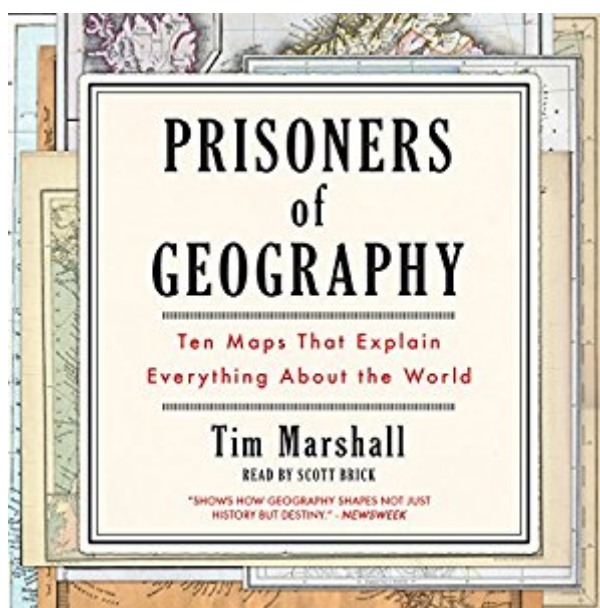


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# Prisoners Of Geography: Ten Maps That Explain Everything About The World



## Synopsis

Maps have a mysterious hold over us. Whether ancient, crumbling parchments or generated by Google, maps tell us things we want to know, not only about our current location or where we are going but about the world in general. And yet, when it comes to geo-politics, much of what we are told is generated by analysts and other experts who have neglected to refer to a map of the place in question. All leaders of nations are constrained by geography. In this audiobook, now updated to include 2016 geopolitical developments, journalist Tim Marshall examines Russia, China, the US, Latin America, the Middle East, Africa, Europe, Japan, Korea, and Greenland and the Arctic - their weather, seas, mountains, rivers, deserts, and borders - to provide a context often missing from our political reportage: how the physical characteristics of these countries affect their strengths and vulnerabilities and the decisions made by their leaders. Marshall explains the complex geo-political strategies that shape the globe. Why is Putin so obsessed with Crimea? Why was the US destined to become a global superpower? Why does China's power base continue to expand? Why is Tibet destined to lose its autonomy? Why will Europe never be united? The answers are geographical.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

I echo many of the other reviewers, this is a very good book, and provides a very good framework for understanding much of what is happening/ has happened in the world. The problem is that the narrative is not supported by the maps to see what Marshall is writing about. This is a failure in form

and function, the few maps provided are very poor. This could be a very powerful publication if supported with decent maps. Buy the book, and buy a good world atlas with historic maps. A digital, interactive, set of maps would make this book pop. This would be a great framework to lead into so many history classes, or a lead into a curriculum in our school systems. The book touches on so much of the daily subjects seen on the world stage. 5 stars for the concept of the book, 2 to 3 stars for publishers presentation. Buy the book, but supplement it with map resources.

I can't say it's an exciting read, but it certainly does give you a new perspective on political decisions and realities. Most of us probably don't have a clear mental image of the how various countries in the world border on each other creating strategic interests and insecurities that influence decisions in a way that headlines never capture. Some politicians even have made themselves notorious for thinking Africa is a country and Belgium a city! I'm not sure reading this book would help them, but it couldn't hurt!

Prisoners of Geography gives an overview of modern geopolitics through the lens of geography. It provides a brief history of the world's major geographic regions and powers and how geography has both shaped events as well as define current relationships. The author sets out chapters for China, Russia, the US, Western Europe, Africa, the Middle East, the Indian subcontinent, Korea and Japan, Latam as well as the Arctic. The book in short space gives a easily readable overview of how to think about the geography of the world and its impact on historic and contemporary events. Given the breath of books on politics this book is a refreshing read which brings fresh insight with how to view geopolitical conflicts. We often forget about the role of geography in the modern age with integrated supply chains in an age of global trade but access to resources and stability of borders have often defined economics and in particular politics. The author discusses how the geography of Russia has defined recent events in the Ukraine and how China's energy trade make the South and East China Seas of critical national importance. The author discusses the remarkably beneficial geography and resources of the US and how the territory's natural defenses make it largely impossible to defend, unlike Russia and Europe. The author discusses how colonial powers divided and put up fictitious borders in Africa and the Middle East and how the ethnic divisions plague the regions today. The author gives an account of India and Pakistan and how the Himalayas provide both a boundary but also have forced the conflicts for those inside the boundaries. The author spends some time on South America but discusses how despite resource wealth the trade distance has been prohibitive. The role of geography in politics is of course of

utmost importance. It is usually subordinated these days to the narratives of the time but in *Prisoners of Geography* the author spells out how it is geography that defines national interest and creates the conditions for conflict. It is definitely a quick read and there is far more comprehensive books out there on how geography has defined development and historic conflicts but this is a highly readable overview for interpreting today's politics.

Offers a very convincing argument as to the for the state of the chaos that exists around the world! The product of a nation seeking to be the world policeman comes with a cost! The further one gets from their "home" the greater the risk; and attempting to control others can and will be futile unless the populace as a agree with the events.

Wife raves about it, one of the most fascinating reads she's ever experienced. This is coming from someone who could care less about geography or prisoners. (not in a mean way).

World history makes much more sense to me when I see it through Tim Marshall's expert grasp of geopolitics. He repeatedly clarifies why nations behaved, in what had seemed to me mysterious ways ,by showing how their geography determined their choices. I now have better tools to use when I try to understand current events thanks to this very readable compelling maps centric view of history.

The author presented solid insights and historical context surrounding how geography impacts politics, military history, culture and economics/trade amongst other things. However, I found myself a bit underwhelmed by some of their forward looking statements. The section on the Arctic was most interesting to me because I found it more proactive & forward-looking than the other sections. The Middle Eastern and European sections had more depth than other sections and it was great how the author was able to go all the way to modern events.

This book is a great introduction to how geography has and will shape international relations and the motivations of the world's governments. Very interesting, a quick read and an important counterspies to the nonsense you hear every day on televisions. This book clearly explains the threats each region of the world faces and the historical reasons - each explained by reference to the physical and cultural geography of the various regions of the world. This would be a great book for someone who follows geopolitics but needs more background and understanding of the many

competing pressures various countries face.

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