

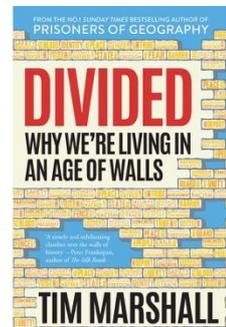
Prisoners of Geography: Ten Maps that will Tell You Everything You
Need to Know about Global Politics
A ~~Review~~ Showcase

How do you 'review' a book that, should you ask any geographer what topic-related book you **must** read, I'm pretty sure 95% of the time *Prisoners of Geography* is put forward? ... you can't. Instead, this week's book of the month is more of a showcase and/or an insight intended to appeal to those who still might be hiding away in their lockdown-induced cave of "I still haven't read it".

About the Author

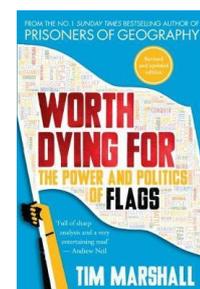
If you're a fan, like me, Tim Marshall is a leading figure in foreign affairs and international diplomacy. Marshall bases his expertise from having experience of over 25 years as a journalist reporting in over 30 countries and covering conflicts far and wide. As an author, Tim has channelled this experience into his books:

Divided - Why we're living in an Age of Walls which explores the divisions between China, USA, Isreal & Palestine and more.



Shadowplay - Behind the Lines & Under Fire where Tim gives his account on the dismantling of Yugoslavia from which he was on the ground reporting at the time.

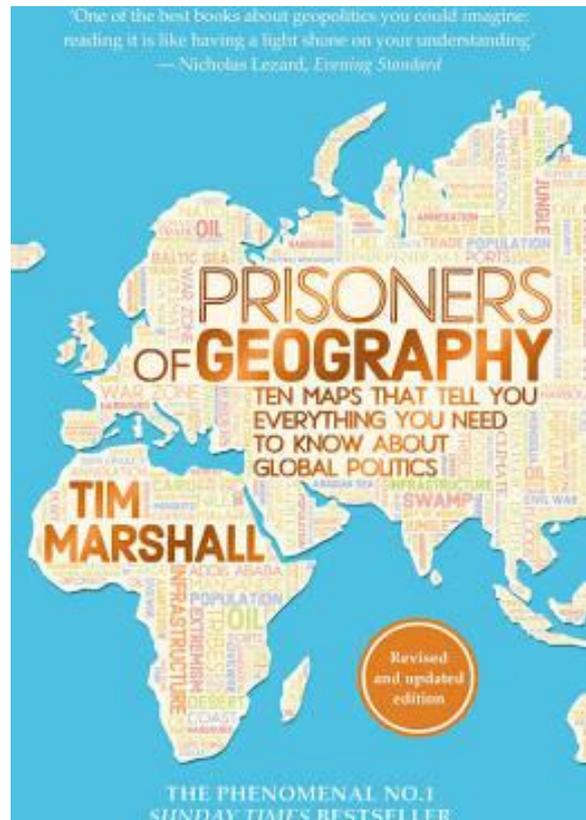
Worth Dying For - The Power and Politics of Flag which, is what is says on the tin, an exploration into the power, unification, division, representation and political importance of the symbols we wave.



About the Book(s)

Prisoners of Geography offers any reader the chance to understand the fundamentals of worldwide geopolitics. Throughout the book, Tim Marshall asks questions which outlines the key reasonings into how the physical geography of the world has historically (and presently) effects today's political reality.

“Geography, and the history of how nations have established themselves within that Geography, remains crucial to our understanding of the world today and our future” – Tim Marshall

