

*Gulliver's Travels* is a difficult book for us to understand for it challenges many of the basic assumptions of our lives. It challenges science and our faith in reason and the natural goodness of man. It is unsympathetic to an economic system based upon finance and technology and, while it extols human freedom, its analysis of the source of that freedom (and the dangers to it) is considerably different from what our analysis would be. That is why *Gulliver's Travels* is so important a book for us today. We live in the modern world and are struggling with unprecedented problems. *Gulliver's Travels* was written as a modern world was being born and Swift was not happy with what he saw coming to pass. His book helps us measure our achievements, failures, and predicaments against those of another age and another set of values.