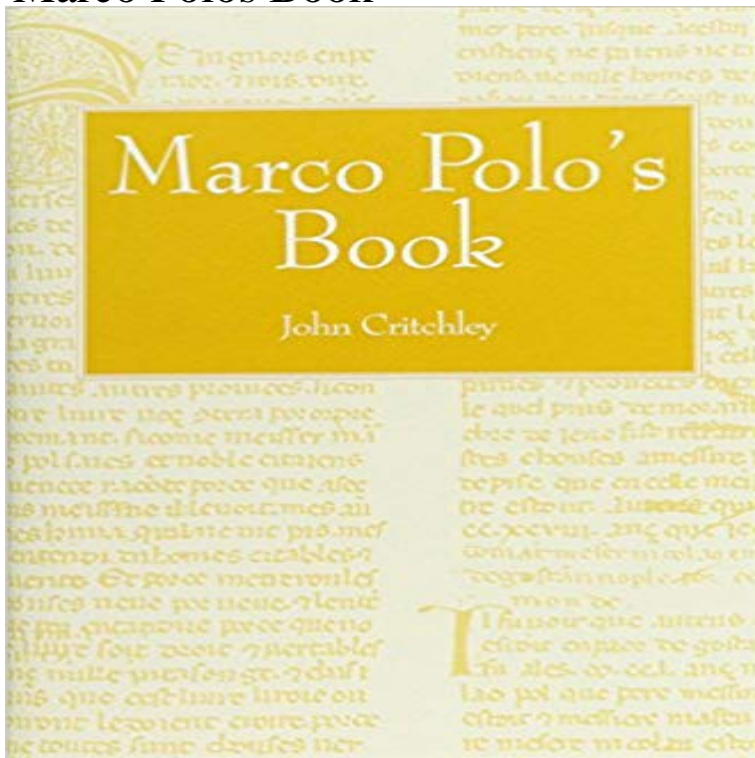


Marco Polos Book



Marco Polo and his book may seem to have been well served by scholars, yet the majority have been concerned to write about his travels in Asia, what he did or did not see, and how useful he is as a source on the East. John Critchley's subject, on the other hand, is the text of Polo's book itself and the political and ideological context: the crusades, the Mongol missions, the French presence in Italy in which it was put together by its author(s), and read by its audience. The homogeneity of the original Franco-Italian text and the accepted relationship between this text and the Latin recensions is tested by computer analysis. An examination of vocabulary and other textual features draws out the different attitudes and contributions of Polo himself and his various editors and translators. Critchley's book will be of interest not only to those concerned with the history of later medieval Europe but also to specialists in medieval Asia, who will find it useful to know about the background and composition of so famous and frequently cited a work. One might think that Marco Polo and his book have been amply treated by specialists in the matter, but Critchley's book, especially in its treatment of the text of Polo's book, is a welcome addition to the literature on the subject. The book is written in a clear and concise style, and is well illustrated with maps and photographs. It is a valuable contribution to the study of Marco Polo and his book.

entre Polo lui-même et ses divers Aditeurs et traducteurs. Les travaux de John Critchley intAressera non seulement les personnes portAes sur lahistoire de laEurope mAdiAvale, mais aussi les spAcialistes de laAsie durant la mA?me pAriode, qui trouveront ici nombre dainformations utiles quant au contexte et A la composition daun ouvrage cAIA?bre et si frAquemment citA.

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