



Maps of the Ancient Sea Kings: Evidence of Advanced Civilization in the Ice Age

Charles H. Hapgood

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Charles Hapgood's classic 1966 book on ancient maps is back in print after 20 years. Hapgood produces concrete evidence of an advanced worldwide civilization existing many thousands of years before ancient Egypt. He has found the evidence in many beautiful maps long known to scholars, the Piri Reis Map that shows Antarctica, the Hadji Ahmed map, the Oronteus Finaeus and other amazing maps. Hapgood concluded that these maps were made from more ancient maps from the various ancient archives around the world, now lost. Hapgood also concluded that the ancient mapmakers were in some ways much more advanced scientifically than Europe in the 16th century, or than the ancient civilizations of Greece, Egypt, and Babylonian. Not only were these unknown people more advanced in mapmaking than any people prior to the 18th century, it appears they mapped all the continents. The Americas were mapped thousands of years before Columbus. Antarctica was mapped when its coasts were free of ice. There is evidence that these people must have lived when the ice age had not yet ended in the Northern Hemisphere and when Alaska was still connected with Siberia by the Pleistocene, ice age land bridge. "

Maps of the Ancient Sea Kings: Evidence of Advanced Civilization in the Ice Age Details

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From Reader Review Maps of the Ancient Sea Kings: Evidence of Advanced Civilization in the Ice Age for online ebook

A. J. McMahon says

Charles Hapgood was a professor of the history of science who was looking for a topic to present to his students and chose the Piri Reis map, which is a map dating from 1513 which, among other features, shows parts of the coastline of Antarctica. He and his students went on to investigate a variety of other ancient maps, which led them to the conclusion that these maps were evidence of cartographical activities undertaken by an advanced civilization whose existence preceded the beginnings of our written historical records. Needless to say, as their findings could not be refuted by mainstream academia, their findings were simply ignored, given that they clashed with the established beliefs of the academics. Not only does this book constitute the record of an amazingly impressive series of studies of ancient maps, it is also extremely beautiful, given that these same maps themselves are dazzlingly artistic. An amazing read!

Manuel Vega says

The portolano maps are older and yet more accurate than most of the late medieval maps. Hapgood gives a convincing explanation about their origin: prehistoric. He can not figure out the culture or civilization that charted them, though he suggests it could be Egypt. In my own research, I found out that the Megalith Builders of Western Europe were great sailors, ahead of all the classical civilizations, Summer and Egypt included. In my next book, I'll prove these maps were originally created by the Megalith Builders.

Qazyman says

I Read this book because I wanted a more scientific look at the evidence surrounding an ancient civilization, and Hapgood does provides this. He also takes the time to tell how he became fascinated by the subject, and step by step, how that fascination resulted in the book. Still, what he really illustrates, and what this book shows, is that no one has ever taken this idea seriously and tried to advance it scientifically. This is an idea based(the idea not the book)on a diverse set of theories that have never been draw together in any meaningful way. Whether this is because the theories are bad, or people are afraid to pursue them, I cannot say.

Nana says

According to Charles Hapgood, the mapmakers responsible for the earliest maps must in some ways have been more technically advanced than sixteenth-century Europe and the ancient civilisations of Greece, Egypt and Babylonia. Not only did they produce fantastically detailed maps, they also appear to have mapped every continent. The Americas were mapped thousands of years before Columbus and Antarctica was mapped when its coasts were free of ice

Amanda at Nerdification Reviews says

The reproductions in here are nice to have and there is plenty of information, but its pretty dry. I don't know where I got the impression that a book about ancient maps would have more story to tell, but I found myself slightly disappointed once I realized it would be purely informative. I also learned that I know next to nothing about cartography.

