



## The Passage to Cosmos: Alexander Von Humboldt and the Shaping of America

---

By Laura Dassow Walls

University Of Chicago Press. Paperback. Book Condition: New. Paperback. 424 pages. Dimensions: 9.0in. x 6.0in. x 1.1in. Explorer, scientist, writer, and humanist, Alexander von Humboldt was the most famous intellectual of the age that began with Napoleon and ended with Darwin. With *Cosmos*, the book that crowned his career, Humboldt offered to the world his vision of humans and nature as integrated halves of a single whole. In it, Humboldt espoused the idea that, while the universe of nature exists apart from human purpose, its beauty and order, the very idea of the whole it composes, are human achievements: cosmos comes into being in the dance of world and mind, subject and object, science and poetry. Humboldt's science laid the foundations for ecology and inspired the theories of his most important scientific disciple, Charles Darwin. In the United States, his ideas shaped the work of Emerson, Thoreau, Poe, and Whitman. They helped spark the American environmental movement through followers like John Muir and George Perkins Marsh. And they even bolstered efforts to free the slaves and honor the rights of Indians. Laura Dassow Walls here traces Humboldt's ideas for *Cosmos* to his 1799 journey to the Americas, where he first experienced...



**READ ONLINE**  
[ 2.18 MB ]

### Reviews

*This is the finest book i have got study till now. It usually does not price a lot of. I found out this publication from my i and dad encouraged this book to understand.*

-- **Jamil Collins**

*Absolutely among the best book I have possibly go through. I have go through and that i am certain that i am going to gonna read through once again again in the future. I am just delighted to tell you that this is basically the finest book i have got go through within my personal existence and could be he finest book for ever.*

-- **Brian Bauch**