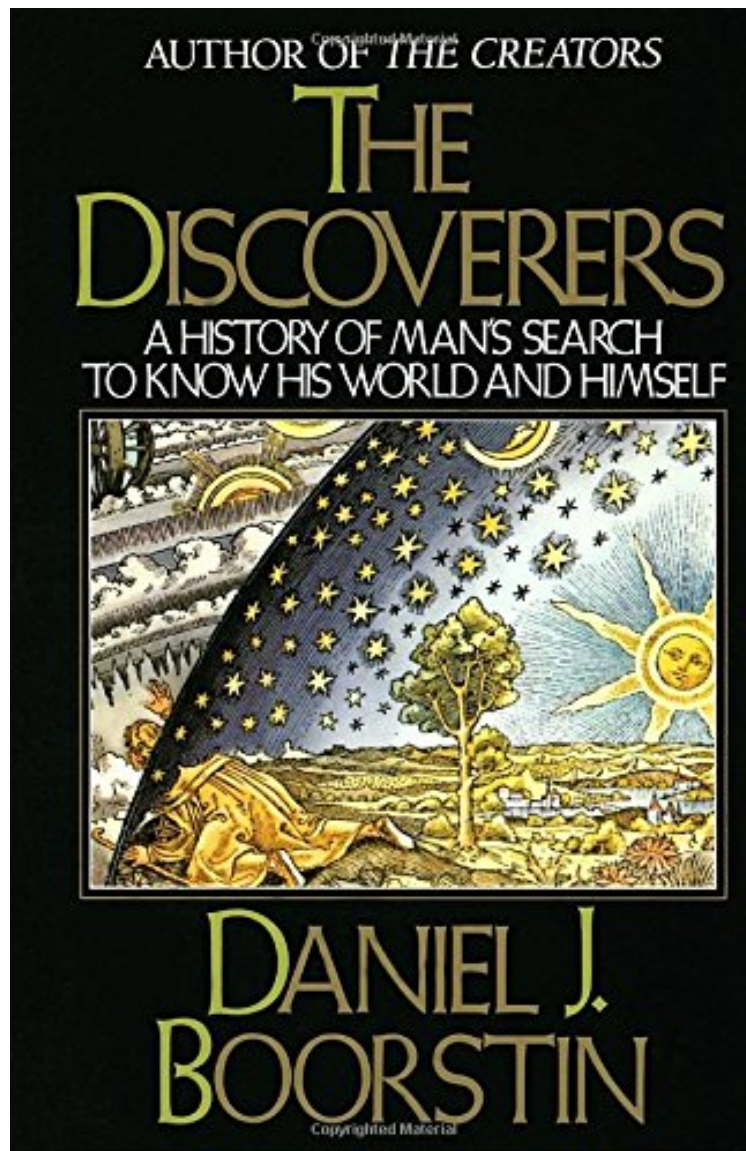


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The Discoverers: A History of Man's Search to Know His World and Himself

Daniel J. Boorstin

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Daniel J. Boorstin : The Discoverers: A History of Man's Search to Know His World and Himself before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Discoverers: A History of Man's Search to Know His World and Himself:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Daniel Borsten is perhaps one of the greatest presenters of the history of man's struggle to knowBy KimbleDaniel Borsten is perhaps one of the greatest presenters of the history of man's struggle to know, to think, to seek, to create and to understand both his historical past and his present state. He doesn't read like some fusty old historian, but often as a romance novelist. He is just that close to his subject.1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Surprisingly enjoyable!By My 2 centsWe bought this as a gift for a family member at my husband's urging. He's an English professor and I was afraid it might be a bit dense but it is now on my reading list. I'm enjoying it immensely. It is endlessly fascinating and written in a style that flows from the page. It has given me insight into some really basic things, such as time, mankind's history of keeping track of time. That subject alone covers science, culture, the influence of the environment and religion. I've just started reading it and know it isn't a book I'm going to just glide through but I will certainly finish it. As my husband said, it is a liberal arts education in one book.1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. A wonderful adventureBy Guillermo MaynezI agree with other reviewers here who say that this book should be used in classes, instead of the boring, stiff and uninformative bricks we are given in school. Boorstin, an erudite man if there is one, has a unique skill to deliver complex stories in a most readable and interesting way, and probably the secret lies in that he gives us the human dimension. His book is centered on the persons who made all these discoveries, not on the discoveries themselves, and that makes it all the more appealing.I had read his book "The Creators" (another must-read focused on art) and I think the same element is present. In "The Discoverers", Boorstin takes us by the hand and guides us through the history of Man's search for knowledge. And it is a romp. The cast of characters is as varied as humanity itself, from crazy madmen to admirable heroes of knowledge. Among the ones I remember best: Galileo was a great guy, I would have loved to meet him; Newton not, he was not a nice guy (and I couldn't understand any of his thoughts anyway); Paracelsus was a total whacko; Columbus was admirable in his obstination; Linnaeus was great too; but the guy who discovered metabolism was the craziest of them all. Just imagine a guy weighing his body before and after meals, and then weighing... ugh, his excrements to measure the difference. Thank God somebody did it, but it sounds awful.Read this book and you will learn a lot more than in three years of school.

An original history of man's greatest adventure: his search to discover the world around him. In the compendious history, Boorstin not only traces man's insatiable need to know, but also the obstacles to discovery and the illusion that knowledge can also put in our way. Covering time, the earth and the seas, nature and society, he gathers and analyzes stories of the man's profound quest to understand his world and the cosmos.

.com Perhaps the greatest book by one of our greatest historians, *The Discoverers* is a volume of sweeping range and majestic interpretation. To call it a history of science is an understatement; this is the story of how humankind has come to know the world, however incompletely ("the eternal mystery of the world," Einstein once said, "is its comprehensibility"). Daniel J. Boorstin first describes the liberating concept of time--"the first grand discovery"--and continues through the age of exploration and the advent of the natural and social sciences. The approach is idiosyncratic, with Boorstin lingering over particular figures and accomplishments rather than rushing on to the next set of names and dates. It's also primarily Western, although Boorstin does ask (and answer) several interesting questions: Why didn't the Chinese "discover" Europe and America? Why didn't the Arabs circumnavigate the planet? His thesis about discovery ultimately turns on what he calls "illusions of knowledge." If we think we know something, then we face an obstacle to innovation. The great discoverers, Boorstin shows, dispel the illusions and reveal something new about the world. Although *The Discoverers* easily stands on its own, it is technically the first entry in a trilogy that also includes *The Creators* and *The Seekers*. An outstanding book--one of the best works of history to be found anywhere. --John J. Miller "Compelling readable. . . . A remarkable narrative of the grand intellectual venture of humankind, rich in fascinating, often dramatic details." *The Wall Street Journal* "A sumptuous, totally engaging panorama. No one who reads it will look at the chronicle of human ingenuity in the same way again." David McCullough "Written with great verve. . . . [Boorstin's] learning, wit, and lucidity should ensure that he will bring pleasure to a large group of reader." *The New York of Books* "History with a human touch." *Newsday* "A grand and exhilarating voyage, a bold attempt to circumnavigate the intellectual globe." *The Philadelphia Inquirer* Language NotesText: English (translation) Original Language: Polish