



????? ???? [Dangeya Dinagalu]

Manohar Malgonkar, Ravi Belagere (Translator), ??? ??????

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Manohar Malgonkar's 'Devil wind'. Translated in Kannada by: Ravi Belagere

One of the best pieces of historical fiction. A very existential novel about the revolt of 1857 in British India.

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Author : Manohar Malgonkar , Ravi Belagere (Translator) , ??? ???????

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From Reader Review ????? ?????? [Dangeya Dinagalu] for online ebook

Nandkishore Varma says

To the British historians, Dhondu Pant, better known as Nana Sahab, is a devil in human guise: who murdered "innocent" British civilians and even roasted children alive. Of course, the same historians insist on calling the Grand Rebellion of 1857, which effectively ended the East India Company's rule in India, as "Sepoy Mutiny" - as though it was a local revolt by Hindu and Muslim sepoys of the army who did not know any better than to accept the "civilising" influence of the white-skinned looters.

Well, for Indians, this is **The First War of Independence**. Mangal Pandey, the Rani of Jhansi, Nana Sahab, Tantya Tope... these are our heroes, our first freedom fighters. Kudos to Malgonkar for bringing to life the story of one of them, who managed to evade the colonial powers and was never caught.

According to the author, Nana Sahab is considerably less black than he's painted. He cites a lot of historical references. Being a novice as far as history is concerned, I do not know about the veracity of his account - but as a novel, told in the first person perspective of the protagonist, it's brilliant.

Like the guy said, if this story ain't true, it oughtta be!

Ashish says

Excellent narrative, gripping plot. Examines the legend of Nanasahib and Tatya Tope from a nationalist perspective. Although this book does not give references, being historical fiction, several recent non fiction works have corroborated malgonkars premises and conclusions

Dattatreya Kugve says

Took this book hoping to get historical details of 1857 upraising but I got disappointed with the content. Most of the book is filled with details of sexual adventures of Nana sahib and british and not at all detailed about the upraising. I don't recommend this book at all

Connie says

This is a WONDERFUL historical fiction account of the Great Mutiny in India in the middle of the 19th century. Manohar Malgonkar, the author, is a wonderful Indian novelist and this book is told from the Indian point of view. When I read it, I read another book describing the same events by Henty from the English Colonial point of view. If you like this you will also like Bend in the Ganges by Malgonkar about partition.

Ashwin says

Rating: 3.5/5

Historical fiction set in India has only recently become commonplace so when I went looking for a classic in the genre, I found it. The lowered rating is only because the book was not entirely what I was looking for.

The loose and largely untrodden plot concerns Dhondu Pant Nana Saheb's life before, during, and after the 1857 First War of Independence (to the Indians, that is; The Sepoy Mutiny to the British). As the last Peshwa of the Maratha Confederacy, he was heir to a majestic empire that held off European (British, Dutch, Portuguese) advance in India for over 150 years only to be brought down in the familiar fashion by a society far more materially advanced and politically united. By the end of his life, he was a hate and reviled man by the British as they considered him the mastermind of the revolt against them.

Malgonkar does not tell this story as a historian, but from the first-person view of Nana Saheb himself. Indians did not develop a culture of personal letter writing or journaling as compared to Western culture so we are generally lacking in intimate understanding of people as compared to Washington or Napoleon.

This book attempts to fill in the gap by eschewing dry dates and military movements of most books on Indian history and fills in the reluctant heir and existential character of Nana Saheb during those important times. The book has little in the way of plot and much in the way of character development of which I had hoped there were would be better balance. Much of the novel concerns itself with the inner despondency of Nana who was by 1857, then a nominal king more concerned with fancy feasts and courtesans, thrust the reins as leader of the fight against the British.

Prashanth Kanichar says

it is translation of manohar malagavkar book.interesting read

Anil Srivastava says

One of the best pieces of historical fiction. A very existential novel about the revolt of 1857 in British India.

Siddesh says

its worth reading
