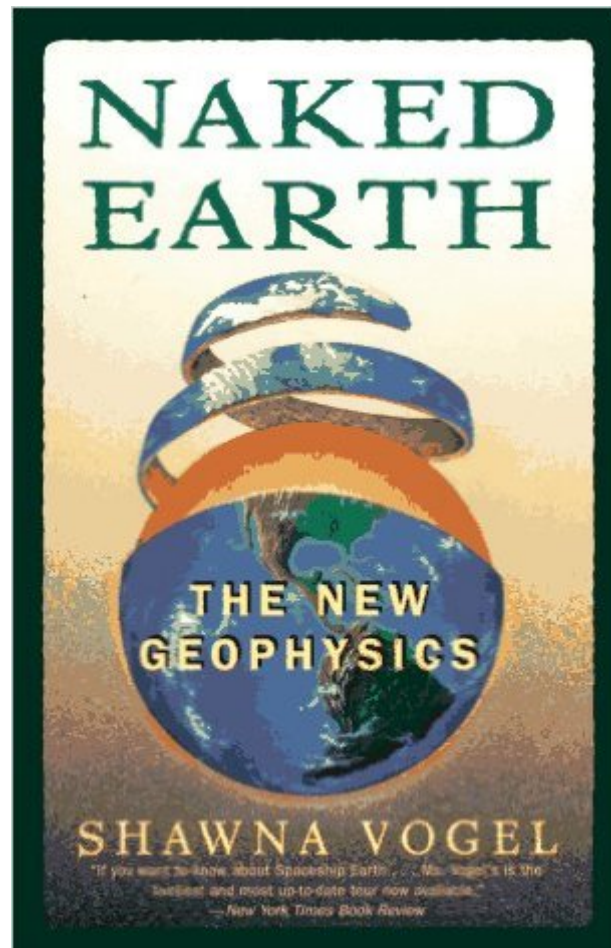


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Naked Earth ~ The New Geophysics



Synopsis

From the Earth's hyper-compressed core to the places where the planet's energy bursts through its fragile crust, *Naked Earth* provides readers with new understanding of ancient mysteries and the latest in geophysical hypothesis. "Top-notch science journalism."--Publishers Weekly, starred review. First serial to Earth.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Naked Earth is a comprehensive overview of geophysics, presented in a compact 208 pages. Vogel accomplishes this feat with concise, to-the-point prose. Yet she manages to cover all the major aspects of the field: the historical development of earth science, its major theories, and the personalities and conflicts of its developers. The level of detail given is not exhaustive, but thorough. The interior structure of the Earth was first explored via seismology. Vogel describes how the temperatures and densities of the various strata were mapped with the so-called p-waves and s-waves produced by seismic events (also by nuclear weapons tests). This gave the early geophysicists the current conception of the earth's division into crust, mantle, and core. She goes on to explain how this led to the notions of tectonic plates, earthquakes, continental drift, sea-floor spreading, magma convection within the mantle, and magma plumes. Her constant emphasis throughout the book concerns the ceaseless interactions between the various components of the earth's crust, mantle, and core, and the dynamics of the solid earth with its oceans, atmosphere, and magnetosphere. The book concludes with the place of the earth in the solar system, as a target for asteroids and comets. Throughout the book the scientific process is given due attention. Vogel

explains how key ideas led to the development of further key ideas mainly by the patient aggregation of geological evidence; she makes the point that nearly nothing known in geophysics came about by some "breakthrough discovery". She also explains how the field's development was retarded at times because scientists had "crazy ideas" that they were afraid would damage their careers if made known, but which turned out to be entirely correct.

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