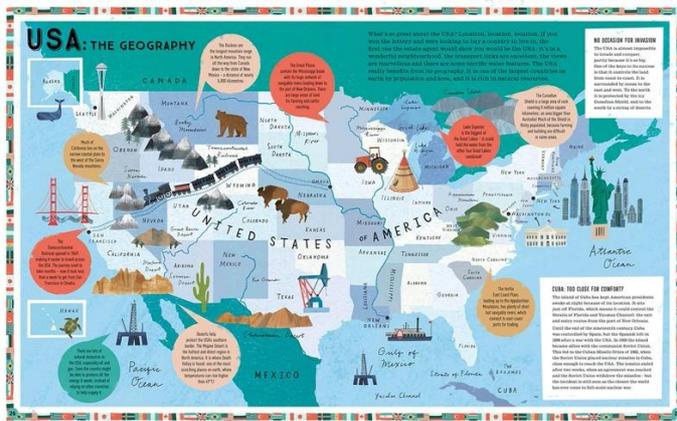


Prisoners of Geography is 10 chapters (& 10 maps) that explore Russia, China, USA, Western Europe, Africa, The Middle East, India & Pakistan, Korea & Japan, Latin America and The Arctic. Each chapter gives great insight into the region's political past, the shaping and establishment of the governing powers that be, and an insight into each region's future – all from a geographical perspective.

For example, in extremely basic form, The USA, a geographically blessed country, blocked from the north and south by large countries and protected to the west by the Rockies, it all in all makes very hard work to invade. “Geography had determined if a political entity could get to and then control the land ‘from sea to shining sea’, it would be a great power, the greatest history had ever known”.

Furthermore, of the back of the success of the book, the illustrated counterpart *Prisoners of Geography: Our World Explained in 12 Simple Maps* is equally brilliant.

Whereas the PoG text-book is more suitable for inclusion into A-Level learning and theory, the illustrated version, I feel, makes the learning more accessible to younger minds and can easily be built into existing KS3/4 learning for assistance. The more visual-based form of learning allows for key fundamentals to be split into bitesize reading and further understanding.



FROM COAST TO COAST

The USA is the most powerful empire in the world. It owes its strength partly to the fact that it is isolated from coast to coast. This was achieved remarkably quickly, considering that the USA spans a distance of 4,800 kilometres. How did they manage it?

1. European explorers sailed to North America in the early 15th century. The first voyage was led by Christopher Columbus in 1492. He sailed from Spain to the Americas, but his ship did not reach the mainland. Instead, it landed in the Caribbean. In 1498, another Spanish explorer, Christopher Columbus, sailed to the mainland. He landed in the Gulf of Paria, which is now part of Venezuela. He was the first European to set foot on the North American continent.
2. The continent was the first people in North America. Native Americans had lived there for thousands of years. When the first European explorers arrived, they found a continent full of people. Some of these people were friendly, while others were hostile. The explorers tried to convert them to Christianity and to teach them European ways of life.
3. The British were the first people to settle in North America. In 1607, a group of British men sailed to the Chesapeake Bay. They founded the first permanent English colony in North America. The British were followed by other European powers, including the French and the Dutch. The British eventually became the dominant power in North America.
4. The USA had a lot of territory up to the Mississippi River west of the river. The land west of the Mississippi was called the Louisiana Territory. It was named after the French king, Louis XIV. The French had discovered the Mississippi River in 1673. The French had a colony there called Louisiana. The British wanted the Louisiana Territory, but the French refused to sell it. The French eventually sold the Louisiana Territory to the United States in 1803. This was the Louisiana Purchase.
5. In 1803 the Louisiana Territory was sold to the United States. The Louisiana Purchase was a major event in the history of the United States. It doubled the size of the United States. The Louisiana Purchase was a major event in the history of the United States. It doubled the size of the United States.
6. In 1845 the Republic of Texas was annexed to the United States. The Republic of Texas was a small country that had been founded by American settlers. The United States wanted to annex Texas, but the British refused to sell it. The United States eventually annexed Texas in 1845. This was the Texas Annexation.
7. In 1848 the Republic of Mexico was annexed to the United States. The Republic of Mexico was a large country that had been founded by Spanish settlers. The United States wanted to annex Mexico, but the British refused to sell it. The United States eventually annexed Mexico in 1848. This was the Mexican Cession.
8. In 1898 the USA won a war with Spain, gaining a number of territories around the world, including Cuba, Puerto Rico, Guam, and the Philippines. The USA had a long history of imperialism. It had acquired a number of territories around the world. In 1898, the USA won a war with Spain. This was the Spanish-American War. The USA gained a number of territories, including Cuba, Puerto Rico, Guam, and the Philippines.

Further Material

Geographical.co.uk - An Interview with Tim Marshall

[Waterstones: Tim Marshall gives a quick tour through PoG](#)