

# The Geography of Genius: A Search for the World's Most Creative Places from Ancient Athens to Silicon Valley

By Eric Weiner

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Tag along on this *New York Times* bestselling “witty, entertaining romp” (*The New York Times Book Review*) as Eric Weiner travels the world, from Athens to Silicon Valley—and back through history, too—to show how creative genius flourishes in specific places at specific times.

In this “intellectual odyssey, traveler’s diary, and comic novel all rolled into one” (Daniel Gilbert, author of *Stumbling on Happiness*), acclaimed travel writer Weiner sets out to examine the connection between our surroundings and our most innovative ideas. A “superb travel guide: funny, knowledgeable, and self-deprecating” (*The Washington Post*), he explores the history of places like Vienna of 1900, Renaissance Florence, ancient Athens, Song Dynasty Hangzhou, and Silicon Valley to show how certain urban settings are conducive to ingenuity. With his trademark insightful humor, this “big-hearted humanist” (*The Wall Street Journal*) walks the same paths as the geniuses who flourished in these settings to see if the spirit of what inspired figures like Socrates, Michelangelo, and Leonardo remains. In these places, Weiner asks, “What was in the air, and can we bottle it?”

“Fun and thought provoking” (*Miami Herald*), *The Geography of Genius* reevaluates the importance of culture in nurturing creativity and “offers a practical map for how we can all become a bit more inventive” (Adam Grant, author of *Originals*).

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### Editorial Review

Amazon.com Review

**An Amazon Best Book of January 2016:** Eric Weiner's first book, *The Geography of Bliss*, found him in search of the happiest places on Earth. Now, in *The Geography of Genius*, he looks for creative hotbeds where geniuses from Socrates to Steve Jobs thrived, and asks why. Moreover, why do these hotbeds eventually fizzle? The book—an irreverent and surprisingly entertaining blend of historical biography, travel essay, and sociological study—centers around this quote by Plato: “What is honored in a country will be cultivated there,” be it intellectual discourse, art, music, literature, or life-altering gadgets like the iPhone. In the process of determining the conditions by which golden ages of genius happened when and where they did, Weiner also uncovers intriguing anecdotes that serve to illuminate and humanize god-like “characters” like Michelangelo, Beethoven, and Freud. He likewise stumbles upon answers to compelling questions like, why does genius seem like such a boy’s club? I am one of those people who dog-ear pages that contain things I find particularly interesting, and few pages of this book remained intact. There are enough fascinating and fun factoids in *The Geography of Genius* to keep you supplied at cocktail parties and around water coolers for years. But aside from that, it documents a moving quest that wasn’t undertaken just to satisfy a journalist’s curiosity. Weiner is a father and while it’s supposedly “too late for him,” his young daughter can still reap the lessons he learned from his travels, from defining genius, and apply them to her life. I would argue it isn’t too late for any of us. —*Erin Kodicek*

Review

"A witty, entertaining romp. Weiner's vivid descriptions of modern-day life in each locale make the spots feel like must-visit destinations."

— *The New York Times Book Review*

"There are some writers whose company is worth keeping, whatever the subject... And Mr. Weiner is blessed with this gift. He is a prober and questioner, a big-hearted humanist who will always take a colorful, contradictory reality over some unfounded certainty."

— *Wall Street Journal*

"A global odyssey that seeks to discover why geniuses gather in certain places during certain eras and why these hot spots burn out, often after a half-century of grand achievements. Weiner is a superb travel guide: funny, knowledgeable, self-deprecating and always up for sharing a bottle of wine."

— *Washington Post*

"*The Geography of Genius* is witty, informative, and compulsively readable. Whether you're getting genius tips from Freud in Vienna or hearing the secrets of high-tech powerhouses in Silicon Valley, you'll emerge smarter after reading this delightful travelogue of ingenuity."

— **Daniel H. Pink, bestselling author of *To Sell Is Human and Drive***

"It's rare to read a book that makes you laugh and learn, but Eric Weiner has done it again. This witty, wise explorer offers fascinating insights on how culture has inspired creativity across the ages—ripe for chats at water coolers and cocktail parties—and offers a practical map for how we can all become a bit more inventive."

