



Inventing the Flat Earth: Columbus and Modern Historians

By Jeffrey Burton Russell

Download now

Read Online ➔

Inventing the Flat Earth: Columbus and Modern Historians By Jeffrey Burton Russell

Neither Christopher Columbus nor his contemporaries thought the earth was flat. Yet this curious illusion persists today, firmly established with the help of the media, textbooks, teachers?even noted historians. *Inventing the Flat Earth* is Russell's attempt to set the record straight. He begins with a discussion of geographical knowledge in the Middle Ages, examining what Columbus and his contemporaries actually did believe, and then moves to a look at how the error was first propagated in the 1820s and 1830s and then snowballed to outrageous proportions by the late 19th century. But perhaps the most intriguing focus of the book is the reason why we allow this error to persist. Do we prefer to languish in a comfortable and familiar error rather than exert the effort necessary to discover the truth? This uncomfortable question is engagingly answered.

Inventing the Flat Earth is Jeffrey Burton Russell's attempt to set the record straight. He begins with a discussion of geographical knowledge in the Middle Ages, examining what Columbus and his contemporaries actually did believe, and then moves to a look at how the error was first propagated in the 1820s and 1830s?including how noted writers Washington Irving and Antoine-Jean Letronne were among those responsible. He shows how later day historians followed these original mistakes, and how this snowball effect grew to outrageous proportions in the late nineteenth century, when Christians opposed to Darwinism were labelled as similar to Medieval Christians who (allegedly) thought the earth was flat. But perhaps the most intriguing focus of the book is the reason why we allow this error to persist. Do we prefer to languish in a comfortable and familiar error rather than exert the effort necessary to discover the truth? This uncomfortable question is engagingly answered, and includes a discussion about the implications of this for historical knowledge and scholarly honesty.

 [Download Inventing the Flat Earth: Columbus and Modern Hist ...pdf](#)

 [Read Online](#) Inventing the Flat Earth: Columbus and Modern Hi ...pdf

Inventing the Flat Earth: Columbus and Modern Historians

By Jeffrey Burton Russell

Inventing the Flat Earth: Columbus and Modern Historians By Jeffrey Burton Russell

Neither Christopher Columbus nor his contemporaries thought the earth was flat. Yet this curious illusion persists today, firmly established with the help of the media, textbooks, teachers?even noted historians.

Inventing the Flat Earth is Russell's attempt to set the record straight. He begins with a discussion of geographical knowledge in the Middle Ages, examining what Columbus and his contemporaries actually did believe, and then moves to a look at how the error was first propagated in the 1820s and 1830s and then snowballed to outrageous proportions by the late 19th century. But perhaps the most intriguing focus of the book is the reason why we allow this error to persist. Do we prefer to languish in a comfortable and familiar error rather than exert the effort necessary to discover the truth? This uncomfortable question is engagingly answered.

Inventing the Flat Earth is Jeffrey Burton Russell's attempt to set the record straight. He begins with a discussion of geographical knowledge in the Middle Ages, examining what Columbus and his contemporaries actually did believe, and then moves to a look at how the error was first propagated in the 1820s and 1830s?including how noted writers Washington Irving and Antoine-Jean Lezronne were among those responsible. He shows how later day historians followed these original mistakes, and how this snowball effect grew to outrageous proportions in the late nineteenth century, when Christians opposed to Darwinism were labelled as similar to Medieval Christians who (allegedly) thought the earth was flat. But perhaps the most intriguing focus of the book is the reason why we allow this error to persist. Do we prefer to languish in a comfortable and familiar error rather than exert the effort necessary to discover the truth? This uncomfortable question is engagingly answered, and includes a discussion about the implications of this for historical knowledge and scholarly honesty.

Inventing the Flat Earth: Columbus and Modern Historians By Jeffrey Burton Russell Bibliography

- Sales Rank: #798085 in Books
- Published on: 1991-01
- Released on: 1997-01-30
- Original language: English
- Number of items: 1
- Dimensions: 8.50" h x .37" w x 5.50" l, .51 pounds
- Binding: Paperback
- 160 pages

 [Download Inventing the Flat Earth: Columbus and Modern Hist ...pdf](#)

 [Read Online Inventing the Flat Earth: Columbus and Modern Hi ...pdf](#)

Download and Read Free Online **Inventing the Flat Earth: Columbus and Modern Historians** By **Jeffrey Burton Russell**

Editorial Review

Review

"Russell conclusively shows how the 'flat earth' myth was concocted and popularized by Washington Irving and a French erudit and how the 'flat error' was declared by Darwininst historians, who compared the denial of Darwin's theory to Columbus's struggle for acceptance by his scholastic religious contemporaries. The book is a delightful, provocative, and persuasive interpretation about a myth that has flitted in and out of popular history."- Colonial Latin American Historical Review

"This book is must reading for all Christians."-Biblical Worldview

"Russell packs a punch in this slender, clearly written, and engagingly argued volume."-Booklist

"Inventing the Flat Earth is a well-written and thoroughly researched account of a fascinating topic. It is strongly recommended."-Science & Christian Belief

