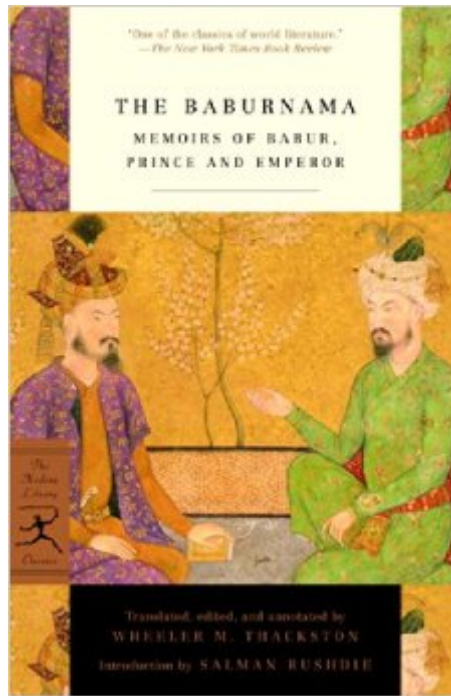


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The Baburnama: Memoirs Of Babur, Prince And Emperor (Modern Library Classics)



Synopsis

Both an official chronicle and the highly personal memoir of the emperor Babur (1483–1530), *The Baburnama* presents a vivid and extraordinarily detailed picture of life in Afghanistan, Pakistan, and India during the late-fifteenth and early-sixteenth centuries. Babur's honest and intimate chronicle is the first autobiography in Islamic literature, written at a time when there was no historical precedent for a personal narrative—now in a sparkling new translation by Islamic scholar Wheeler Thackston. This Modern Library Paperback Classics edition includes notes, indices, maps, and illustrations.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

This book is straight from the horse's mouth, almost a diary. You can't get more authentic than that. As right and wrong are not only subjective, they are also conditioned by time and place, the only way to understand what happened and why is through the accounts of the players. Even though Babur stated repeatedly that he was only setting down what really happened, good and bad, without trying to judge them, he couldn't help but be self-righteous and justified his actions, reviled those who betrayed him, and gloated at the demise of his enemies. The nomadic tribes of the Mongolian and Central Asian steppes had been raiding and looting each other and their neighbors since the beginning of history. The apologists claim that the harsh climate and the stark environment forced the people into such tough existence. Then Chinggis Khan appeared and changed everything. He did not just do the traditional hit and run, he assembled and reforged the tribes. He dismantled the

old system and created a new one. Together, they conquered most of Asia and part of Europe. But, old habits die hard. As soon as Chinggis died, the unity fell apart and his empire was divided by his four sons just like Alexander's was divided by his four generals. Even though the old tribes were not revived, new ones formed along family lines. After a few generations, even family links meant nothing. Fathers fought their sons while brothers and cousins fought each other. Friends one day may be enemies the next and vice versa. No one was safe and no one can be trusted in this turbulent and treacherous world. As they were busy fighting each other, they produced nothing, so they had to rob the natives to support themselves. And, unless you have a pedigree, you are of no account, so massacres of the natives were routine.

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