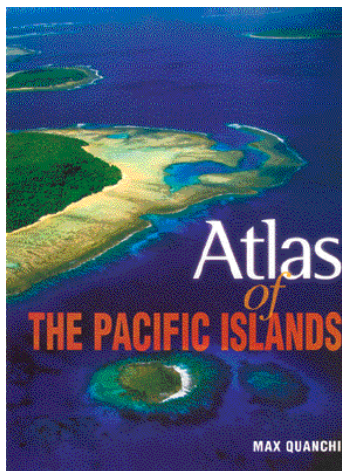


PACIFIC CENTER BOOK REVIEW

By Patricia von Oelhoffen



Atlas of the Pacific Islands by Max Quanchi (Honolulu, HI: Bess Press, 2003). This exceptional new atlas will capture and hold your attention from beginning to end. An excellent resource for home or classroom, it provides current detailed information on Pacific island history, political status, and economics, as well as

climate, geology, and the environment. Text is accompanied by high-quality illustrations, which include topographic and thematic maps, block diagrams, satellite images, and aerial photography.

The Pacific section opens with an overview of the entire region. More detailed treatment of each entity follows. The profile on CNMI and Guam includes a case study of the ocean floor and the Hawai'i pages feature information about Mauna Loa, the world's largest active volcano. The formation and impact of tropical cyclones are highlighted in the pages on Samoa, while the profile on the Marshall Islands describes the long-term effects of nuclear testing on Bikini Atoll and the resulting displacement of native islanders.

Author Max Quanchi has taught Pacific island history at the university level since 1973.

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