning around the search for a route to Asia by sea, moving to the contact with the new world, all the way to the grab for Africa, this book is a wonderful read for those interested in the historical/adventure aspect

Most of us had our first time reading about the age of exploration in grade school, and this book will make a second look more interesting. The author brings to light many unknowns, eccentric

Europeans that risked their lives for the sake of knowledge, fame, riches, and all of the above. It is difficult to believe that historically this era of exploration is not so long ago. Two huge continents remained still largely unknown to the outside world until fairly recent times. The source of the Nile, an ancient mystery was only solved around the time of the American Civil War. The author covers the well known explorers like Pizarro, Cortez, and Cook and has a very skillful way of wandering off the storyline, in a good way. He mentions motives, anecdotes, ties up loose ends, or updates to the present to show the significance of the subject. Even though the book is dated, 1974, some of the theories discussed are still being debated, such as the origin and spread of syphilis, or the migration of the early Polynesian peoples. It is difficult to find a book containing the accounts of explorers such as Burton, Speke, and Captain James Cook. The author also puts forth some of his own observations, one example being, that the two major cultures in the Americas at the time of the Spanish landing in the Americas, both had the myth of the light skinned, blue eyed bearded gods coming from the East, conversely Europe always had the myth that there is land to the West out in the Atlantic.Well worth the read, for the main story or the interesting side stories

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