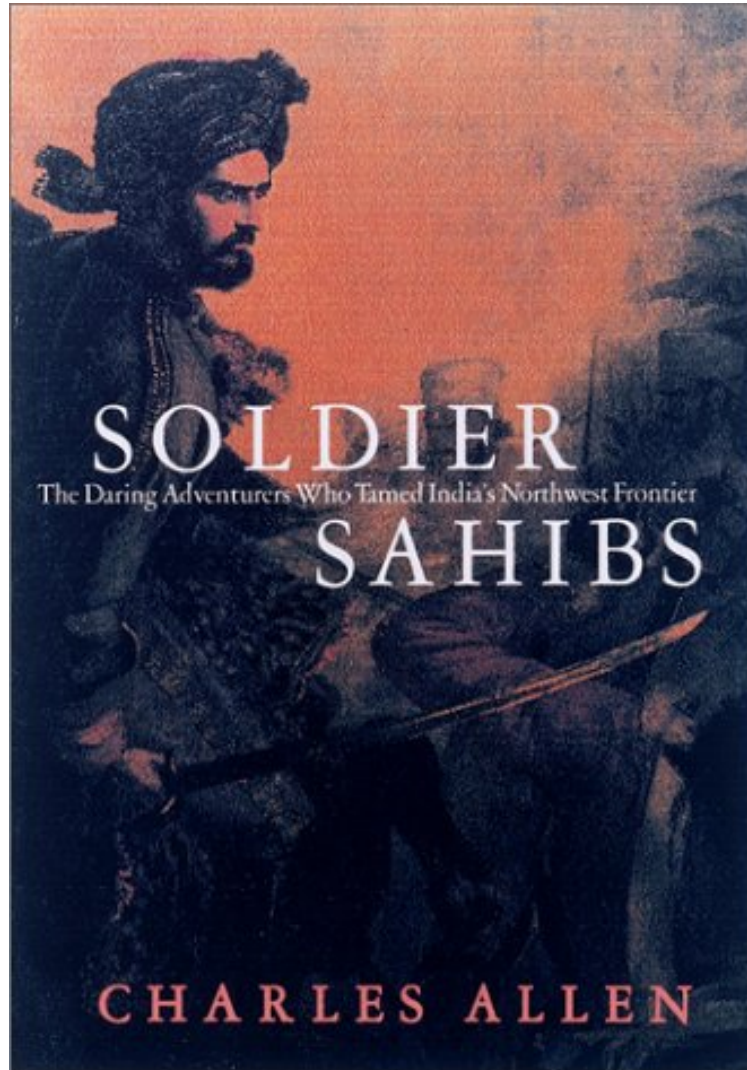


(Read free ebook) Soldier Sahibs: The Daring Adventurers Who Tamed India's Northwest Frontier

Soldier Sahibs: The Daring Adventurers Who Tamed India's Northwest Frontier

Charles Allen

*ePub | *DOC | audiobook | ebooks | Download PDF*



DOWNLOAD



+

READ ONLINE

#1890059 in Books Carroll n Graf Publishers 2001-05-10Original language:EnglishPDF # 1 1.35 x 6.47 x 9.53l, #File Name: 0786708611368 pages | File size: 15.Mb

Charles Allen : Soldier Sahibs: The Daring Adventurers Who Tamed India's Northwest Frontier before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Soldier Sahibs: The Daring Adventurers Who Tamed India's Northwest Frontier:

3 of 3 people found the following review helpful. The journey ends on the Delhi RidgeBy Bill McVeyBilly Fish: "He wants to know if you are gods." Peachy Carnehan: "Not gods-Englishmen,the next best thing." from John Huston's film of the Rudyard Kipling story The Man Who Would Be King. Soldier Sahibs relates the story of John Company's mid 19th century involvement on India's North West Frontier. Through an ensemble of personalities and "peoples",

Ulster Lowland Scot, John Nicholson rose to perhaps the most colorful personality. Perhaps the above quote does have some merit. "Nikkal Seyn" did indeed become the subject of a religious cult. All of Henry Lawrence's Young Men were men of their own time and place and as such, worthy of admiration. Imperialism, economic and or political, was a fact of life and certainly not the sole objective of any one nation or people and certainly not in India. Here, the story of these Young Men is well told replete with near mythical exploit and accomplishment. This tale reads with the ferocity of a flashing tulwar and crack of jezail! Refreshingly devoid of modern PC, I recommend Bill McVey's 1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Flashman fans: Meet the true heroes of the Raj. By Keith Thompson

SOLDIER SAHIBS is a superb history of that amazing collection of British district officers who ran the British Empire on the old Northwest Frontier of India in the mid-nineteenth century. I would heartily recommend it to all fans of George MacDonald Fraser's **FLASHMAN** series who might be interested in learning more about the true historical personalities who Flashy meets in his mis-adventures. 3 of 4 people found the following review helpful.

