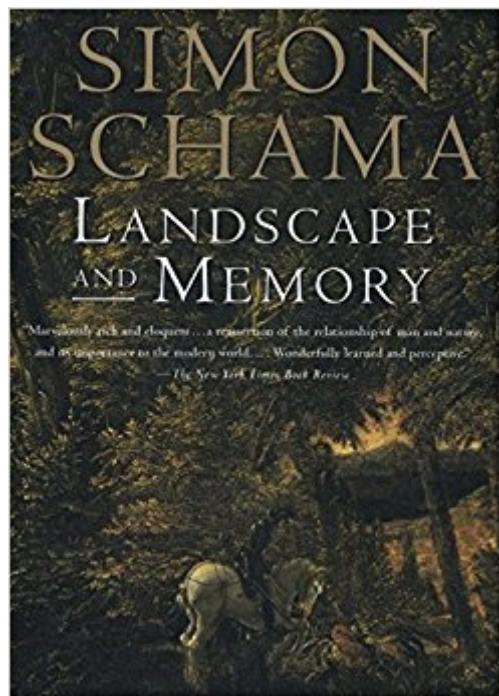


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# Landscape And Memory



## **Synopsis**

A Time Magazine Best Books of the Year. In *Landscape and Memory*, award-winning author Simon Schama ranges over continents and centuries to reveal the psychic claims that human beings have made on nature. He tells of the Nazi cult of the primeval German forest; the play of Christian and pagan myth in Bernini's Fountain of the Four Rivers; and the duel between a monumental sculptor and a feminist gadfly on the slopes of Mount Rushmore. The result is a triumphant work of history, naturalism, mythology, and art, as encyclopedic as *The Golden Bough* and as irresistibly readable as Schama's own *Citizens*. "A work of great ambition and enormous intellectual scope...consistently provocative and revealing."--*New York Times* "Extraordinary...a summary cannot convey the riches of this book. It will absorb, instruct, and fascinate."--*New York Review of Books*

## **Book Information**

Paperback: 672 pages

Publisher: Vintage; Reprint edition (November 5, 1996)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0679735127

ISBN-13: 978-0679735120

Product Dimensions: 6.6 x 1.4 x 9.2 inches

Shipping Weight: 2.4 pounds (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.2 out of 5 stars 46 customer reviews

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## **Customer Reviews**

Historian Schama explores the roles that have been played by landscapes in myth, art and culture. Copyright 1996 Reed Business Information, Inc.

Schama presents a wide-ranging meditation on the role of nature in Western civilization from ancient times to the present. The previous books by Schama (humanities, Columbia Univ.) include *The Embarassment of Riches* (LJ 5/15/87) and *Citizens* (LJ 4/1/89). In the present work, he argues persuasively that Europeans and Americans have been shaped by nature as much as they

themselves have shaped nature. Schama discusses the impact of sacred or mysterious rivers, forests, and mountains in forging the Western imagination. Individuals discussed include the expected (e.g., Henry David Thoreau) as well as some surprises (e.g., Louis XIV and Hitler). The fact that nature has had a huge impact on Western history is not a startling new revelation, but Schama is a marvelous writer and an impressive scholar. He brings together familiar and not-so-familiar stories to create a fresh reappraisal of more than 2000 years of history. Highly recommended.?T.J. Schaeper, St. Bonaventure Univ., N.Y.Copyright 1995 Reed Business Information, Inc. --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

As usually, Schama proves to be a great thinker and a great writer. Knowing that he also teaches Art History, I expected this book of his to contain his thoughts about painted landscapes.... I had to realise it is FAR from it. All about his ancestors life in the wild, rather frightening dark woods of the baltic countries. And it manages to be thrilling, so knowledgeable, and witty.!!!Shama proves again to be a great writer ....and a thrilling personality one would like to meet one day..

This is one of the challenging book I have ever written. Schama creative, complex and storied manner of telling his stories is remarkable. Relating cultural myths and icons to rocks and water and woods is remarkable and to get into each insight requires reserving you thoughts for a slow assessment is required. I spent several days on just 3 pages.

love polish woods -thank you

Insightful....

Interesting musings. Uneven. At times I was caught up in the narrative, but then he would lose me. Schama has been one of my favorites but this time he seemed to be working too hard. I did gain a few new insights and usually shared his mood.

Very good book!

Fantastic read

This is one of the best book I ever read. It tells history as it were a novel where every little detail

hidden in the landscape throughout the world becomes a main actor of a plot. It's like sketching with words. It tells how intriguing is to look at, really to look at, even when it seems there's nothing to look at. Antropic landscape and nature are the two superheroes that play kind of a classic drama.

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