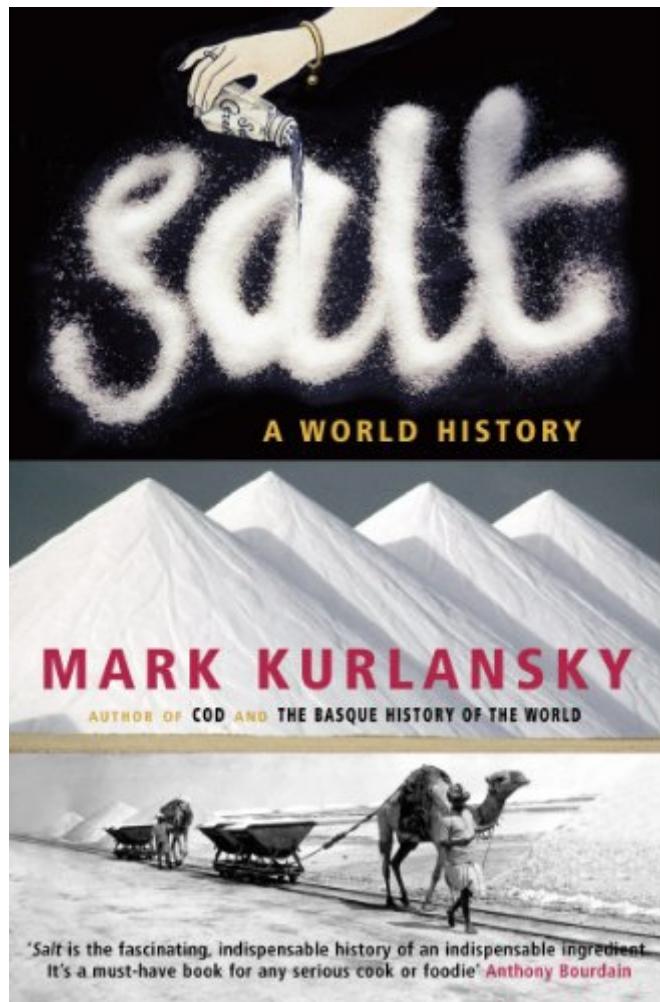


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# Salt



## **Synopsis**

Homer called it a divine substance. Plato described it as especially dear to the gods. As Mark Kurlansky so brilliantly relates here, salt has shaped civilisation from the beginning, and its story is a glittering, often surprising part of the history of mankind. Wars have been fought over salt and, while salt taxes secured empires across Europe and Asia, they have also inspired revolution - Gandhi's salt march in 1930 began the overthrow of British rule in India. From the rural Sichuan province where the last home-made soya sauce is produced to the Cheshire brine springs that supplied salt around the globe, Mark Kurlansky has produced a kaleidoscope of world history, a multi-layered masterpiece that blends political, commercial, scientific, religious and culinary records into a rich and memorable tale.

## **Book Information**

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## **Customer Reviews**

I've wanted to read this book for quite some time as I love salt. However, I feel like the author had a page requirement and thus wrote about salt and anything remotely related to salt. There are pages and pages and more pages about salted fish. I never want to hear about salted fish again (unless

it's lox, which is apparently saltier than Nova, according to the author!)

I originally checked out this book from the library but I enjoyed it so much I purchased a copy for my home library. Up until about 50 years ago salt and its production, distribution and control had a lot to do with politics and the success of Nations. An absolutely fascinating read, check it out!

While a bit too detailed at times for my personal tastes, it is a fascinating tour of the history and impact of salt on the world. I had no idea that salt had such an impact on the history of the world, and on specific world events including the Revolutionary War in the US and India's independence from the UK.

"Salt: A World History," is an interesting work which views world history through the paradigm of salt. Although the topic may seem somewhat dry on the surface, Kurlansky illuminates the topic with a variety of examples of how salt has been at the center of the development of human society, trade, and history. The book sometimes tilts slightly more to the academic side (particularly towards anthropology and history), but it is to be expected, given the subject matter. Personally, I think the topic is a little too broad and that's probably why the book seems slightly disjointed at times, jumping from China, to Egypt, to Europe, the Americas and even some pre-history. The book overall is worth reading, but don't say I didn't warn you that from time to time you may begin to nod off when reading certain passages. One thing I did like about this work was the fact that Kurlansky included detailed recipes and detailed source material in the book. It's interesting to read them and realize how in some ways, little has changed over the passage of the past five-hundred years in relation to the preparation of certain food items.

I had no idea the impact Salt had on the world prior to refrigeration. Really interesting. I didn't find it a slow read at all as some suggested. I love historical non-fiction, especially reading the "fringe" parts that no one really mentions in other historical books.

A truly amazing read...This book was filled with a virtual gold mine of information about mankind and its quest for salt. The book gives one a richer and more understandable view of how our species developed.

I found this book to be fascinating. I didn't think it would be as interesting as it turned out to be. That

someone can write the history of salt and cause it to be thought-provoking and historically inviting is a credit to the author.

This book is a fantastic read! This common seasoning has had a profound effect on the history of the world! You will read this book from cover to cover and be amazed! It is truly a fun and insightful read! Read this book!!!!

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