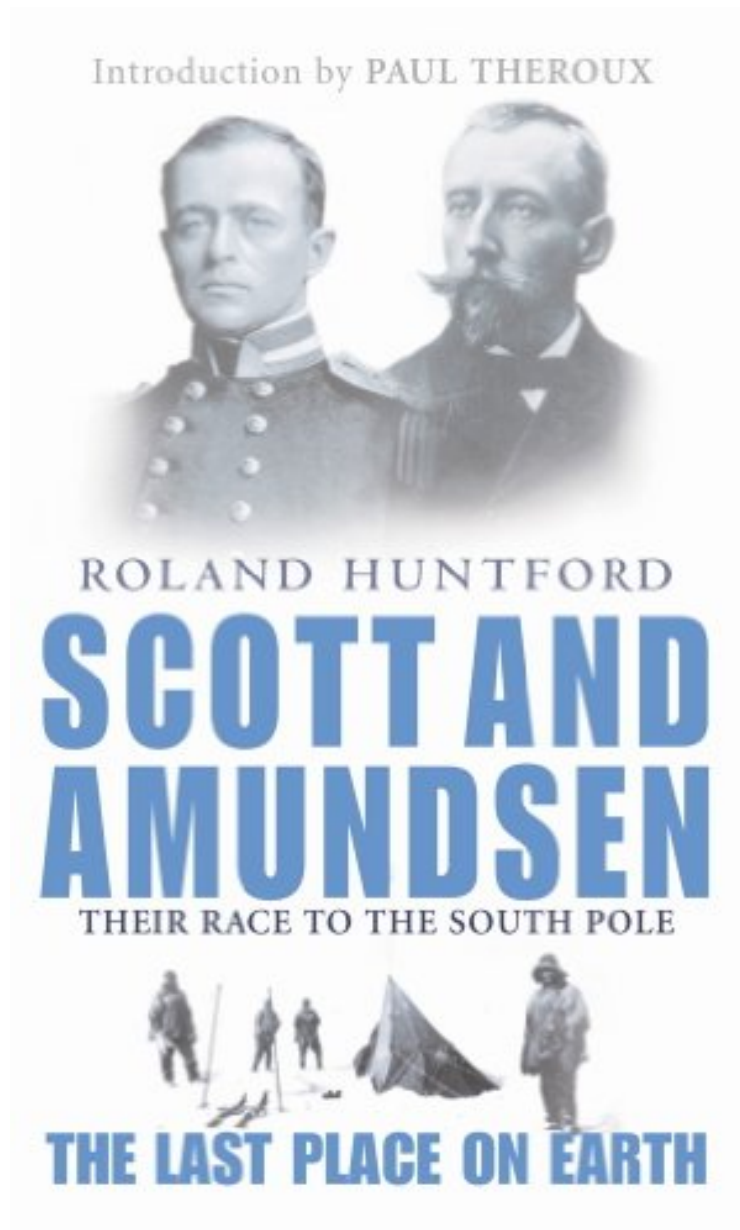


[Download] Scott And Amundsen: The Last Place on Earth (English Edition)

## Scott And Amundsen: The Last Place on Earth (English Edition)

*Von Roland Huntford*

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**Von Roland Huntford : Scott And Amundsen: The Last Place on Earth (English Edition)** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Scott And Amundsen: The Last Place on Earth (English Edition):

KundenrezensionenHilfreichste Kundenrezensionen2 von 4 Kunden fanden die folgende Rezension hilfreich. Don't

Blindly Trust Authors with Axes to Grind Von Kevin Kartchner This book, while full of interesting comparisons between Scott and Amundsen, is written from such a one-sided perspective that anyone unwilling wholly to accept Huntford's basic thesis--that Scott (and, by extension, Britain) had no redeeming graces, whereas Amundsen (and, by extension, all of Scandinavia) had no flaws worth noting--will find it maddening to read. There are plenty of legitimate grounds on which to criticize Scott and praise Amundsen; however, Huntford inexplicably is constrained to rip into Scott every time he mentions the man. This in itself suggests some agenda besides merely correcting common wisdom about Scott's purported heroism. In short, Huntford is like a literary Oliver Stone, inasmuch as he interprets the historical record entirely in light of his predetermined conclusions. One thing is highly instructive with regard to Huntford's intentions: his treatment of Frederick Cook, Amundsen's good friend. Huntford implies that Cook, a noted charlatan and abject liar, actually did reach the North Pole in 1908 ahead of Peary. In doing so, he not only ignores Cook's demonstrably false claim of a 1906 first ascent of Denali--which, any thinking person would conclude, makes his north-pole claims that much more implausible--and he violates his own "principle" of not accepting romantic notions as fact. Finally, Huntford fails to note that time has vindicated Scott's methods (man-hauling and the rest). Amundsen may have taken the most prudent path in capturing the prize at that time, but there's a lot to be said for the fact that Scott did it the hard way--and came very close to succeeding.

