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Syed Mujtaba Ali

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Date : Published February 2012 (first published 1948)

ISBN :

Author : Syed Mujtaba Ali

Format : Hardcover 208 pages

Genre : Travel, Nonfiction, Humor

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From Reader Review ???? ?????? for online ebook

Kajori says

The best Travelogue till date by any author from the Indian sub-continent.

Raihan Sultan says

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?????? ????? says

This book is recognized as the first successful travel book. Here Syed Mujtaba Ali described his experience of Afghanistan travel. His witty writing and superb sense of humor keeps you reading through the book. We get a glimpse of the history and politics of Afghanistan. The colorful cast of characters that come into the author's life make the book all the more interesting. The simple minded Abdur Rahman leaves a great impression on not only the author himself but also on the reader's heart.

Prithvi Shams says

Syed Muztaba Ali's memoir on Afghanistan is rich with scholarship, flavoured with the perfect dose of humor. The human side of Afghanistan, a country ravaged by violence of man and nature since time immemorial, acquires flesh and blood in his words. Muztaba Ali accomplishes the herculean task of a travel writer of nurturing interest in a foreign culture without being judgemental. This is something the writers of our supposedly enlightened times often lack.

Smitha says

My first non fiction on Afghanistan history and geopolitical situation and its relationship with British India in the early 20th century. Learnt a lot. Am impressed with the author's writing, but didn't enjoy the latter half of the book much, as I don't much like reading about revolutions, rebellions and the day today political, minutiae.

Moreover, I hated the way Syed treated his more -than -faithful Afghan Man Friday, Abdur Rahiman towards the end.

Came to know more about the British atrocities perpetuated in the Indian subcontinent during that era.

All in all, a very educational and enlightening travelogue, but I would have preceded a lighter read than this

the relatively low rating is solely based upon my personal preferences, perhaps it would be higher if I could critically evaluate and rate this book.

Syed Mujtaba Ali gave an account of Afghanistan during one of many of it's turbulent periods. However, his version being so vivid and punctuated by humor made it such a joy to read! I wish I was acquainted with his work earlier.

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Kumar Anshul says

This book is translation of the Bengali travelogue "Deshe Bideshe" written by Syed Mujtaba Ali, a Bengali Muslim scholar from Shantiniketan and a disciple and student of Tagore, when he went to Afghanistan in 1927-29 to teach at the Kabul University.

An extremely interesting account, full of folklores, poems and anecdotes, this makes up for an extremely satisfying read. Ali went to Afghanistan when it was at the crux of a major political upheaval- Abdication of the liberal King Amanullah , who was overthrown by the bandit leader Bacha-e-Saqao. The author has taken great interests in describing the demeanor and daily life of Pathans and other Afghans and it is a painful account too of how the country suffered after Amanullah was overthrown.

One thing that really baffled me was the intricate knowledge of the author about Hindu Mythology and history, the references of which he keeps giving every here and there. But then I realized that he studied in Bengal, the epitome of Education and Secularism during that time (No wonder he shifted back to India from his hometown Dhaka post partition).

We all have known Afghanistan during the Taliban era (thanks to the media, Bin Laden and Khaled Hosseini). This book will take you back to the era when Afghanistan was "Independent Afghanistan" (while India was British India) and give you the first hand account of this arid, cold and unfortunate country.

A Must Read!

Nawrin Boshra says

4.5 stars

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Towkir Ahmmed Rigan says

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