

PRISONERS OF GEOGRAPHY

*Review by: Ms. Shahzadi Irrum **

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Author: Tim Marshall

Prisoners of Geography "Ten Maps that Explain Everything about the World" was published in 2015. The book's writer is Tim Marshall, who is a British journalist, author, and broadcaster and he specializes in foreign affairs and international diplomacy. The publishers of the book are Elliott & Thompson in (UK) and Scribner in the (US). This book explains geopolitical events through the lens of geography and situations in several vital regions of the world. These include Russia, China, the United States, Europe, the Arab World, Pakistan and India, Africa, Korea and Japan, Latin America, and the Arctic (primarily addressing the geopolitics of the race for Arctic resources). By reading this book, readers will be able to understand how a country's geographic position has a significant impact on both its success and its level of power, and how this has determined the outcomes of significant global events for centuries.

In the opening of the book, Marshal says that the land on which we live has always molded us. He demonstrates how the location of a country has an impact on politics and conflict. The book further talks about how the physical features of a country, like mountains, rivers, and oceans, can affect, how the country is run and how it interacts with other countries. It argues that geography can be a big factor in determining whether a country is successful or not, and that it can be hard for countries to change their geography. It delves into the idea that geography acts as a kind of "prison" for countries, limiting their options and defining their vulnerabilities. In this book, the main geopolitical problems that exist globally have been outlined by Tim Marshal. Only Antarctica and Oceania are not covered.

The best thing about "Prisoners of Geography" is that it provides a unique perspective on global politics by emphasizing the role of geography in shaping the world we live in. Marshall argues that the physical features of a region, such as its mountains, rivers, and coastlines, often determine the fate of its people and this

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perspective offers a fresh and compelling way to understand global politics that is often overlooked in other books on the subject. Additionally, the book is well written and it's a fascinating read. Marshall's writing style is engaging and easy to follow, and he uses numerous examples to clarify his points. This makes the book an enjoyable and informative read for anyone interested in global politics and geography, regardless of their level of expertise.

While the book is well-written and informative but there are few weaknesses that readers should be aware of. First, although the author has mentioned the geostrategic importance of different regions in detail, he has missed out on mentioning the Geostrategic importance of Oceania which is developing into a key battleground between the world powers. Second, the book's focus on geography can sometimes lead to a lack of attention to other important factors, such as culture, history, and economics. While geography is an important factor in shaping the world we live in, it is not the only factor, and it is important to consider other factors as well.

In conclusion, *Prisoners of Geography* is fascinating for anyone interested in geography, politics, and world history. It is particularly relevant for students of international relations, political science, and geography, as well as anyone interested in global affairs. Marshall explains in clear terms why some countries have the geographical advantages to succeed while others have disadvantages they may never overcome. It offers valuable insights into the enduring influence of geography on global politics and how understanding these factors can help make sense of current and historical events.