

Ellen Krefting  
Gard Paulsen

# The Ocean – A History of Ideas

## Havet – En idéhistorie

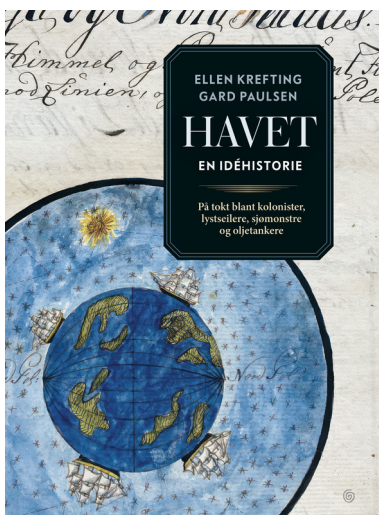
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Covering centuries of maritime history and stretching into today's debates about ocean exploitation and protection, *The Ocean – A History of Ideas* is both a cultural odyssey and a timely reflection: Do we truly control the ocean — or will it always elude our grasp?

The ocean has always held a unique fascination. It has been seen as both a force of danger and a source of riches, a free passage and a contested space. In this richly illustrated volume, historians of ideas Ellen Krefting and Gard Paulsen explore how humans have lived with, understood, imagined, exploited, and tried to control the ocean throughout history.

The book takes readers on a voyage among sea monsters and apocalyptic floods, slave ships and pirates of the triangular trade, legendary shipwrecks, Hanseatic merchants, whalers, and marine surveyors. We encounter the sea as a symbol of freedom for adventurers, as well as a field of inquiry for scientists.

A magnificent and thought-provoking illustrated work on the ocean's significance through the centuries.



'It inspires a desire to plunge in— if not into the sea itself, then certainly into the ideas and imaginings that surround it. Krefting and Paulsen demonstrate that deep, expansive knowledge of the subject can sit beautifully alongside graceful, engaging prose.'

Morgenbladet

'A masterpiece of intellectual history, rich in visual material and abundant in insights of all kinds.'

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'[...] succeeds in conveying research with a sense of storytelling [...] The book also offers a generous selection of drawings, paintings, photographs and—last but not least—sea charts. In this way, the



Photo: Agnete Brun

Ellen Krefting is a Professor of History of Ideas at the University of Oslo. She has published several books on history of ideas, including *Literary Citizenship in Scandinavia in the Long Eighteenth Century*.

Gard Paulsen is a Historian and Researcher. He has published several books on the history of technology and science, such as *Always Rabid* and *Building Trust*.

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book becomes a magnificent work of  
art.'

Klassekampen