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Our Commonplaces

A Geography of the Contemporary World

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This playful and inventive work of geography invites us to rediscover the world and the way we live in it.

When it comes to geography, most people only have a few rudimentary notions. But geography gets at the heart of the countless different ways in which we inhabit the world. From suburban houses to Airbnb apartments, schoolyards to superstores, voting booths to Instagram, these ordinary and exceptional places reflect the social, cultural, and political transformations of our contemporary world.

A crew of more than one hundred geographers, historians, anthropologists, sociologists, and novelists welcome readers to embark on an unusual and fascinating voyage around the globe. Together, they put in stops along the way at our "commonplaces", from the most ordinary to the most inaccessible.