

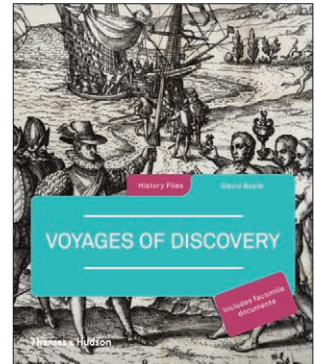
Voyages of Discovery

David Boyle

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History Files



The three decades between 1492 and 1522 saw the beginnings of a major expansion in sea voyages by European merchants and explorers to distant ‘undiscovered’ lands. David Boyle focuses on the key voyages of discovery, from the extraordinary breakthroughs of the 1490s to James Cook in the 1770s, written - for the first time - from the point of view of those who were ‘discovered’.

From relative ignorance about the shape of the globe to the knowledge of an atlas that was almost complete, this exciting era changed people’s perception of the world as well as their economies. The sea voyages were organised to search for spices, gold, silver and slaves, but with rudimentary technology, huge courage and boundless confidence in themselves and their calculations.

The exchange of flora, fauna, diet, disease and culture changed the world in a few generations. The hazardous journeys to Africa, Asia, the Americas and the Pacific, and the legacies of those journeys and encounters, are here dramaically described in an accessible but authoritative text, and illustrated with an original selection of images.

- Vivid illustrations on every page featuring paintings, prints, contemporary maps and objects.
- Nine colour facsimile documents, including Columbus’s report on his 1492 voyage, the Letters Patent granted to John Cabot in 1496, Antonio Pigafetta’s firsthand account of Magellan’s 1519–22 circumnavigation, and pages from James Cook’s diary describing a Pacific island encounter in 1769.

Author

David Boyle is a fellow of the New Economics Foundation think-tank in London. He contributed a chapter to Thames & Hudson’s *The Great Explorers* and is the sole author of *Blondel’s Song* and *Toward the Setting Sun*. He also gives lectures on John Cabot.

Extent

144pp + 9 loose facsimile documents

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