Highly biased history
By whistler
Let me begin by saying that I was looking forward to reading this book; I'm fascinated by the British Raj and especially the Northwest Frontier. I grew up on Gunga Din and King of the Khyber Rifles and Jim Corbett, and eagerly plowed my way (pun intended!) through George MacDonald Fraser's Flashman novels, especially the ones set in India. I lived in India for a few months, and am always eager to read something new about it. Having said that, I found this book a bit much. It's essentially a rehash of the Victorian colonial ethos point of view on India, with not a lot new to add to the historical record either. It's been a century and a half since the Indian Mutiny, but this author seems incapable of seeing it from the Indian's point of view at all. There's very little mention of the savage way it was put down, and he continues with the old romantization of the Sikhs and Pathan tribesmen (the "good" Indians) versus the Hindus and Muslims of the Delhi Sultanate who revolted (the "bad" Indians); the book has a very limited discussion (or understanding, for that matter) of why they revolted and the factors that set it off. The Brits did a lot of good in India but, let's face it, they were there for the money, and the Christianity and White Man's Burden stuff was all a gloss. I was surprised this book was written so recently, it seems like something from before the Second World War. I'd recommend going to William Dalrymple if you want a more balanced perspective, especially *The Last Mughal* if you're interested in the same period, a really outstanding book IMHO. I still love Flashman and Corbett, by the way!

Drawing extensively upon diaries, letters, and family mementos as well as his own frequent travels in the northwest region of India, author Charles Allen here recounts a lively chapter out of British colonial history that prominently featured his ancestor Brigadier General John Nicholson. In 1840, six ambitious young officers, inflamed with patriotism and religious evangelism, set out under Nicholson's leadership to secure the Northwest Frontier for the Raj. Dominated by the strategic Khyber Pass and prone to invasion by Russia and warring tribes from what are today Pakistan and Afghanistan, this region represented British India at its most vulnerable. Its hostile mountain landscape and extreme climate also made it virtually impossible to survey, navigate, supply, or defend. Yet Nicholson and his intrepid band of adventurers combined their martial talents with the courageous instincts of explorers and athletic skills of mountaineers to accomplish the impossible. Allen's exciting narrative sets the scene for "The Great Game," when Europe's imperial powers squared off for control of all of Central Asia.

From Publishers Weekly
The less-than-politically correct subtitle (should we think of populaces as being "tamed"?) of this book is bound to raise hackles, as will its unapologetically imperialist perspective. As the back flap proclaims, Allen "was born in India, where six generations of his family served under the British Raj, and now lives in London," where he has written such books as *Plain Tales from the Raj* and *The Search for Shangri-La*. This book centers around Allen's forebear John Nicholson ("`Nikkal Seyn' to the native inhabitants he subdued," says the front flap), who arrived in Calcutta in 1839, serving as a cadet in the East India Co.'s Bengal Native Infantry. The company was at this time a managing agency for British rule in India, and Nicholson Co.'s mission was to secure the Northwest frontier, including the Khyber Pass and approaches to Afghanistan. Allen follows Nicholson's rise in the ranks and service in the Sikh Wars via letters, diaries and other accounts, and details his eventual shared governorship of the area. The Sepoy Mutiny of 1857 almost destroyed the tenuous British hold on India, as native soldiers rose up against European civilians and soldiers, but the Northwest remained loyal and helped in no small way to contain the rebellion, though the book ends with the death of Nicholson during the capture of Delhi. British subjects may have found a lot to like in this book when it was published in the U.K. last year (the *Sunday Times* called it "an excellent guide through this fascinating territory"), but U.S. readers unfamiliar with the era, area and prejudices will find it tough going. Copyright 2001 Cahners Business Information, Inc.

From Library Journal
From July 1839 to September 1857, British Indian history centered on events taking place in the Punjab on India's northwest frontier. Allen shapes his narrative of this pivotal period around the lives of a swashbuckling coterie of British civil and military leaders, including John and Henry Lawrence, John Nicholson, Neville Chamberlain, William Hodson, Reynell Taylor, and James Abbott. The theme coursing through these British leaders' lives is action first, thought later. Beginning with the First Afghan War and continuing through two Sikh wars to the retaking of Delhi during the Indian Mutiny, Allen follows the intertwined

lives of these "heroes" as they blunder about Afghanistan, conquer, annex, and administer the Punjab, and subsequently break the Indian Mutiny at Delhi. Allen, a freelance writer living in London, eschews historical interpretation to telling a riveting good tale that is still essentially factually correct. The result will readily appeal to the general reader. John F. Riddick, Central Michigan Univ. Lib., Mt. Pleasant Copyright 2001 Reed Business Information, Inc. From Booklist Intrigued by the extraordinary life and times of General John Nicholson, a distant forebear, Allen set out to chronicle the adventures of his illustrious ancestor in mid-nineteenth-century India. While researching his subject, he discovered that Nicholson's career and personal life were inextricably interwoven with those of a group of seven other "soldier sahibs." Entrusted with the task of extending the British East India Company's sphere to the mountainous Northwest Frontier Provinces (NWFP), Nicholson and the band of intrepid soldier-administrators laid the territorial and governmental foundations of the NWFP. From 1839 to 1857, the young British commanders, assisted by a loyal cadre of native officers and troops, guided the formidable Bengal Army during a series of violent campaigns waged between the borders of Pakistan and Afghanistan. This rousing tale of courage and derring-do is tempered by an objective contextual assessment of the racial and moral implications of colonialism. Margaret Flanagan Copyright American Library Association. All rights reserved