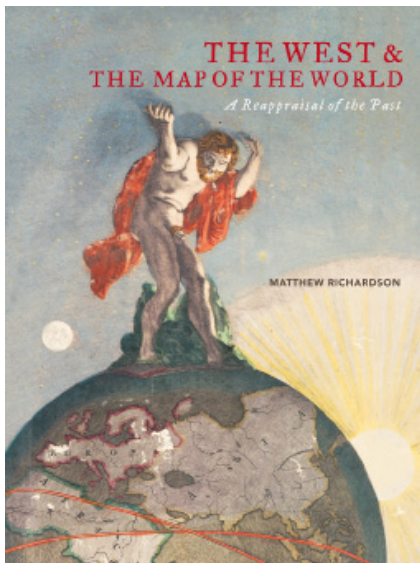


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Matthew Richardson will be available for interview from 1 August.

For more information please contact **Dina Kluska** at MUP on 0409 011 092 or email dkluska@unimelb.edu.au

THE WEST AND THE MAP OF THE WORLD A Reappraisal of the Past

by Matthew Richardson

Inspired by antique mapmakers and their global vision, *The West and the Map of the World* presents the past as a single narrative in which European history is an offshoot of Asian history.

Matthew Richardson explains that the dominating ethos of the modern West owes more to hordes of Asian nomads, who colonised Europe, than to the classical civilisation of the Greeks and Romans. Surprising insights include reappraisals of the historic roles of Chinese bureaucrats, Greek cities, Christian explorers and the Dieppe maps, which spark arguments about Australia's discovery.

Surveying the world since the Old Testament period, the author reaches striking conclusions about particular times and places, such as:

- China was crippled by modern descendants of the ancient barbarians it drove into Europe.
- Compared to Sparta, Athens was the enemy of Greek freedom.
- Asiatic despots provided better welfare and opportunity than European republics.
- Ancient historians are more dependable than today's.
- Critics are wrong to insist that the Dieppe Maps reveal no discoveries of Australia.

Illustrated with more than 100 outstanding maps from the State Library of Victoria, and based on ancient and medieval writings, this book reaches striking conclusions about the modern success of the West.

Matthew Richardson is an author and history editor whose previous books include *The Penguin Book of Firsts*, *The Halstead Treasury of Ancient Science Fiction*, *Imagination*, *War in Words* and *Once a Jolly Swagman*.

Originally from Canberra, he practised briefly as a lawyer in Sydney. He lives with his family in the Blue Mountains and works as the publisher for Halstead Press. A fellowship with the State Library of Victoria enabled him to pursue his interest in exploration and maps, and to research this book.

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