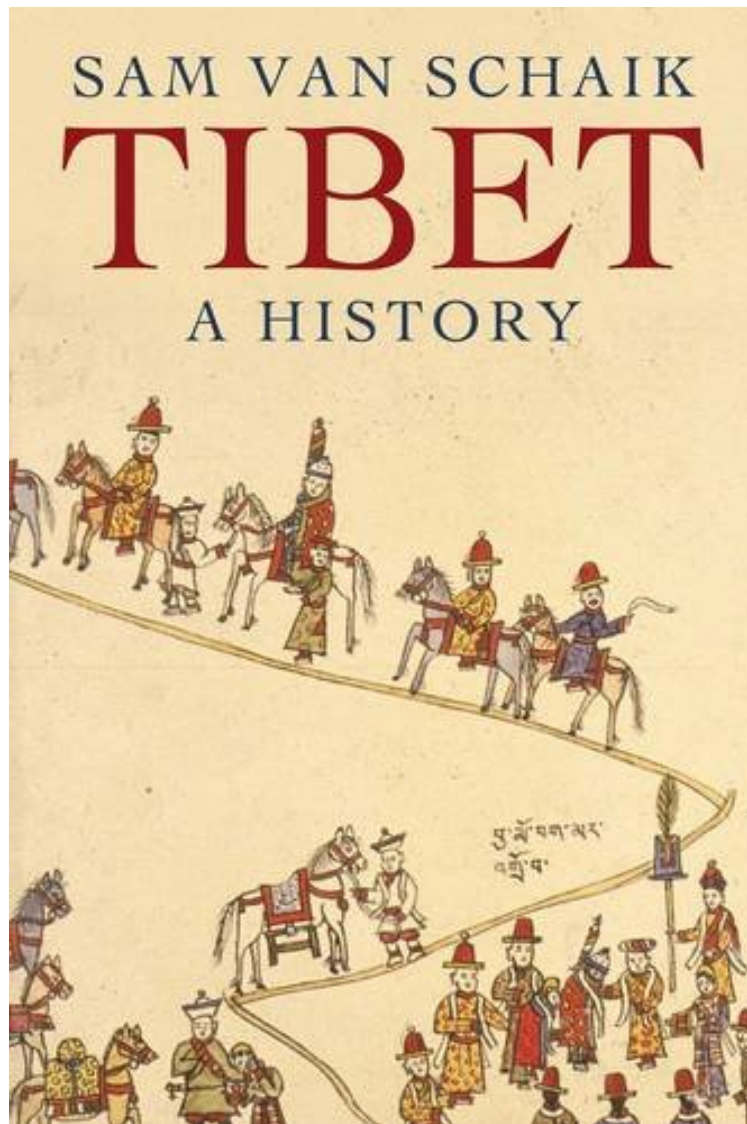


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## Tibet: A History

*Sam van Schaik*

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**Sam van Schaik : Tibet: A History** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Tibet: A History:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Great Compassionate OverviewBy Mr Tony LondonThis is a complex and often misunderstood story. Misunderstood because of the simplification that writers often resort to when the going gets tough and complicated. Sam van Schaik has made the research for my own book, High Hopes, the history of Tibetan education in india, 1959-2015 much more interesting and he has made clear, issues which others

had either skimmed through or avoided. I thank him for that. A very interesting read making one feel much better informed. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Good But...By David S. Wellhauser A good book that could have used more focus on secular issues and less on religion. Nonetheless this is a good primer on Tibetan history. 2 of 3 people found the following review helpful. Learn and enjoy! By Ser Zen Excellent book, clearly written, jargon-free. Vast historical perspective of Tibet's conflict-ridden formation. Analysis underlines the historical formation of common practices, values, institutions, traditions, historical stories, identities, etc. among Tibetans, along with the production of differences and hierarchies among themselves and others --i.e., always in relation with different groups from both neighbouring and distant lands. No reification, no romantic essentialist perspective, but complex, relational, conflicting and cohesive historical processes. Fantastic contribution to our understanding of the ongoing historical formation of peoples and their conflicting claims of unity, common territories, identities, etc. No good/evil, indigenous/foreign dichotomies taken for granted, but critically analysed. Hence, radical partisans of China-centred or idyllic-Tibet-centred perspectives are going to be challenged. Enjoy it.

Situated north of the Himalayas, Tibet is famous for its unique culture and its controversial assimilation into modern China. Yet Tibet in the twenty-first century can only be properly understood in the context of its extraordinary history. Sam van Schaik brings the history of Tibet to life by telling the stories of the people involved, from the glory days of the Tibetan empire in the seventh century through to the present day. He explores the emergence of Tibetan Buddhism and the rise of the Dalai Lamas, Tibet's entanglement in the "Great Game" in the early twentieth century, its submission to Chinese Communist rule in the 1950s, and the troubled times of recent decades. Tibet sheds light on the country's complex relationship with China and explains often-misunderstood aspects of its culture, such as reborn lamas, monasteries and hermits, The Tibetan Book of the Dead, and the role of the Dalai Lama. Van Schaik works through the layers of history and myth to create a compelling narrative, one that offers readers a greater understanding of this important and controversial corner of the world.

"Remarkable . . . ambitious . . . [van Schaik] writes like a storyteller, keeping his reader intrigued." Michael Sheehy, *Buddhadharma* magazine