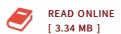




Measure of the Earth: The Enlightenment Expedition That Reshaped Our World

By Larrie D. Ferreiro

The Perseus Books Group, United States, 2013. Paperback. Book Condition: New. Reprint. 208 x 140 mm. Language: English . Brand New Book. In the 18th century, Europe s scientific community was torn between two opposing theories: Descartes argument that the Earth was spherical, and Newton s contention that it was flattened at the poles. Recognizing that the answer was the key to securely navigating the earth s oceans, France and Spain organized a joint expedition to colonial Peru. Their goal was to measure a degree of latitude at the Equator; by comparing this measurement to one taken back in Europe, they would be able to determine the planet s shape and put an end to the debate. But what seemed a straightforward scientific exercise was almost immediately marred by a series of unforeseen catastrophes: treacherous terrain, deeply suspicious locals, and the voyagers own hubris. A thrilling tale of adventure, political history, and scientific discovery, Larrie D. Ferreiro s Measure of the Earth recounts the greatest scientific expedition of the Enlightenment through the eyes of the men who completed it - pioneers who overcame tremendous adversity to traverse the towering Andes Mountains and discern the Earth s true shape.



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