Chris says

While searching for the earliest map of Antarctica, I heard about the Piri Reis Map of 1513 and the Oronce Fine (Oronteus Finaeus) Map of 1531. And in due course came across this book. I had my reservations, based on some of the info I had read, about Hapgood (as well as the Map librarian at LOC telling me he was a nut), but I feel that in this book he makes an interesting case for his hypothesis of an early seafaring/map making culture(s). Many of his theories about the maps he and his students examined are backed up by other experts and even military cartographers. Yet after digesting what I'd read a little more and reading "The Piri Reis Map of 1513" by Gregory C. McIntosh [see my review], Hapgood makes a number of assumptions and, at times, disregards or distorts evidence in order to better make his case. I think my lack of prior knowledge in this area made it more believable. Also, even though this book contains a lot of cartographic and mathematical descriptions, it is still quite readable for the average person. Finally, this edition (1966) could have had better (in color and sharper) pictures of the maps.

Eli Shayotovich says

Much like Hancock's "Heaven's Mirror" this thing is filled with information that you have to wade through in order to discover the true nuggets o' knowledge. Hapgood is a brilliant college professor, and his writing shows that. Most of the book is full of technobabble on the detailed science behind map making, which makes a majority of the book about as dry a read as the Sahara Desert. Given that, it is a very intriguing book that reveals a number of startling theories regarding ancient maps that impossibly map out our world in such exacting detail of our planet that it forces you to ask a lot of questions about the TRUE history of man. Good stuff overall.

David Montaigne says

Hapgood's "Maps of the Ancient Sea Kings" may be known mostly for publicizing the existence of what is commonly called the Piri Reis Map, but as the first word in the title suggests there are many ancient maps evidencing knowledge we once believed was discovered more recently. The Piri Reis map of 1513 is a fragment of a larger map of the world, based on source maps going back to ancient Alexandria and beyond. Hapgood analyzes this map in great detail but the one fact that makes it most noteworthy is the detailed depiction of western Antarctica centuries before anyone in modern times knew the continent existed. Yet it was mapped in ancient times, free of ice, with mountains and river valleys in locations now verified with technology that can see under the ice cap.

Along with an analysis of many other ancient maps (such as those from Oronteus Finaeus, Hadji Ahmed, and Buache) which apparently demonstrate cartographic use of spherical trigonometry around the world, these

maps also show geographical details the cartographers should not have known in antiquity (at least as conventional history teaches us.) Hapgood also looks into a variety of additional scientific evidence and reaches a conclusion which was startling when he introduced the idea about 60 years ago: that the surface of the Earth is not firmly attached to the core. There are crustal displacements - pole shifts - in which the entire outer surface of the planet changes position relative to our poles of rotation and our equator. This may destroy civilization when it happens. It has happened repeatedly. Hapgood won't tell us how quickly such an event could occur, nor will he claim that Atlantis was destroyed the last time it happened. But he does clarify where several prior North Poles have been, including the last one in Hudson Bay. He suggests that western Antarctica was habitable in ancient times. He even speculates that the next pole shift may take the future North Pole to a new location near Lake Baikal in Siberia.

If Hapgood's thinking is correct (and as an author writing about related subjects, I believe it is) then we have information at our disposal which can help us make predictions about the next pole shift. Does this mean that certain prophecies might really be based on the calculations of ancient scientists who had technology and wisdom rivaling our own? Did they "know" when certain things would happen in the future? Hapgood doesn't go that far. He stuck his neck out about as far as a college professor could in the 1950s without risking his job, but Atlantis and prophecy were not respectable topics.

Readers interested in such topics, along with those Hapgood did cover in "Maps" may also appreciate books like Hancock and Bauval's "The Message of the Sphinx," Weidner and Bridges' "The Mysteries of the Great Cross of Hendaye," Michell's "The Dimensions of Paradise," Montaigne's "End Times and 2019" and de Santillana and von Dechend's "Hamlet's Mill."

Robert says

A scholarly work, with tons of references and a lot of theories. Interesting, and a must read for those who like a real mystery over the made up kind. This book is referenced itself in many other modern scholarly works, it was fun to finally read it after hearing about it so much.

