

# The Worldmakers: Global Imagining in Early Modern Europe

Ayesha Ramachandran



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## The Worldmakers: Global Imagining in Early Modern Europe

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**The Worldmakers: Global Imagining in Early Modern Europe** Ayesha Ramachandran In this beautifully conceived book, Ayesha Ramachandran reconstructs the imaginative struggles of early modern artists, philosophers, and writers to make sense of something that we take for granted: the world, imagined as a whole. Once a new, exciting, and frightening concept, "the world" was transformed in the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries. But how could one envision something that no one had ever seen in its totality?

*The Worldmakers* moves beyond histories of globalization to explore how "the world" itself—variously understood as an object of inquiry, a comprehensive category, and a system of order—was self-consciously shaped by human agents. Gathering an international cast of characters, from Dutch cartographers and French philosophers to Portuguese and English poets, Ramachandran describes a history of firsts: the first world atlas, the first global epic, the first modern attempt to develop a systematic natural philosophy—all part of an effort by early modern thinkers to capture "the world" on the page.

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