2 von 2 Kunden fanden die folgende Rezension hilfreich. What really happened Von John L. Velonis I recently read "Scott's Last Expedition", the edited version of his diaries from his South Pole expedition. This left me interested but unfulfilled: I wanted to learn more about Amundsen and the context for both expeditions, and to get more analysis of the bald facts as related in Scott's diaries. So I turned to Huntford's "The Last Place on Earth". I was not disappointed. Huntford narrates the entire lives of both Amundsen and Scott, with edifying discursions on Nansen, Shackleton, and other Polar explorers. Huntford knows Norwegian and thus was able to consult primary sources for Amundsen's expedition directly; he provides many excerpts from the letters and diaries of both British and Norwegian expedition members. He also reveals some of the omissions in the edited version of Scott's diaries. As a minor quibble, Huntford only rarely gives full dates, so that I found myself frequently having to page back a considerable way to remind myself which year or even which month it was. An appended chronology would have been immeasurably helpful. As other reviewers have noted, the author is highly critical of Scott -- occasionally unfairly so, as when he notes that Scott's first depot journey brought "a ton of supplies not quite to 80 degrees South" where Amundsen's party had "moved three tons another two degrees of latitude closer to the Pole", omitting to mention that Amundsen started about a degree farther south than Scott. But from the evidence Huntford adduces, even without his interpretations, it is difficult to avoid the conclusion that Scott was criminally unprepared, negligent, and generally incompetent. It is not as though he had no information about what he would be facing -- his previous expedition encountered nearly all the same problems, but he seems not to have learned anything from it. Huntford shows how Scott's diaries and their careful editing combine to portray Scott in a much more favorable light than he deserves -- a case of the loser writing the history books. Huntford also reveals what might charitably be called "traditional" attitudes toward women. For example, speaking of Kathleen Bruce, Scott's future wife, Huntford says, "She was a predatory female; more predatory than usual, that is." Fortunately, since nearly all the principal figures in the book are male, this only surfaces occasionally, as when Huntford describes Amundsen as having "an almost feminine sensitivity for the undertones and cross-currents on which a leader has to play". Despite its flaws, "The Last Place on Earth" should be among the first books you read on Polar exploration, or true-life adventure in general. Once the race for the Pole was on, I found it as hard to put down as any fictional thriller.

2 von 2 Kunden fanden die folgende Rezension hilfreich. An instructive gem, now affordable in softcover. Get it. Von Peter A. Kimball I first read this excellent work about ten years ago in the hardcover version (in my university library). I was fascinated and impressed by it, and have thought about it many times since. The series edited by Jon Krakauer has done a very good thing in releasing it in softcover. Naturally I did not waste a minute before purchasing it. Let me start off by saying that above and beyond all the issues of historiography, this is a marvelously well-written book. It is an exemplar of historical argument, not merely a collection of facts arranged in chronological order. It is an investigation, an inquest, into the events of 1911-1912, in which two parties attempted to reach the South Pole from opposite sides of Antarctica; one arrived first, and came back unscathed; and one arrived second, and then perished one and all in the cold and dark. Was this just fate, or was it the result of factors of organization and personality? In Huntford's vision, we are presented with two parallel novels, sort of like the panels of a diptych on either side of a medieval altar, one showing the blessed going to heaven, the other showing the damned going to perdition. The Amundsen party, blessed with a good, careful, insightful, and thoughtful leader, advances toward success. Meanwhile, the unfortunate Scott party advances toward its death - not "ill-fated", but "ill-led" - doomed by bad choices of equipment, methods, personnel, and timetable. The drama and horror of the deaths of the Scott party, as described here, has stayed with me for years. So have some of the lessons of the volume. It was Scott of whom the movies were made and the symphonies written, but it is really the Amundsens whose lessons we should learn, because it is better to succeed and live than to fail and perish in the blizzard with all your friends and followers. For years I would remember this book whenever issues of leadership and planning would come up in areas of my life far removed from polar exploration. Now I am very happy to actually own the book and to be able to re-read it and refer to it at my leisure. I enthusiastically

recommend it.

