

Thomas Reinertsen Berg

TO THE ENDS OF THE EARTH

A HISTORY OF SPICES



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Krydderets verdenshistorie*
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Spice is one of the most local things there is. Cinnamon bark comes from Sri Lanka. Cloves once only grew on the tiny Maluku Islands east of Indonesia. Nutmeg only existed on the volcanic Banda Islands.

Nevertheless, these rare, marvelous growths have become the most widespread commodities in world history: a source of globalization and empire building, contact and conflict, exchange and exploitation from the very oldest civilizations to the present day. Reinertsen Berg follows the strands of spices back to earth's ancient history, explaining why the unique plants grow exactly where they do and what is so special about them. He takes us to China and India, Egypt and the Roman Empire, and shows how spice plants controlled trade routes, cultural development, and economies. He illustrates the connection between spices and the Western colonization of the world from the late Middle Ages to the present day.

Once again, he has demonstrated his masterful ability to gather threads in an impressive piece that is a joy to read. The book is also spiced with a generous supply of anecdotes and literary texts.

Klassekampen



The magnificent scents of spices, delicious food and intoxicating lotions, not to mention the stench of naval battles and trade wars are rising from these pages. It's a riveting read.

Dagbladet

This is professional nonfiction storytelling at it's best.

Aftenposten

Thomas Reinertsen Berg

Reinertsen Berg is a Journalist and an Author. He was awarded The Brage Prize - best nonfiction book in Norway in 2017 - for his debut book *Theatre of the World*, the history of maps which is an international success, translated to 15 languages.