— **Adam Grant, Wharton professor and bestselling author of *Give and Take* and *Originals***

"Eric Weiner has single-handedly invented a new nonfiction genre in which a brilliant and hilarious writer leaves his home and family to circle the globe in search of the answer to a timeless question. *The Geography of Genius* is an intellectual odyssey, a traveler's diary, and a comic novel all rolled into one. Smart, original, and utterly delightful, this is Weiner's best book yet."

— **Daniel Gilbert, Harvard professor and bestselling author of *Stumbling on Happiness***

"An entertaining and thought-provoking book, a combination of history and travelogue... Part of the book's charm stems from the pure joy of experiencing these places alongside a narrator like Weiner... His wry wit shines through as he drinks sublime tea in China and contemplates a coffin collar in an Edinburgh museum; as he interviews figures such as Jack Ma, a Hangzhou native who founded multibillion dollar company Alibaba; and as he wanders the Ringstrasse of Vienna and the strip malls of Silicon Valley, pondering the conditions that lead to genius."

— ***Christian Science Monitor***

"Why do certain places produce a spontaneous eruption of creativity? What made Athens and Florence and Silicon Valley? This witty and fun book has an insight in every paragraph. It's a charming mix of history and wisdom cloaked as a rollicking travelogue filled with colorful characters."

— **Walter Isaacson, bestselling author of *The Innovators* and *Steve Jobs***

"Weiner is an affable tour guide and a lively, witty writer in the style of Bill Bryson; the connections he makes between places of genius are sharp and sometime unexpected."

— ***Booklist***

"Informative and dryly witty, Weiner's odyssey is both an insightful examination of genius and a call to readers to explore their own untapped creative resources."

— ***Shelf Awareness* (starred review)**

"Fun and thought provoking."

— ***Miami Herald***

"Weiner illustrates the power that culture and location can lend to creative efforts. Using a series of well-crafted travel essays the author propels readers across the globe... A welcome read for lovers of geography, history of geography, historical travel, travelogues, and the history of science."

— ***Library Journal* (starred review)**

"Well read, thoughtful and above all curious, Weiner invites the reader to explore a satisfying take on a meaningful topic while also enjoying daily pleasures in cities around the world."

— **BookPage.com**

"In the genial style of Bill Bryson, Weiner scouts the world looking for places that have spawned geniuses."

— ***Kirkus Reviews***

#### About the Author

Eric Weiner is author of the *New York Times* bestsellers *The Geography of Genius* and *The Geography of Bliss*, which has been translated into twenty languages, as well as the critically acclaimed *Man Seeks God*. A former correspondent for NPR and *The New York Times*, Weiner's work has appeared in the *New Republic*, *Slate*, *Los Angeles Times*, *The Washington Post*, *Foreign Policy*, *The New York Times Magazine*, and the

anthology *Best American Travel Writing*. Visit [EricWeinerBooks.com](http://EricWeinerBooks.com)

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#### **Roy Christy:**

Reading a guide tends to be new life style in this era globalization. With reading through you can get a lot of information that may give you benefit in your life. With book everyone in this world can easily share their idea. Publications can also inspire a lot of people. Plenty of author can inspire their particular reader with their story as well as their experience. Not only the storyline that share in the books. But also they write about advantage about something that you need example. How to get the good score toefl, or how to teach your kids, there are many kinds of book that you can get now. The authors on earth always try to improve their skill in writing, they also doing some investigation before they write to their book. One of them is this *The Geography of Genius: A Search for the World's Most Creative Places from Ancient Athens to Silicon Valley*.

#### **Eva Dawson:**

The book untitled *The Geography of Genius: A Search for the World's Most Creative Places from Ancient Athens to Silicon Valley* contain a lot of information on that. The writer explains your ex idea with easy way. The language is very clear to see all the people, so do not really worry, you can easy to read the idea. The book was written by famous author. The author provides you in the new age of literary works. You can actually read this book because you can read on your smart phone, or product, so you can read the book throughout anywhere and anytime. In a situation you wish to purchase the e-book, you can open up their official web-site and order it. Have a nice study.

#### **Myrta Bundy:**

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