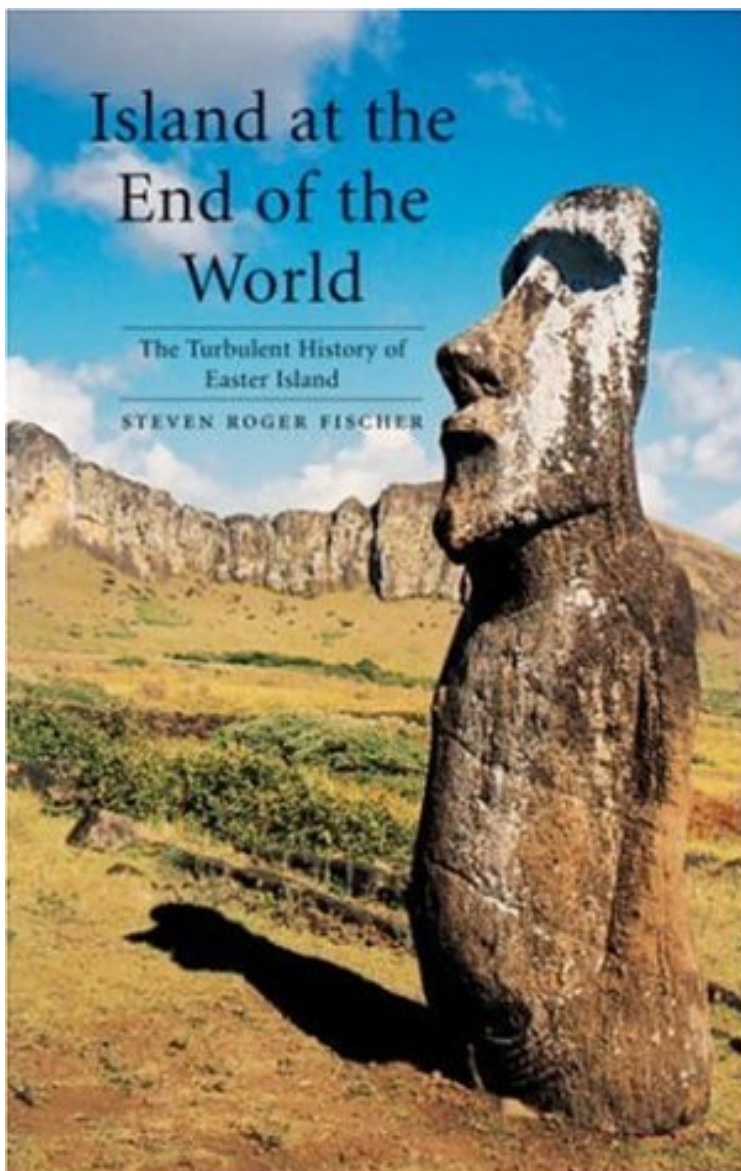


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Island at the End of the World: The Turbulent History of Easter Island

Steven Roger Fischer

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Steven Roger Fischer : Island at the End of the World: The Turbulent History of Easter Island before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Island at the End of the World: The Turbulent History of Easter Island:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. unusualBy s. bergera bit off the beaten path, just like the island itself. For the casual reader it is a bit long winded, but nonetheless interesting. For those planning a trip there, I would say it is useful if you want to know about the history and development of the island. Many interesting facts. For example, did you know what the statues are called? Also, less well known is the role the island had in the development of immunosuppressive drugs. The island is known as Rapa Nui to the natives and from the soil was isolated a compound that was eventually called rapamycin, used to prevent transplant rejection in humans, and mTOR inhibitors [mammalian target of rapamycin] used in cancer chemotherapy.0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Perfect Overview - Read this first!By John McLaurinIf you are planning a trip or just interested in Rapa Nui, this book by Roger Fischer is a great overview of all the historical research, presented in an easy to follow format. You really will not be able to put it down as the islands history is fascinating, and sad. You keep hoping for a happy ending...Very well documented if you would like to follow up on a particular thread.0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Informative and thoughtfulBy MikeVery informative, the book went through the whole history. I enjoyed it.

On a long stretch of green coast in the South Pacific, hundreds of enormous, impassive stone heads stand guard against the ravages of time, war, and disease that have attempted over the centuries to conquer Easter Island. Steven Roger Fischer offers the first English-language history of Easter Island in *Island at the End of the World*, a fascinating chronicle of adversity, triumph, and the enduring monumentality of the island's stone guards. A small canoe with Polynesians brought the first humans to Easter Island in 700 CE, and when boat travel in the South Pacific drastically decreased around 1500, the Easter Islanders were forced to adapt in order to survive their isolation. Adaptation, Fischer asserts, was a continuous thread in the life of Easter Island: the first European visitors, who viewed the awe-inspiring monolithic busts in 1722, set off hundreds of years of violent warfare, trade, and disease from the smallpox, wars, and Great Death that decimated the island to the late nineteenth-century Catholic missionaries who tried to "save" it to a despotic Frenchman who declared sole claim of the island and was soon killed by the remaining 111 islanders. The rituals, leaders, and religions of the Easter Islanders evolved with all of these events, and Fischer is just as attentive to the island's cultural developments as he is to its foreign invasions. Bringing his history into the modern era, Fischer examines the colonization and annexation of Easter Island by Chile, including the Rapanui people's push for civil rights in 1964 and 1965, by which they gained full citizenship and freedom of movement on the island. As travel to and interest in the island rapidly expand, *Island at the End of the World* is an essential history of this mysterious site.

"Many books about Easter Island are superficial fluff. . . . There is no such flummery in Steven Fischer's new book. As befits the head of the Institute of Polynesian Languages and Literatures in Auckland, New Zealand, he has produced a scholarly and readable account of the island's turbulent history. . . . Mr Fischer tells this long and complicated tale clearly, precisely and sympathetically. . . . A fascinating and highly readable history of one of the most exotic islands on earth."--*The Economist*
About the Author Steven Roger Fischer is director of the Institute of Polynesian Languages and Literatures in Auckland, New Zealand. He is the author of *A History of Language*, *A History of Writing*, and *A History of Reading*, all available from Reaktion Books.