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INSIDE PAKISTAN -- JOURNEYS IN THE LAND BEYOND THE HEADLINES



Synopsis

Long misunderstood and mysterious, part xenophobic and tribal, part sophisticated and Westernized, Pakistan is complex and wracked with tensions. Yet under the surface people are living normal lives, caring for families, earning a living, enjoying daily pleasures. The author, who has visited Pakistan in roles as different as backpacker and guest of the government, tells of taking his initially reluctant wife to see the country that has fascinated him since first reading Kipling in grammar school. They arrived a few days before the military government declared a "State of Emergency" and found a nation still peaceful but uncertain of its own direction. As one early reader, Ron Nessen, former Press Secretary to President Ford, wrote INSIDE PAKISTAN is a "great and compelling book. It weaves together the author's own experiences with history, politics, and interesting people to create a serious report told in a personal way." INSIDE PAKISTAN tells how Muslim Pakistan was created out of two widely-separated parts of India, "vivisected" in the words of Mohandas K. Gandhi; what its founders hoped it would be and why that dream was never realized; how a Swiss-born American Quaker set up a school for the daughters of Afghan refugees; the mystery of the world's oldest urban civilization nestled along the rivers of western India and how it was forgotten for centuries until discovered by a deserter from the British India army; how the decades long dispute between India and Pakistan over the northern territory of Kashmir, which has almost led to nuclear war, started and why; and a look at ancient traditions, from wild polo to shamanic dances which are beginning to die. INSIDE PAKISTAN, " writes John O. Marsh, the longest-serving Secretary of the Army in American history, "is a grass roots summary of a visit to old friends in a society that is rapidly changing and finds itself as a background in the war on terrorism. The author is an accomplished writer with experience at the senior level of the U.S. government, and he leaves it to the reader to shape their own opinion on the future of this key country."

Book Information

File Size: 1890 KB

Print Length: 230 pages

Page Numbers Source ISBN: 0615881173

Publisher: Markhor Press; 1 edition (July 1, 2013)

Publication Date: July 1, 2013

Sold by: Digital Services LLC

Language: English

ASIN: B00DR1A9HI

Text-to-Speech: Enabled

X-Ray: Not Enabled

Word Wise: Enabled

Lending: Not Enabled

Screen Reader: Supported

Enhanced Typesetting: Enabled

Best Sellers Rank: #1,641,331 Paid in Kindle Store (See Top 100 Paid in Kindle Store) #79

in Books > Travel > Asia > Pakistan #512 in Kindle Store > Kindle eBooks > Nonfiction > Travel > Asia > India #1594 in Books > Travel > Asia > India > General

Customer Reviews

Jims book is an interesting look at Pakistan from a personal perspective of when he was there in 1969 and when he and his wife, Elfie, were there in 2007. Am going to read it a second time.

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