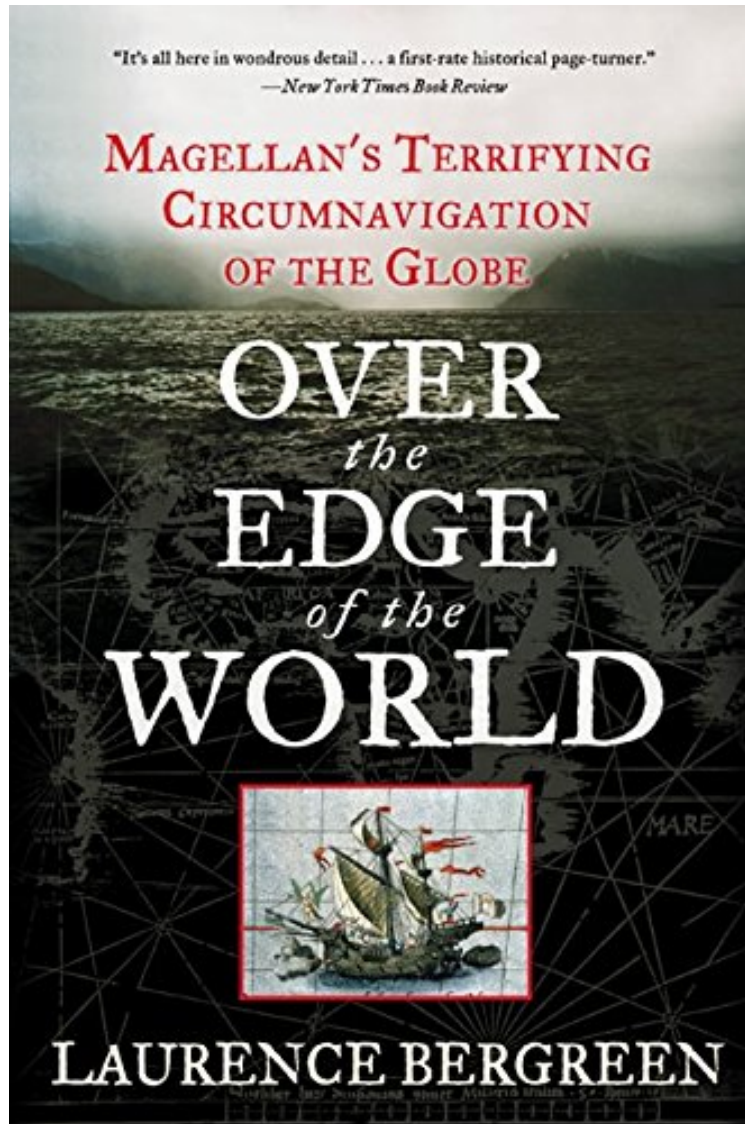


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Over the Edge of the World: Magellan's Terrifying Circumnavigation of the Globe

Laurence Bergreen

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Laurence Bergreen : Over the Edge of the World: Magellan's Terrifying Circumnavigation of the Globe before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Over the Edge of the World: Magellan's Terrifying Circumnavigation of the Globe:

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Condado Beach A pioneering 60k mile ocean journey chock full of the highs and lows of life itself. Brought to us by meticulous 16th century record-keeping, and a talented 21st century writer. A page turner --whether you're a connoisseur of history, science and anthropology, or you're just a casual reader of quests for riches and glory, violent mutinies, tropical sexcapades, European/Islander encounters, maritime superpower clashes, and all-around high seas adventures. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. I love reading about history By Mimi Kay I love reading about history! This book delivers so much information about Magellan's voyage and the surrounding political machinations and difficulties. There was so much additional information that I now want to visit Patagonia and go through Magellan Strait. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Fantastic! By Expressrune This is a book to be savored and then re-read. Imagine a real life story that involves not only the world's very first circumnavigation of the globe, but also of politics (not too different from ours today), personalities, ego's, high adventure, suffering, murder, stubborn determination, torture, deceit, mutiny, lying, redemption and discovery. Clearly the author worked hard on deep and detailed research, for the reader is left with no questions. Histories regarding the players, political backgrounds, and all other details involved in this environment are broadly discussed and one can only be left breathless by the sheer tenacity and instinctual knowledge that Magellan was endowed with. Ultimately, his ego failed him and the reader is carried to the conclusion of this incredible saga. Once again, we remind ourselves of the awful role Europeans have played in the interaction with indigenous peoples. This book is also a grand plus in that it also includes an interview with the author about the subject, as well as a timeline for Magellan's fantastic voyage. The Notes on Sources is also fascinating reading. Even if one doesn't care too much for history, this book is a must to read.

Ferdinand Magellan's daring circumnavigation of the globe in the sixteenth century was a three-year odyssey filled with sex, violence, and amazing adventure. Now in *Over the Edge of the World*, prize-winning biographer and journalist Laurence Bergreen entwines a variety of candid, firsthand accounts, bringing to life this groundbreaking and majestic tale of discovery that changed both the way explorers would henceforth navigate the oceans and history itself.

From Publishers Weekly Journalist Bergreen, who has penned biographies of James Agee, Louis Armstrong, Irving Berlin and Al Capone, superbly recreates Portuguese navigator Ferdinand Magellan's obsessive 16th-century quest, an ill-fated journey that altered Europe's perception of the planet: "It was a dream as old as the imagination: a voyage to the ends of the earth.... Mariners feared they could literally sail over the edge of the world." In 2001, Bergreen traveled the South American strait that bears Magellan's name, and he adds to that firsthand knowledge satellite images of Magellan's route plus international archival research. His day-by-day account incorporates the testimony of sailors, Francisco Albo's pilot's log and the eyewitness accounts of Venetian scholar Antonio Pigafetta, who was on the journey. Magellan's mission for Spain was to find a water route to the fabled Spice Islands, and in 1519, the Armada de Molucca (five ships and some 260 sailors) sailed into the pages of history. Many misfortunes befell the expedition, including the brutal killing of Magellan in the Philippines. Three years later, one weather-beaten ship, "a vessel of desolation and anguish," returned to Spain with a skeleton crew of 18, yet "what a story those few survivors had to tell—a tale of mutiny, of orgies on distant shores, and of the exploration of the entire globe," providing proof that the world was round. Illuminating the Age of Discovery, Bergreen writes this powerful tale of adventure with a strong presence and rich detail. Maps, 16-page color photo insert. Copyright 2003 Reed Business Information, Inc. From Booklist Ferdinand Magellan's ship was the first to circumnavigate the globe. While the accomplishment is recognized as a historic milestone, less known are the details of that voyage around the world. Magellan spent years trying to win the favor of the king of Portugal, and failing that he swore loyalty to the Spanish crown. After finally receiving Spain's backing for a trip to the Spice Islands, the king imposed numerous stipulations that would affect Magellan's crew and his authority over them. Once his fleet finally embarked, he had to contend with violent storms, mutinous crewmembers, and hostile natives. Bergreen tells a well-rounded story of Magellan, not just that of the romanticized hero but also that of the explorer's darker side. He also puts the voyage into its historical context, going into detail about what was known of the world at the time (and what was still uncharted), the rivalry between Portugal and Spain, and the church's attempt to divide up the New World between them. Fascinating reading for history buffs, and a great story that rivals any seagoing adventure. Gavin Quinn Copyright American Library Association. All rights reserved A marvelous piece of scholarship (New Zealand Herald)