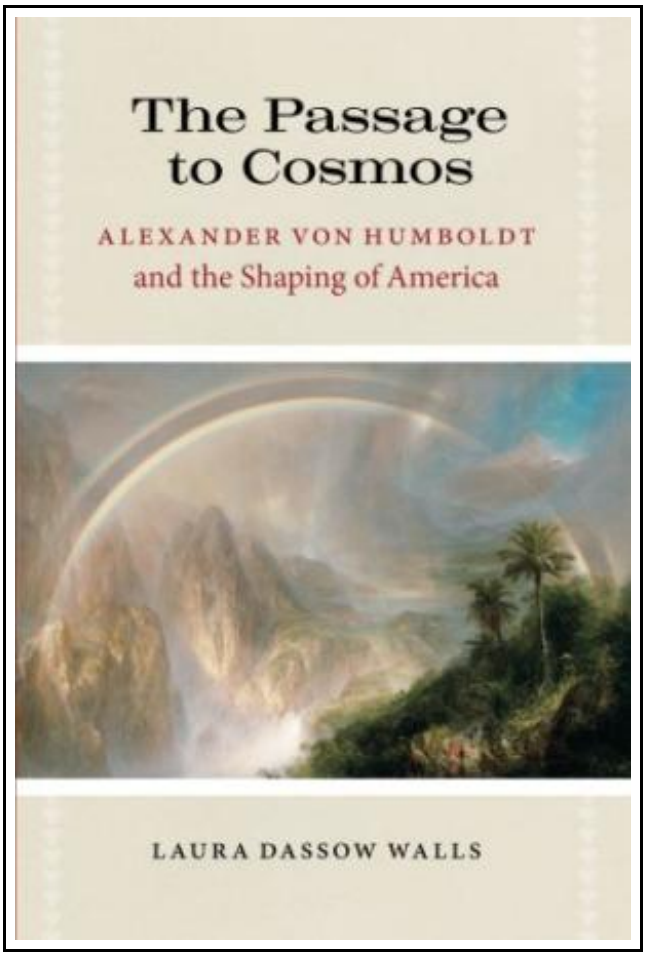
The Passage to Cosmos: Alexander Von Humboldt and the Shaping of America



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Reviews

Comprehensive manual for ebook fans. I am quite late in start reading this one, but better then never. Its been written in an exceptionally basic way and is particularly merely soon after i finished reading this publication in which really changed me, affect the way in my opinion.
(Prof. Antone Olson II)

THE PASSAGE TO COSMOS: ALEXANDER VON HUMBOLDT AND THE SHAPING OF AMERICA

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University Of Chicago Press. Paperback. Book Condition: New. Paperback. 424 pages. Dimensions: 9.0in. x 6.0in. x 1.1in.Explorer, scientist, writer, and humanist, Alexander von Humboldt was the most famous intellectual of the age that began with Napoleon and ended with Darwin. With Cosmos, the book that crowned his career, Humboldt offered to the world his vision of humans and nature as integrated halves of a single whole. In it, Humboldt espoused the idea that, while the universe of nature exists apart from human purpose, its beauty and order, the very idea of the whole it composes, are human achievements: cosmos comes into being in the dance of world and mind, subject and object, science and poetry. Humboldts science laid the foundations for ecology and inspired the theories of his most important scientific disciple, Charles Darwin. In the United States, his ideas shaped the work of Emerson, Thoreau, Poe, and Whitman. They helped spark the American environmental movement through followers like John Muir and George Perkins Marsh. And they even bolstered efforts to free the slaves and honor the rights of Indians. Laura Dassow Walls here traces Humboldts ideas for Cosmos to his 1799 journey to the Americas, where he first experienced the diversity of nature and of the worlds peoplesand envisioned a new cosmopolitanism that would link ideas, disciplines, and nations into a global web of knowledge and cultures. In reclaiming Humboldts transcultural and transdisciplinary project, Walls situates America in a lively and contested field of ideas, actions, and interests, and reaches beyond to a new worldview that integrates the natural and social sciences, the arts, and the humanities. To the end of his life, Humboldt called himself half an American, but ironically his legacy has largely faded in the United States. The Passage to Cosmos will reintroduce this seminal thinker...

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