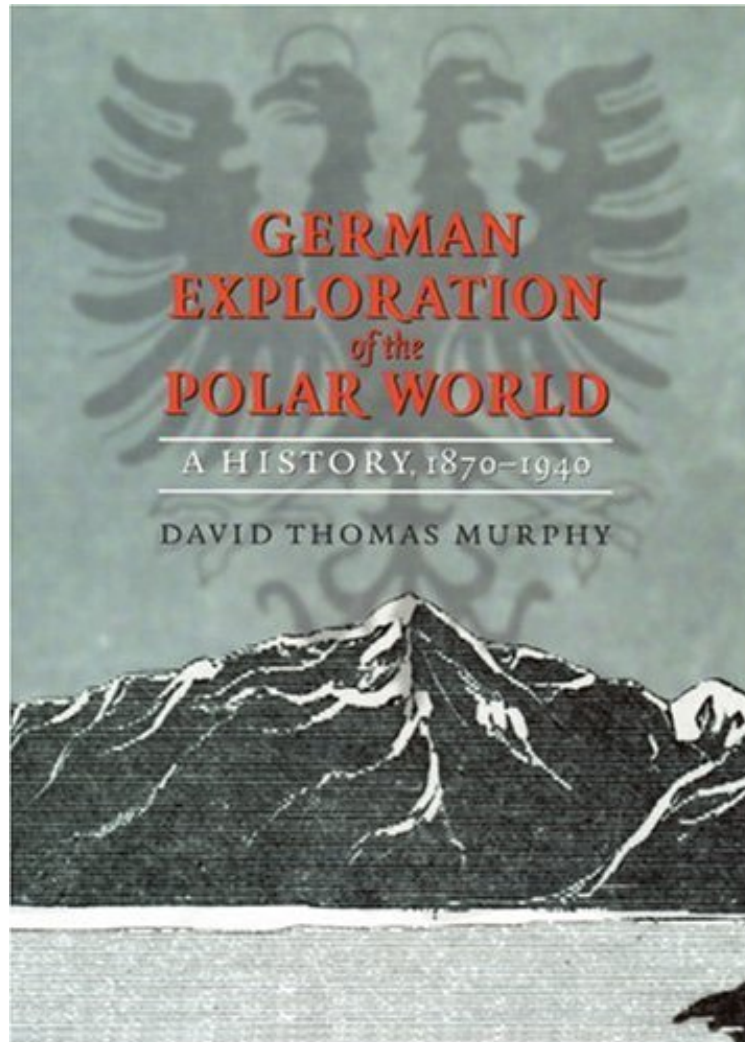


German Exploration of the Polar World: A History, 1870-1940

David Thomas Murphy
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#3689084 in Books University of Nebraska Press 2002-06-01Original language:EnglishPDF # 1 1.11 x 6.34 x 9.22l, 1.29 #File Name: 0803232055289 pages | File size: 47.Mb

David Thomas Murphy : German Exploration of the Polar World: A History, 1870-1940 before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised German Exploration of the Polar World: A History, 1870-1940:

1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Rich detail up to a pointBy chmodI read this with interest, as there is no comparable, contemporary account of these explorations. My interest is purely anecdotal, and I found the personalized and highly detailed accounting to be very interesting.What I found to be lacking, utterly, is the lack of equal detail afforded the final exploration. Many sources cite the finding of inland areas free of ice as having been discovered by this exploration. It is almost as if this information was removed, or editorially trimmed, as it represents a gaping hole.With specific reference to the fringe lunacy of the Reich "flying saucers" theories of recent Internet

history, I find it baffling to not have mentioned the discovery of the inner mountain lake areas which due to geo thermal influence, remain non frozen. That is, not to assert this notion but seeing as though it is equally reported to not refute it. Very odd omission. I was disappointed to see no such mention in an otherwise well written, and easy to read history of exploration. regards, patrick

German Exploration of the Polar World is the exciting story of the generations of German polar explorers who braved the perils of the Arctic and Antarctic for themselves and their country. Such intrepid adventurers as Wilhelm Filchner, Erich von Drygalski, and Alfred Wegener are not as well known today as Robert Falcon Scott, Roald Amundsen, Ernest Shackleton, Robert E. Peary, or Richard E. Byrd, but their bravery and the hardships they faced were equal to those of the more famous polar explorers. In the half-century prior to World War II, the poles were the last blank spaces on the global map, and they exerted a tremendous pull on national imaginations. Under successive political regimes, the Germans threw themselves into the race for polar glory with an ardor that matched their better-known counterparts bearing English, American, and Norwegian flags. German polar explorers were driven, like their rivals, by a complex web of interlocking motivations. Personal fame, the romance of the unknown, and the advancement of science were important considerations, but public pressure, political and military concerns, and visions of immense, untapped wealth at the poles also spurred the explorers. As historian David Thomas Murphy shows, Germany's repeated encounters with the polar world left an indelible impression upon the German public, government, and scientific community. Reports on the polar landscape, flora, and fauna enhanced Germany's appreciation of the global environment. Accounts of the indigenous peoples of the Arctic, accurate or fantastic, permanently shaped German notions of culture and civilization. The final, failed attempt by the Nazis to extend German political power to the earth's ends revealed the limits of any country's ability to reshape the globe politically or militarily.

"This is the first comprehensive, analytical account of seven decades of German polar explorations. . . . Amply documented and very well written, the book fills a big gap in the literature." Choice