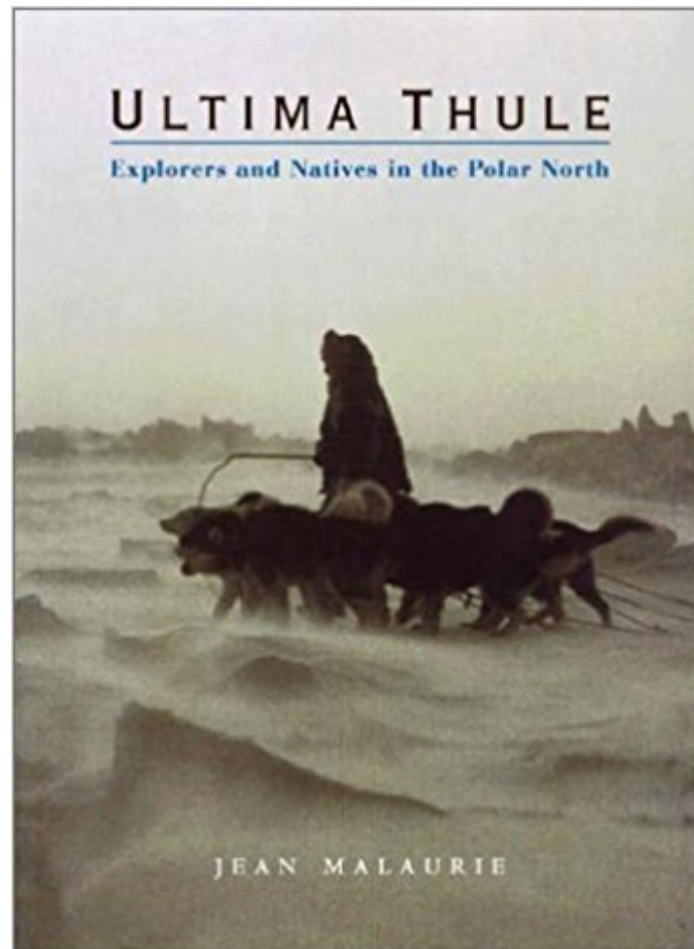




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Ultima Thule: Explorers And Natives In The Polar North



Synopsis

An illustrated history of 170 years of Arctic exploration and its effects on indigenous peoples. Ultima Thule is the terrible and yet fantastic story of European and American exploration in the polar north. Based on excerpts from the explorers' logs counterbalanced by Inuit testimony, it brings to life both sides of the clash that arose when white men arrived in the Far North, dreaming of conquest and believing that they brought with them a civilization superior to that of the indigenous peoples they found. Today, the outlook for the Inuit and the polar environment is bleak: the people and their landscape are in danger of disappearing for good. But according to Jean Malaurie, the situation is not altogether without hope. Heavily illustrated with period photographs, engravings, artifacts, and drawings, the book gives the readers the impression of having an entire museum of North Pole history in their hands. 650 color and black-and-white photographs --This text refers to an alternate Hardcover edition.

Book Information

Hardcover: 384 pages

Publisher: W W Norton & Co Inc; First American Edition edition (December 1, 2003)

ISBN-10: 0393051501

ASIN: B000B8K736

Package Dimensions: 13.5 x 9.7 x 1.2 inches

Shipping Weight: 6 pounds (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 5.0 out of 5 stars 5 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #7,895,994 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #79 in [Books > History > Americas > Greenland](#) #137944 in [Books > Deals in Books](#) #153664 in [Books > History > Europe](#)

Customer Reviews

Striving to be the ultimate coffee-table book on the Arctic; its white explorers; and the Inuits, the northernmost native people on Earth, this work succeeds grandly. With its breathtaking illustrations, extensive sidebars (largely diary entries, historical documents and ethnographic material) and a condensed history of Arctic exploration and Inuit life, it's hard to imagine anything better. It's also hard to imagine anything bigger (10"Ãƒâ"14"), heavier (over six pounds) or more expensive (\$75), a perfect example of what CD-ROMs were supposed to replace. French explorer and geographer Malaurie became an ethnographer of the Inuit people after his extended stay in the early 1950s, where he witnessed and then exposed the establishment of a secret American nuclear base in the

Inuit capital of Thule, which devastated the tiny native population. Here, he traces the history of despoliation, beginning with the first Arctic explorer to encounter the Inuit (Captain Ross in 1818) and ending with himself and the revival of Inuit life. Each chapter in between is devoted to Arctic explorers and their expeditions in chronological order. Malaurie's version of anthropology reverses the roles of savage and civilized, and his historical accounts of Arctic expeditions' murder, mutiny and mysticism are always fascinatingly told in surprisingly clear and comprehensible prose. Period photographs, engravings, artifacts, maps and drawings help demystify the unknown Arctic.

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--This text refers to an alternate Hardcover edition.

Text: English (translation) Original Language: French --This text refers to an alternate Hardcover edition.

This is a simply stunning work. It's a massive coffee table book full of the expected excellent photography, but also a good deal of text looking at Inuit society, customs, and culture with the constant backdrop of the harsh Arctic climate. A beautiful book with content.

This is a gorgeous book. I first encountered it in the library of the school in an Eskimo village in Alaska. I was delighted to find my own copy!

Thank you for sending this very large and heavy book my way. Recently I spent time in Norway with a man who takes expeditions to the North Pole and who visits Greenland frequently as part of his work and for his enjoyment. I could not imagine what the lure was but after looking through the expeditions, history, and people of this area I can see his fascination. I did not understand how many expeditions and adventures there are to be had in the area but now I understand. I mostly enjoyed the pictures. Thank you for getting the book to me.

This is the ultimate book on Greenland with a sensitive approach to the Inuit people. Both breathtaking and informative. Respect of nature, art and people. A masterpiece.

this book is exquisitely presented & an in depth analysis of the plight of the polar Inuit society by Jean Malaurie. very worth while, if you care about these forgotten, and marginalized people....otherwise, go about making more money and don't bother. thea, dedicated bookworm:) &

polarenthusiast.

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