Kurzbeschreibung At the beginning of the twentieth century, the South Pole was the most coveted prize in the fiercely nationalistic modern age of exploration. In the brilliant dual biography, the award-winning writer Roland Huntford re-examines every detail of the great race to the South Pole between Britain's Robert Scott and Norway's Roald Amundsen. Scott, who dies along with four of his men only eleven miles from his next cache of supplies, became Britain's beloved failure, while Amundsen, who not only beat Scott to the Pole but returned alive, was largely forgotten. This account of their race is a gripping, highly readable history that captures the driving ambitions of the era and the complex, often deeply flawed men who were charged with carrying them out. THE LAST PLACE ON EARTH is the first of Huntford's masterly trilogy of polar biographies. It is also the only work on the subject in the English language based on the original Norwegian sources, to which Huntford returned to revise and update this edition. On December 14, 1911, the classical age of polar exploration ended when Norway's Roald Amundsen conquered the South Pole. His competitor for the prize, Britain's Robert Scott, arrived one month later--but died on the return with four of his men only 11 miles from their next cache of supplies. But it was Scott, ironically, who became the legend, Britain's heroic failure, "a monument to sheer ambition and bull-headed persistence. His achievement was to perpetuate the romantic myth of the explorer as martyr, and ... to glorify suffering and self-sacrifice as ends in themselves." The world promptly forgot about Amundsen. Biographer Ronald Huntford's attempt to restore Amundsen to glory, first published in 1979 under the title Scott and Amundsen, has been thawed as part of the Modern Library Exploration series, captained by Jon Krakauer (of Into Thin Air fame). The Last Place on Earth is a complex and fascinating account of the race for this last great terrestrial goal, and it's pointedly geared toward demythologizing Scott. Though this was the age of the amateur explorer, Amundsen was a professional: he left little to chance, apprenticed with Eskimos, and obsessed over every detail. While Scott clung fast to the British rule of "No skis, no dogs," Amundsen understood that both were vital to survival, and they clearly won him the Pole. Amundsen in Huntford's view is the "last great Viking" and Scott his bungling opposite: "stupid ... recklessly incompetent," and irresponsible in the extreme--failings that cost him and his teammates their lives. Yet for all of Scott's real or exaggerated faults, he understood far better than Amundsen the power of a well-crafted sentence. Scott's diaries were recovered and widely published, and if the world insisted on lionizing Scott, it was partly because he told a better story. Huntford's bias aside, it's clear that both Scott and Amundsen were valiant and deeply flawed. "Scott ... had set out to be an heroic example. Amundsen merely wanted to be first at the pole. Both had their prayers answered." -- Svenja Soldovieri.co.uk On December 14, 1911, the classical age of Polar exploration ended when Norway's Roald Amundsen conquered the South Pole. His competitor for the prize, Britain's Robert Scott, arrived one month later--but died on the return with four of his men only 11 miles from their next cache of supplies. But it was Scott, ironically, who became the legend, Britain's heroic failure, "a monument to sheer ambition and bull-headed persistence. His achievement was to perpetuate the romantic myth of the explorer as martyr, and... to glorify suffering and self-sacrifice as ends in themselves." Last Place On Earth is a complex and fascinating account of the race for this last great terrestrial goal. It is also biographer Ronald Huntford's rather heavy-handed attempt to restore Amundsen to glory. Though this was the age of the amateur explorer, Amundsen was a professional: he left little to chance, apprenticed with Eskimos and obsessed over every detail. While Scott clung fast to the British rule of "No skis, no dogs", Amundsen understood that both were vital to survival and they clearly won him the Pole. Amundsen in Huntford's view is the "last great Viking" and Scott his bungling opposite: "stupid... recklessly incompetent", and irresponsible in the extreme--failings that cost him and his teammates their lives. Yet for all of Scott's real or exaggerated faults, he understood far better than Amundsen the power of a well-crafted sentence. Scott's diaries were recovered and widely published, and if the world insisted on lionising Scott, it was partly because he told a better story. Huntford's bias aside, it's clear that both Scott and Amundsen were valiant and deeply flawed. "Scott... had set out to be an heroic example. Amundsen merely wanted to be first at the pole. Both had their prayers answered." --Svenja Soldovieri