

In Exile from the Land of Snows

The Definitive Account of the Dalai Lama and Tibet Since the Chinese Conquest



Including a major in-depth interview
with the Dalai Lama

JOHN F. AVEDON

"A noble and elegant book. . . . Indispensable reading." — *Washington Post*

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Now considered a classic, this is an eloquent and compellingly told account of the Dalai Lama's exile from Tibet after its conquest by China.

In Exile from the Land of Snows: The Definitive Account of the Dalai Lama and Tibet Since the Chinese Conquest Details

Date : Published December 10th 1997 by Harper Perennial (first published 1984)

ISBN : 9780060977412

Author : John F. Avedon

Format : Paperback 512 pages

Genre : History, Nonfiction, Cultural, China, Religion, Buddhism, Asia



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From Reader Review In Exile from the Land of Snows: The Definitive Account of the Dalai Lama and Tibet Since the Chinese Conquest for online ebook

Michele Karmartsang says

Expansive history of the Tibetan people and current situation. Kind of my go-to book for information.

Brent says

This telling of Tibet's sorrows starts with the story of the Fourteenth Dahlai Lama and unveils the awful story of the collision with China in the last fifty years.

My paperback from 1986 had small print, which only affected the usefulness of the maps on four key pages in front of the book.

I recommend this to all interested in Tibet.

Peter McLoughlin says

China since Deng Xiaoping has been a fast growing and somewhat prosperous authoritarian state. Before Deng under Mao it was a chamber of horrors as bad as any in the 20th century (great leap forward, anti-rightist rectification campaign, Cultural revolution). This history can be found in any relatively unbiased source. Tibet was an independent country which had little introduction with modernity until 1959 when China "liberated" it. The first half of the book covers the exile of the Dalai Lama in 1959 and his travails as the voice of a once independent Tibet. We are introduced to many aspects of Tibetan Buddhism and Medicine. The author I should note is strangely credulous of Tibetan alternative medicine but that is an unfortunate minor digression. The second half of the book describes the extremely brutal nature of China's rule over Tibet up to 1984 which is appalling. As bad as things were for the Chinese under Mao they were world's worse for the Tibetans. The destruction of Tibetan society accompanied with a large body count only got a little better with Deng and his successors. Good to keep in mind when we reflect on the U.S. trading partner.

Maureen Flatley says

A definitive read on the persecution and repression of Tibet by China.

Judy says

This book had too much detail for me and I bogged down like I was post-holing through the snows of the Himalayas. Even so, I was impressed by how hard the Dalai Lama worked to make a deal with the Chinese

before he fled into exile. And also how foresighted he was in attempting to create a sort of cultural web that would sustain Tibetan culture even as refugees settled around the world.

Suz says

A complete history of Tibet's struggle. It was detailed and very historical. I really enjoyed this book.

Pearl says

i finished this book last night before i went to bed and i dreamt about it it was so haunting. photos of monasteries before and after the chinese invasion are incredibly depressing and i feel a chill from all the horrors that occurred during high maoist years. to tibetans and chinese alike. i don't know how likely free tibet is but i developed a deep impression of the compassion, kindness, and wisdom of the tibetan people.

Hank Stuever says

Read this because I wanted to get up to speed on the Dalai Lama before his week-long tour of New Mexico, which I was assigned to cover in March 1991. Fascinating primer on all of it, especially the Tibetan exile. Brought all those "Free Tibet" bumperstickers into sharp relief.

Cherie says

A Very well written and informative

Nick Mather says

Heartbreaking, informative and inspirational.

dead letter office says

a good background on the chinese invasion and occupation of tibet.

Aaron Terrazas says

Not an easy read by any means, but certainly a "definitive" and thorough account. Outstanding detail. I especially enjoyed the chapter on Tibetan medicine.

Zayden says

An extremely well written and researched book on modern Tibetan History that I would suggest to anyone interested in Tibet. Avedon mixes first hand accounts with the larger historical context in a way that is both compelling and informative. Essential read for young Tibetans and those who are/want to be Tibet supporters!

Marsha Altman says

Simply terrific. A very comprehensive study of the history of Tibet from the 1930's to 1979, with special emphasis on the building of the exile community in India and the experiences of several important people who escaped both before and after the Cultural Revolution. A lot of information here that's simply not in other books. Be warned: Reading about Tibet after 1959 is akin to reading a WWII Holocaust book.

Eliza says

My mother highly recommended this book, and I did want to know more about Tibet in light of the Olympics and all. However, I could not get into this book. It was far too detailed for me, practically telling the history of Tibet on a day-to-day basis. I need a much bigger picture.

Aside from being too detailed for me, the writing was lovely and the story was compassionately told. I think if I had been able to sit down to read for larger blocks of time I would have enjoyed it more. Perhaps I'll try again when I retire.