Ed Arnold-berkovits says

Excellent scholarly work about the ancient maps that show the existence of Antartica *without* an ice cap. Which basically means that there was a fairly advanced civilization before the last Ice Age.

The main point of this book is that.

He doesn't delve into what civilization was, other than say it may have been Atlantis or something like that.

Reading the fiction book series, Circle of Time by Robert Jordan got me intersted in our very own lost time & civilizations.

Chris Marchan says

Key book to get wide background on pre-historic civilizations. I first saw this book when it was frequently referenced in Graham Hancock's "Underworld". Professor Hapgood did pioneering research on the lost map of Piri Reis. From Wiki: "...he supported the suggestion made by Arlington Mallery that a part of the Piri

Reis Map was a depiction of the area of Antarctica known as Queen Maud Land. He used this to propose that a 15 degree pole shift occurred around 9,600 BCE (approx. 11,600 years ago) and that a part of the Antarctic was ice-free at that time, and that an ice-age civilization could have mapped the coast." His theories definitely will make you think again about the evolution of human civilization.

Steve says

Ancient history through maps.

The maps of the Renaissance contain surprising details of Antarctica, North America etc.. clearly these maps were created from older maps, maps that showed an accuracy of longitude and global discovery and cartography that must have been passed down to the Renaissance map makers and explorers. Who were these explorers of ancient times?

Mark Muckerman says

If you have advanced degrees in cartography and trigonometry, as well as an unreasonably high tolerance for a monotonous, dry, professorial writing style, with no real story line, plot, theme or conclusion, then this is definitely the book for you. If, however, you are part of the other 99.99999% of the planet, you may consider joining me in moving this book to the top of the list if we ever re-institute book burnings. . .

That being said, I must congratulate Dr. Hapgood for making it into the hallowed halls of my "All Time Top 5 Worst Books I've Ever Read" list. If he were not already dead, I'd be sending the author a bill for my time wasted reading his vomitous abomination of pedantry and drivel. The best bit of reading in this work is the blurb on the back cover. To compliment the author: he's clearly intelligent, learned, and thorough. Since he has a Master's degree from Harvard, one would hope so. Unfortunately, his Master's degree is in Medieval History; I think the world would be a much happier place if he'd degreed in English or Writing.

To devote even one more paragraph elaborating on my profound dissatisfaction with my entire Hapgood Experience would devote more time than is worth wasting further. Plus, one paragraph is not nearly enough to fully convey the totality of misery that reading this book has imparted.

Suffice it to say, dear reader, that if you consider reading this book, reconsider. Run, run, run away as fast as you can. Gouge out your eyes or suffer a self-inflicted head injury if that's what it takes. Either would be a more pleasant experience than the read.

Meadow Frisbie says

It wasn't my kind of book. It was mostly about the mistakes in studying about latitudes and lines on map and the constant perfecting of it....ect.

Bartholomew says

A thoughtful analysis of an apparently anachronistic map. It takes some time to get to the "meat" of the theory that the title relates to, but this is not a sensationalistic book. Rather, it's more a scholarly work that- however reluctantly- advances the theory that there may have been some 'lost civilization' that drew up a map of the world far more advanced than would be expected in history until the 20th century. This map was used as a reference for many subsequent maps, one of them being the "Piri Reis" map uncovered in 1929. This will not be a book for everyone. As mentioned, it is a scholarly work, done by a history professor. This shows clearly in the text, as he goes step by step into the details of the mathematics of cartography, and dwells on the intricacies of the problems encountered by him and his colleagues of figuring out what made the map unusual for its time. That it would posit an advanced civilization in the accepted prehistory period, combined with the author's other controversial theories (for example, pole reversals) guaranteed it low mainstream exposure. There was enough interest in this book since its first printing to have reprints published; this is one of them.

Hardcore 'conspiracy' fans, alternate history fans, and open minded cartographers are encouraged to give this book a try. Casual readers will definitely be turned off by this book- unless their choice of 'casual' reading involves history textbooks.
