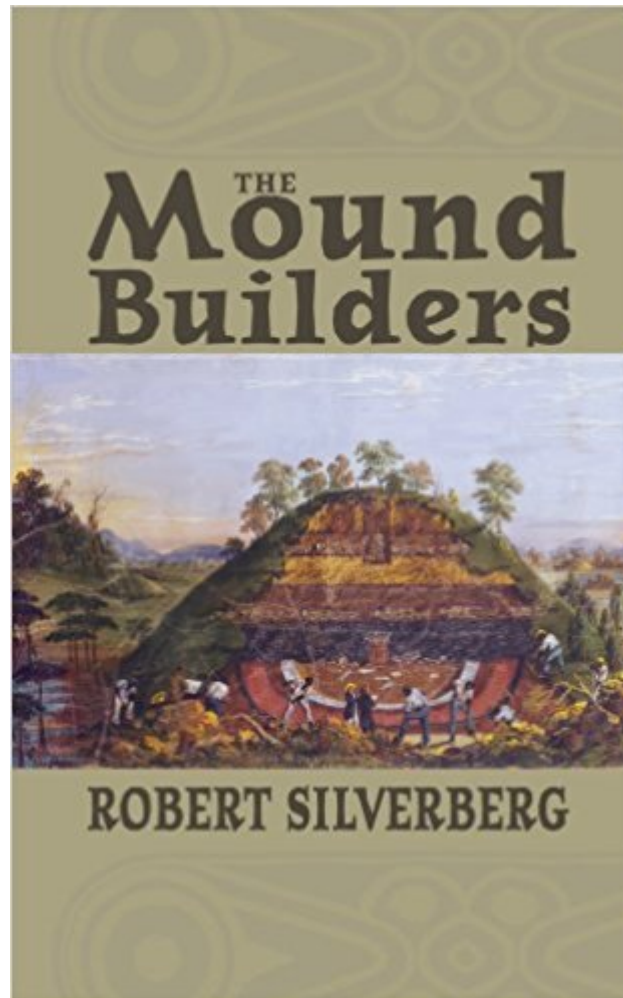




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Mound Builders



Synopsis

In Illinois, the one-hundred-foot Cahokia Mound spreads impressively across sixteen acres, and as many as ten thousand more mounds dot the Ohio River Valley alone. The Mound Builders traces the speculation surrounding these monuments and the scientific excavations which uncovered the history and culture of the ancient Americans who built them. The mounds were constructed for religious and secular purposes some time between 1000 B.C. and 1000 A.D., and they have prompted curiosity and speculation from very early times. European settlers found them evidence of some ancient and glorious people. Even as eminent an American as Thomas Jefferson joined the controversy, though his conclusions—that the mounds were actually cemeteries of ancient Indians—remained unpopular for nearly a century. Only in the late 19th century, as Smithsonian Institution investigators developed careful methodologies and reliable records, did the period of scientific investigation of the mounds and their builders begin. Silverberg follows these excavations and then recounts the story they revealed of the origins, development, and demise of the mound builder culture.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

This is an excellent book full of history that I never knew about. It is well written and has a chronological order from the very first records of Europeans encountering mounds in Florida as they searched for cities of gold like they encountered in Central America, to our current understanding of a vast network of an advanced civilization spread out throughout most of what is now the United

States east of the Rockies. It does get a little repetitive in the sense that it presents a theory of the mounds and then proves how it was wrong, over and over. I sometimes felt I just wanted to know the CURRENT theory, and then go back to the ones that were proven untrue. However, this is not a big deal. If you want to learn something about history new that most people have no idea ever happened, give this book a read!

Very well written but a good amount of the information is now somewhat in doubt as more research has turned up to cast more light on the lives of these older Americans. It is a good easily read first impression of the Mound Builders and early explorers and pioneers who tried to understand who and why they were built.

A wonderful review of a complex subject. Part of the renaissance of new world archaeology! So much we don't know

Very well done synopsis of history. Appreciated putting each phase into juxtaposition. Found lengthy description of early explorers a bit too detailed

This is a concise work, well done, regarding mound building in America. It provided me with the answers I was searching for on this topic. I highly recommend it for the beginner to understand this subject.

This is actually a great little book and a handy reference that is much more open-minded than might seem at first glance, despite the suspicions or even objections of some. Sure, Silverberg obviously feels the heat from the nagging, sagging conspiratorial dogma of the Establishment, or what might simply be called "pre-meditated history"

Silverberg reviews the history of the mound builders from the beginning, including all of the debates, controversies and bizarre fantasies that arose around the mounds. Mormons hate this book because it shows how their beliefs were based on fantasies. It sounds like some of their reviewers never read this book. It is sad that so many mounds have been lost and destroyed, they showed that that Indians weren't hapless primitives. Just as sad is the Mormon revisionists holding on to outlandish and unsupportable theories.

Kool

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