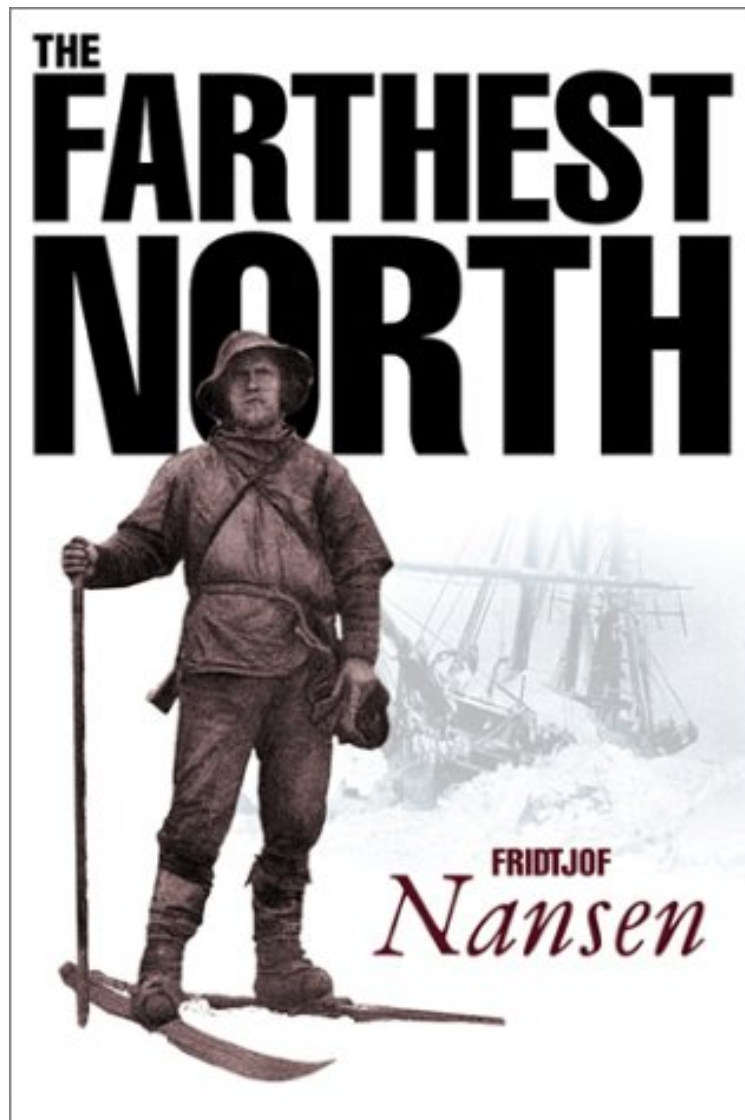


[Download ebook] Farthest North: The Voyage and Exploration of the Fram 1893-96

## Farthest North: The Voyage and Exploration of the Fram 1893-96

*Fridtjof Nansen*

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**Fridtjof Nansen : Farthest North: The Voyage and Exploration of the Fram 1893-96** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Farthest North: The Voyage and Exploration of the Fram 1893-96:

4 of 5 people found the following review helpful. Thirteen Norwegians and One AccordionBy Jana C. Hollingsworth"Being the Record of a Voyage of Exploration of the Ship Fram 1893-96 and of a Fifteen Months' Sleigh Journey by Dr. Nansen and Lieut. Johansen ... with an Appendix by Otto Sverdrup, Captain of the Fram".A crew of thirteen Norwegians holds up quite nicely, thank you, under the physical and psychological stresses of three

years frozen into the Arctic icepack. Polar bear hunting, "snow-shoeing" (i.e. skiing), regular scientific data-taking, and plenty of good Norwegian food carry them safely through. With their other accomplishments, the crew of the Fram also holds the honor of celebrating the Seventeenth of May (Norwegian Constitution Day) three times at latitudes above 80 degrees-- complete with procession, band (i.e. one accordionist), speeches, and a banner supporting Universal Suffrage. Dr. Nansen waxes rapturous over the Northern Lights and philosophical over his bouts of homesickness and depression. He even manages to sound faintly convincing about how their scientific research on the polar basin is far more important than reaching the actual North Pole (which he soon realizes the Fram is not going to do). Nansen's philosophy as an explorer is that if you plan things properly you shouldn't have adventures. He breaks his own rule at one point (reaching the Pole really DOES matter) and has an adventure of his own, but on the whole the Arctic Drift of the Fram shows the soundness of the practical Norwegian approach to exploration.

In 1893 Fridtjof Nansen set off on one of the greatest journeys of exploration ever undertaken. The remarkable three-year project involved building a special ship, designed to ride out the savage pressure of the ice, to sail round the north of Russia into the Kara and Laptev Seas and then, using his intuition as to arctic currents, deliberately freeze the ship into the ice to drift towards the North Pole. From the drifting ship, Nansen and one of his men would then, using dog teams, make the last assault towards the North Pole across the pack. Characterised by Nansen's restless and endless innovation, the expedition was to be another in the litany of heroic failures. But its advances in technique, the sheer willpower that drove Nansen and Johansen, first north from the Fram and then south across the melting pack to the uncharted mass of Franz Josef Land, using sledge and kayak, under assault from walrus and polar bear and above all the temperamental and endlessly changing ice, was to light a fire of inspiration that later carried men to both North and South Pole. The first edition of *Farthest North* sold 40,000 copies in English on publication. One of its reviewers puts it best: 'Two things were very prominent. One was the indomitable faith of the man in himself, and the other the unanimity with which most of the best authorities believed he was going to a living grave.' Nansen had '...made the most conspicuous advance towards the Pole that has ever been made, and almost as great an advance as has been accomplished by all other voyages in the nineteenth century put together...He is a Man in a Million.' This is the only complete edition in English.

'We are like tiny dwarfs in a struggle with Titans; one must save oneself with cunning and ingenuity if one is to escape from this giant fist that rarely lets go what it has once seized.' - Nansen in the ice

About the Author Born in 1861, Fridtjof Nansen was one of the greatest figures of his age and a Norwegian national hero, particularly after the epic voyage of the Fram to the Arctic. He inspired directly other explorers such as Scott, Amundsen and Shackleton, although his achievements ranged far beyond the fields of exploration. He was one of the founders of neurology, a crucial figure in the Norwegian achievement of independence and Norway's first ambassador to London. Through his force personality he played a crucial role in repatriating hundreds of thousands of prisoners at the end of the First World War, and, in undertaking famine relief in Russia, dealt directly with Lenin, Trotsky and Stalin. His role in the new League of Nations was vital in establishing the organization's international credibility. He died in 1930.