Mapping Paradise: A History Of Heaven On Earth

Alessandro Scafi

Mapping paradise: a history of heaven on earth / Alessandro Scafi. Alessandro Scafi’s fascinating account looks at the perception of world geography and the place of paradise within that. Central to this discussion are the key concepts of heaven on earth, which are explored in depth. The book covers the history of paradise on earth and its evolution through various cultural and religious contexts.

In the early Christian period, the Garden of Eden became a paradise on earth, situated in the Middle East. Later, medieval mappae mundi placed Paradise at the center of the world. In modern society, concepts like "Eden" and "the terrestrial paradise" are most familiar either as metaphors or as hyperbolic advertising motifs. But for more than two millennia, humans have searched for paradise.

The book is divided into several parts, each focusing on different aspects of paradise on earth. The first part explores the historical and geographical context of paradise, while the second part examines the philosophical and religious implications of the concept. The concluding chapter discusses the contemporary relevance of paradise on earth in a globalized world.

The book is richly illustrated with maps and images, and includes a comprehensive bibliography and index. It is an essential resource for scholars of cartography, history, and culture, as well as anyone interested in the history of paradise on earth.