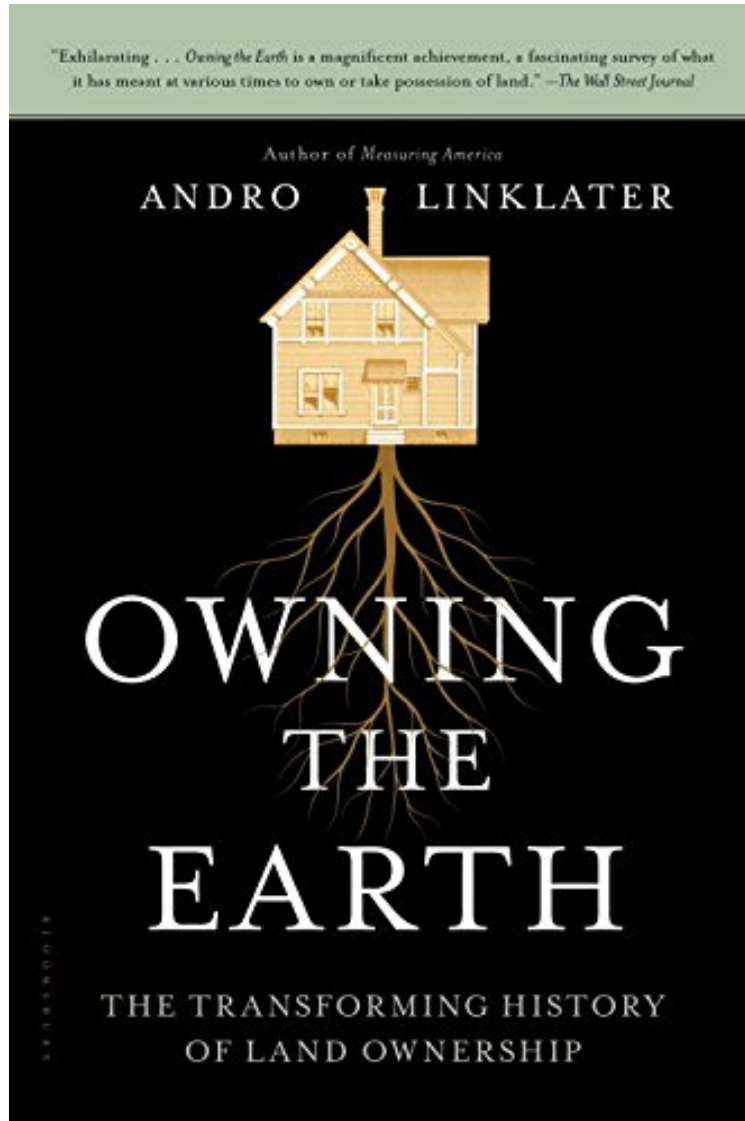


(Download pdf) *Owning the Earth: The Transforming History of Land Ownership*

Owning the Earth: The Transforming History of Land Ownership

Andro Linklater

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Andro Linklater : *Owning the Earth: The Transforming History of Land Ownership* before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised *Owning the Earth: The Transforming History of Land Ownership*:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. A different look. By Chris Potter Middle class Americans may assume that people's relationship to the land is the same everywhere and for all time. This isn't true. Not being a land owner makes one vulnerable to the inclination of those that do. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Get your copy before they're gone! By Mimi This book is fascinating. He makes a strong argument that land ownership

methods have shaped history. I'm so glad I found a copy with the beautiful field photo on the cover. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Great Introduction to SubjectBy NormAmazingly comprehensive history and insightful account; catapulted me into more reading and consideration of land/property ownership.

Barely two centuries ago, most of the world's productive land still belonged either communally to traditional societies or to the higher powers of monarch or church. But that pattern, and the ways of life that went with it, were consigned to history by the most creative and simultaneously destructive cultural force in the modern era: the idea of individual, exclusive ownership of land. Spreading from both shores of the north Atlantic, it laid waste to traditional communal civilizations, displacing entire peoples from their homelands, and brought into being a unique concept of individual freedom and a distinct form of representative government. By contrast, as Linklater demonstrates, other great civilizations, in Russia, China, and the Islamic world, evolved very different structures of land ownership and thus very different forms of government and social responsibility. The history and evolution of this concept is a fascinating chapter in the history of civilization, offering unexpected insights about how various forms of democracy and capitalism developed, as well as a revealing analysis of a future where the Earth must sustain nine billion lives. Owning the Earth presents a radically new view of mankind's place on the planet and the history behind it.

From BooklistIn this careful, comprehensive historical study, Linklater (Measuring America, 2002) reviews centuries of expansion and settlement to explore how the ownership of land has negatively affected society. From the sixteenth-century assertions of British rights to survey and collect rent in St. Johns, Newfoundland (wryly characterized as absurd by the author); to more prosaic discussions of fences and mapping; and up to a bracing review of Che Guevaras fight for land redistribution, Owning the Earth casts a wide net over the subject of property. Linklater discusses politics, agriculture, colonialism, slavery, democracy, communism, and even intellectual property. His geographic view is wide, including North America, Latin America, Europe, Russia, China, and the Middle East. Linklaters shifting narrative can, on occasion, be dizzying or dense, but the subject matter is so important and his dedication so thorough that this singular work should be welcomed by all readers interested in land-use history and future global concerns. --Colleen Mondor [A] masterly work . . . His intellectual range is as wide as his geographic or temporal range . . . This reinterpretation of global history will give readers of history, politics, and economics much to think about. Publishers Weekly, starred review[Linklater] has the talent not just to let us know how things work, but to make us want to know . . . A magical mystery tour that leaves the reader both mildly footsore and exhilarated by unexpected connections. Richard Eder, The New York Times on Measuring AmericaRemarkable . . . Linklater traces with unusual elegance and a keen wit the epic story of measuring our nation, charting the process by which, with each length of the surveyor's chain, new states were literally bought into being. Margaret Wertheim, Los Angeles Times Book on Measuring AmericaA wonderful and fascinating new book . . . clever and a hugely satisfying read. It deserves to be a classic. Simon Winchester, The Boston Globe on Measuring AmericaWhat's great about history, when well done, is how even the most familiar topics can be revisited again . . . to offer a fresh perspective. That's what Andro Linklater does in Measuring America. Bob Minzesheimer, USA Today on Measuring AmericaLinklater gives us a different perspective than we usually get when reading about how the U.S. developed. The frontier experience took place not only in wide open spaces, but within the borders of the United States. How that happened is an important story and Linklater tells it splendidly. Bookpage on The Fabric of AmericaMr. Linklater offers readers a whirlwind tour through the corridors of Westminster, the rat-infested prisons of St. Petersburg, the slave-funded mansions of Liverpool. He captures the fevered state of English politics and society during the Napoleonic era. The Wall Street Journal on Why Spencer Perceval Had to DieAbout the AuthorAndro Linklater was the acclaimed author of Measuring America, The Fabric of America, An Artist in Treason, and Why Spencer Perceval Had to Die. He died in 2013.