

THE MARCO POLO ODYSSEY

Harry Rutstein

Take a fantastic journey from Venice to Peking by following the route that Marco Polo traveled as detailed in his personal diary.

Synopsis

A fascinating tale with more than 100 images of the journey of Harry Rutstein, the only man in history to trace the path of Marco Polo from Venice to China – a route that passed through Israel, Turkey, Afghanistan, and Pakistan. This is the result of ten years of work and three exhausting expeditions. By using horses, camels, and rafts made of goat hides, Rutstein has managed to truly replicate the astonishing and unprecedented travels of the 13th century Venetian merchant.

Through the book, the reader follows the author at every step: departing Venice, disembarking in Acre (Israel) and then travelling by sea again to Turkey, and finally starting a spectacular journey by land via Iran, Afghanistan, and Pakistan before arriving in China.

The Marco Polo Odyssey is a pleasant and fast read with hundreds of tales and historical and cultural facts. The reader will learn about the true work of this 13th century merchant who facilitated commerce between East and West and, consequently, expanded the merchant frontiers of medieval Europe. Rutstein has created both a thrilling travel book and a fascinating historical study of the Marco Polo travel route. Numerous maps help illustrate the adventures. Most importantly, however, Rutstein includes fragments from the personal journal of Marco Polo so as to contextualize the original travels and to highlight the key differences that separate the times of the Venetian merchant from our society some 700 years later.

Biography

Harry Rutstein (1930) is the first person in history to trace the sea and land route of Marco Polo. He did it in three expeditions between 1975 and 1985. From these travels, he made the documentary, *On the roof of the world with Marco Polo*. He has also written various articles on the subject and has participated in conferences throughout the United States. He received the title of Fellow from the Royal Geographical Society of London and the Explorers Club of New York. For this book, he won the prestigious *Independent Publishers Travel Book Award* in 2009.

Sales pitch

ORIGINAL APPROACH: This is the only book that shows a real life replication of Marco Polo's original 13th century journey. Further, the author is the only person to repeat and authenticate these travels.

ILLUSTRATIVE CONTENT: More than 100 visual documents – including images of the cities, landscapes, and places that Marco Polo saw – are included in this book. The reader will also find numerous maps so as to follow the author's travels.

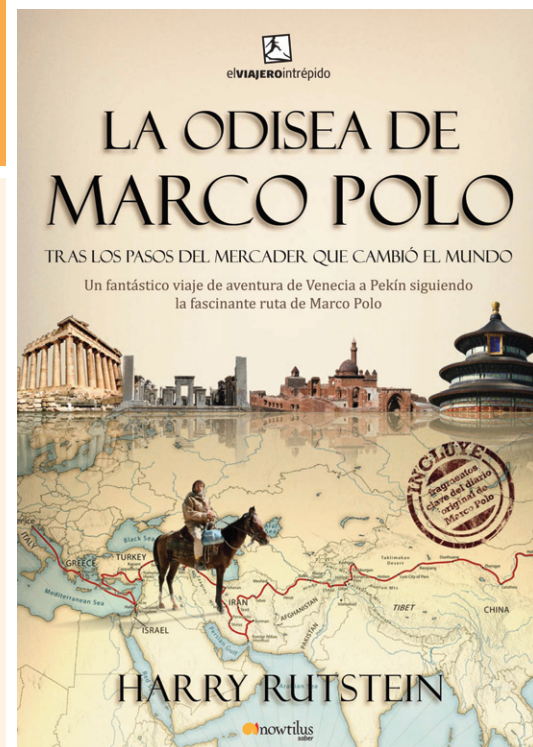
PRESTIGE: The author has received recognition from the Royal Geographical Society of London and the Explorers Club of New York for his contributions to geographic exploration. This book received the *Independent Publishers Travel Book Award* in 2009 for achievement in writing and illustrative content.

MULTICULTURAL STUDY: The book is supported by hundreds of historical and cultures stories and facts.

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