



The Conquest of the Ocean

By Brian Lavery

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The Conquest of the Ocean By Brian Lavery

A captivating tale spanning 5,000 years of the oceans' history, *The Conquest of the Ocean* tells the stories of the remarkable individuals who sailed seas, for trade, to conquer new lands, to explore the unknown.

From the early Polynesians to the first circumnavigations by the Portuguese and the British, these are awe-inspiring tales of epic sea voyages involving great feats of seamanship, navigation, endurance, and ingenuity. Explore the lives and maritime adventures, many with first-person narratives of land seekers and globe charters such as Christopher Columbus, Captain James Cook, and Vitus Bering.

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The Conquest of the Ocean By Brian Lavery Bibliography

- Sales Rank: #390218 in Books
- Brand: Brand: DK ADULT
- Published on: 2013-08-19
- Released on: 2013-08-19
- Format: Unabridged
- Original language: English
- Number of items: 1
- Dimensions: 9.51" h x 1.26" w x 6.38" l, 2.05 pounds
- Binding: Hardcover
- 400 pages

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Editorial Review

From School Library Journal

Gr 8 Up—Lavery offers 5000 years of ocean history in this lavishly illustrated and readable work. Although stating that the oceans can never be conquered, he narrates many stories of bravery, perseverance, and greed that resulted in the exploration of unknown worlds. Beginning with the first sailors of Polynesia, the Mediterranean, China, and Arabia, and covering oceangoing activities until modern times, this book has a vast reach. Much of the text consists of first-person narratives, often personal and exciting in the telling of great dangers and adventures. Included are discussions of the great explorations of the New World; the unbelievable travels of the extraordinary 15th-century Chinese seaman Zhen He, covering 30,000 miles in a flotilla totaling 27,000 men; the vast Viking journeys; and the use of naval power as a force for conquest. In the modern era, luxury ocean liners, America's Cup races, and World Wars are reviewed as well as the vast oversea migrations of the 19th century. The voices quoted give substance to the facts and figures outlining victory and loss. Piracy is a constant theme; whether for personal gain or in the employ of monarchs, the oceans were fair game for theft and plunder. Fittingly the last chapter relates to the treacherous Somali pirates of today. Photos, reproductions, diagrams, or maps appear on almost every page. The well-researched and popularly presented text is aided by an ample glossary, bibliography, and index. Useful for research and enjoyable for leisure reading for students interested in naval history, exploration, and adventure.—Eva Elisabeth VonAncken, formerly at Trinity-Pawling School, Pawling, NYα(c) Copyright 2013. Library Journals LLC, a wholly owned subsidiary of Media Source, Inc. No redistribution permitted.

From [Booklist](#)

The human story of nautical navigation was, until the Age of Discovery, mostly confined to waters within sight of land. There were exceptions before then, bespeaking bolder souls who ventured over the aqueous horizon: the Polynesians, the Vikings, and the Chinese fleets of Zheng He. Given prominence in this survey history, these groups receive an arresting graphic presentation of maps, images of ships and instruments, and portraits of sailors that support the efficient text, according to a design-template into which the publisher places every topic Lavery sees fit to include. A British museum curator and prolific author of maritime histories, Lavery has a sound sense of how to interest new readers. He accentuates human-interest angles by quoting memoirists who experienced a famous naval battle or shipwreck or by sketching key individuals in the development of technological advances, such as ocean liners, submarines, and containerized shipping. Lavishly illustrating the extension of sea travel to transoceanic dimensions, Lavery's work ably serves a collection's need for a general, visually attractive chronicle of ships, sailors, and the sea. --Gilbert Taylor

Review

"[Author Brian] Lavery has a sound sense of how to interest new readers. He accentuates human-interest angles by quoting memoirists who experienced a famous naval battle or shipwreck or by sketching key individuals in the development of technological advances, such as ocean liners, submarines, and containerized shipping. Lavishly illustrating the extension of sea travel to transoceanic dimensions, Lavery's work ably serves a collection's need for a general, visually attractive chronicle of ships, sailors, and the sea."

– **Booklist**

"[A] lavishly illustrated and readable work... Useful for research and enjoyable for leisure reading for students interested in naval history, exploration, and adventure." – **School Library Journal**

"Lavishly illustrating the extension of sea travel to transoceanic dimensions, [author Brian] Lavery's work ably serves a collection's need for a general, visually attractive chronicle of ships, sailors, and the sea." –

Booklist

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