"[Russell] has written a scholarly, yet very readable, investigation into [the "flat earth" myth's] background, origins, and consequences. This book also is well-documented and contains a good bibliography and numerous helpful illustrations. It can be of interest to scholars and other serious readers as well as to students in the classroom dealing with problems of medieval-modern intellectual history."-Teaching History

"ÝRussell" has written a scholarly, yet very readable, investigation into Ýthe "flat earth" myth's" background, origins, and consequences. This book also is well-documented and contains a good bibliography and numerous helpful illustrations. It can be of interest to scholars and other serious readers as well as to students in the classroom dealing with problems of medieval-modern intellectual history."-Teaching History

?This book is must reading for all Christians.??Biblical Worldview

?This book is must reading for all Christians.?-Biblical Worldview

?Russell packs a punch in this slender, clearly written, and engagingly argued volume.?-Booklist

?Inventing the Flat Earth is a well-written and thoroughly researched account of a fascinating topic. It is strongly recommended.?-Science & Christian Belief

?[Russell] has written a scholarly, yet very readable, investigation into [the "flat earth" myth's] background, origins, and consequences. This book also is well-documented and contains a good bibliography and numerous helpful illustrations. It can be of interest to scholars and other serious readers as well as to students in the classroom dealing with problems of medieval-modern intellectual history.?-Teaching History

?Russell conclusively shows how the 'flat earth' myth was concocted and popularized by Washington Irving and a French erudit and how the 'flat error' was declared by Darwininst historians, who compared the denial of Darwin's theory to Columbus's struggle for acceptance by his scholastic religious contemporaries. The book is a delightful, provocative, and persuasive interpretation about a myth that has flitted in and out of popular history.?- Colonial Latin American Historical Review

"Inventing the Flat Earth...is a jewel of a book that provides important new insights into the way historians have interpreted Columbus's achievement." -The New York Times Book Review

About the Author

JEFFREY BURTON RUSSELL is Professor of History at the University of California, Santa Barbara. He has contributed numerous articles to scholarly journals and reference volumes and is the author of 16 other books on medieval history, the history of religion, and intellectual history, including *A History of Heaven: The Singing Silence* (1997).

Users Review

From reader reviews:

Wm Schroeder:

Have you spare time for any day? What do you do when you have much more or little spare time? Yes, you can choose the suitable activity intended for spend your time. Any person spent their particular spare time to take a wander, shopping, or went to often the Mall. How about open or even read a book titled Inventing the Flat Earth: Columbus and Modern Historians? Maybe it is to become best activity for you. You realize beside you can spend your time with your favorite's book, you can better than before. Do you agree with the opinion or you have various other opinion?

Kristine Toomey:

This book untitled Inventing the Flat Earth: Columbus and Modern Historians to be one of several books in which best seller in this year, that is because when you read this reserve you can get a lot of benefit onto it. You will easily to buy that book in the book store or you can order it by means of online. The publisher of this book sells the e-book too. It makes you more readily to read this book, since you can read this book in your Touch screen phone. So there is no reason for you to past this reserve from your list.

Sandra Wright:

The particular book Inventing the Flat Earth: Columbus and Modern Historians has a lot associated with on it. So when you read this book you can get a lot of advantage. The book was authored by the very famous author. Mcdougal makes some research previous to write this book. This specific book very easy to read you can find the point easily after perusing this book.

Tara Winston:

This Inventing the Flat Earth: Columbus and Modern Historians is great book for you because the content that is full of information for you who else always deal with world and get to make decision every minute. This particular book reveal it information accurately using great organize word or we can point out no rambling sentences included. So if you are read that hurriedly you can have whole details in it. Doesn't mean it only gives you straight forward sentences but tough core information with beautiful delivering sentences.

Having *Inventing the Flat Earth: Columbus and Modern Historians* in your hand like finding the world in your arm, details in it is not ridiculous one. We can say that no book that offer you world in ten or fifteen tiny right but this reserve already do that. So , this really is good reading book. Heya Mr. and Mrs. active do you still doubt in which?

Download and Read Online *Inventing the Flat Earth: Columbus and Modern Historians* By Jeffrey Burton Russell #10E3SQKV5AM

Read *Inventing the Flat Earth: Columbus and Modern Historians* By Jeffrey Burton Russell for online ebook

Inventing the Flat Earth: Columbus and Modern Historians By Jeffrey Burton Russell Free PDF d0wnl0ad, audio books, books to read, good books to read, cheap books, good books, online books, books online, book reviews epub, read books online, books to read online, online library, greatbooks to read, PDF best books to read, top books to read *Inventing the Flat Earth: Columbus and Modern Historians* By Jeffrey Burton Russell books to read online.

Online *Inventing the Flat Earth: Columbus and Modern Historians* By Jeffrey Burton Russell ebook PDF download

***Inventing the Flat Earth: Columbus and Modern Historians* By Jeffrey Burton Russell Doc**

***Inventing the Flat Earth: Columbus and Modern Historians* By Jeffrey Burton Russell Mobipocket**

***Inventing the Flat Earth: Columbus and Modern Historians* By Jeffrey Burton Russell EPub**