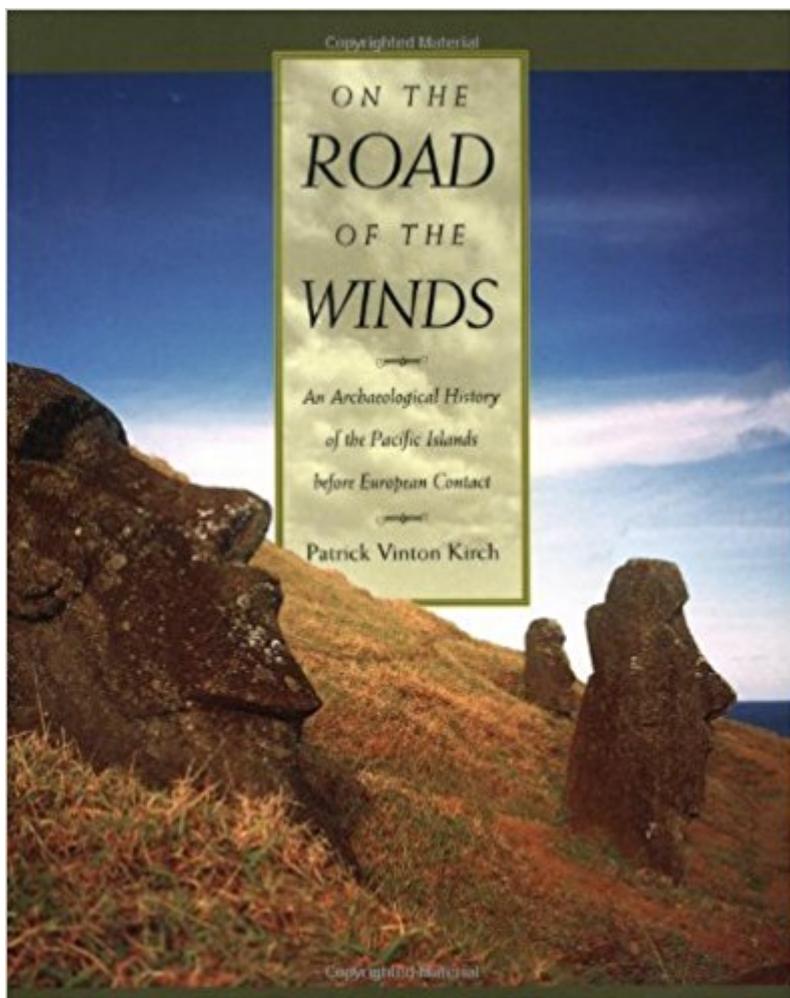


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On The Road Of The Winds: An Archaeological History Of The Pacific Islands Before European Contact



Synopsis

The Pacific Ocean covers one-third of the earth's surface and encompasses many thousands of islands, the home to numerous human societies and cultures. Among these indigenous Oceanic cultures are the intrepid Polynesian double-hulled canoe navigators, the atoll dwellers of Micronesia, the statue carvers of remote Easter Island, and the famed traders of Melanesia. Recent archaeological excavations, combined with allied research in historical linguistics, biological anthropology, and comparative ethnography, have begun to reveal much new information about the long-term history of these Pacific Island societies and cultures. *On the Road of the Winds* synthesizes the grand sweep of human history in the Pacific Islands, beginning with the movement of early people out from Asia more than 40,000 years ago, and tracing the development of myriad indigenous cultures up to the time of European contact in the sixteenth to eighteenth centuries. Questions that scholars have posed and puzzled over for two centuries or more are illuminated here: Where did the Pacific Islanders come from? How did they discover and settle the thousands of islands? Why did they build great monuments like Nan Madol on Pohnpei Island in Micronesia or the famous Easter Island statues? This book provides an up-to-date synthesis of archaeological and historical anthropological knowledge of these fascinating indigenous cultures. In particular, Kirch focuses on human ecology and island adaptations, the complexities of island trading and exchange systems, voyaging technology and skills, and the development of intensive economic systems linked to the growth of large populations. He also draws on his own original field research conducted on many islands, ranging from the Solomons to Hawai'i, as he takes us on an intellectual voyage into the Oceanic past.

Book Information

Paperback: 446 pages

Publisher: University of California Press; New Ed edition (March 15, 2002)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0520234618

ISBN-13: 978-0520234611

Product Dimensions: 7.5 x 1 x 10 inches

Shipping Weight: 2.7 pounds (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.3 out of 5 stars 14 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #166,978 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #47 in Books > History > Ancient Civilizations > Prehistory #52 in Books > History > Australia & Oceania > Oceania #296

Customer Reviews

"A grand synthesis. Kirch has done Pacific archaeology proud with this book."--Peter Bellwood, "Antiquity"

"Pat Kirch summarizes the extraordinary explosion of the last two decades in our knowledge of Pacific prehistory, an explosion to which he has contributed more than anyone. His synthesis brings together results from all of the subfields of anthropology--ethnography, archaeology, biological anthropology, and linguistics. . . . No one knows this material as well or can present it in such an effective manner. This book should stand for a generation as the major synthesis of Oceanic prehistory."—Timothy Earle, author of *How Chiefs Come to Power*"After nearly four decades of teaching the culture history of Oceania, I can say this is the only up-to-date work that gives a balanced and detailed account of Polynesia, Micronesia, Island Melanesia, and Papua-New Guinea. Moreover, Kirch is one of the more engaging writers of general books about the Pacific. This is the first book to which scholars and general readers will go to pursue any topic relating to Pacific archaeology."—Roger C. Green, Emeritus Professor, University of Auckland

I really love this book. It is just so fascinating- a culture that crosses the Pacific and stays interconnected and then, somehow, the bonds are broken and some islands are cut off. The archeology discussed is great reading. I am really happy I bought this book

Kirch's book updates his previous "The evolution of the Polynesian chiefdoms" and synthesizes numerous technical publications on the pre-history of the South Pacific. Very well written and very readable. Recommended for anyone interested in the Pacific islands before the explorers and missionaries arrived.

Great book. Perfect and exactly what i was looking for for my Arthopology class . THank you! Excellent Used condition. Loved how every now and then it had main points highlighted. Helped alot to explan the overall meaning of the text.

A factual glimpse into the technologies, capabilities and migrations of the ancient polynesians. Tracking their migrations eastward throughout the pacific. This historically accurate and easily

understandable text provided an accurate account of the ancient way finders.

Interesting summary of material relevant to peopling of Pacific region.

Easily readable textbook on the settlement of the Pacific region.

Thorough, readable, packed with so much info - a joy to read.

When my grown son was in grammar school, he had to write a paper about Easter Island. We went to our local library to do the research but there was not much available besides the book Kon Tiki. When I typed the paper for my son I was caught up in the mystery of Easter Island and the story of its people. This book expands beyond Easter Island and lays the ground work to see how all the Polynesian islands were settled, even to New Zealand. Most interesting reading about the early explorers who, in some cases, braved head hunters to visit and write about those Pacific Islands.

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