



Prisoners of Geography Our World in 12 Simple Maps

Books Reviewed:

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Reviewer:

[Sue McGonigle](#) [3]

~~Not a Choice:~~

off

Media type:

Book

BfK Rating:

5

Based on the acclaimed original book written for adults this version seeks to introduce geopolitics to a younger age group showing the combined impact of geography, history and politics on the world we know.

The book includes annotated maps with key events, decisions and policies which have been significant in causing countries to prosper or struggle. Readers discover how the USA has been 'blessed by geography' becoming a superpower and Africa has been 'hindered by Geography' and beset with problems due in part to its large swathes of desert regions. The impact of geographical features on trade, defence and prosperity is also illustrated. Two examples are the mountain range which forms a natural barrier between India and China and the plentiful gas resources in Russia which have given the country strategic power.

There is a potted history of each region highlighting aspects of strategic importance such as why certain countries rule the waves and how they seek after and guard their sea routes. The impact of colonialism and key historical events have had on nations is explored including the development of the slave trade and the longstanding effect of arbitrary decisions made by western leaders which led to the partition of Pakistan and India and the creation of modern Iraq.

The book's creators aim to present complex ideas and concepts such as scale in a highly visual and varied format; for example, the true size of the continent of Africa is conveyed by demonstrating how many large countries such as China and The USA could fit within it. The annotated maps are interspersed with commentary, additional information and striking illustration throughout, including several stunning full-page spreads.

An attractive, enlightening and interesting text not only for younger readers but adults too.

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