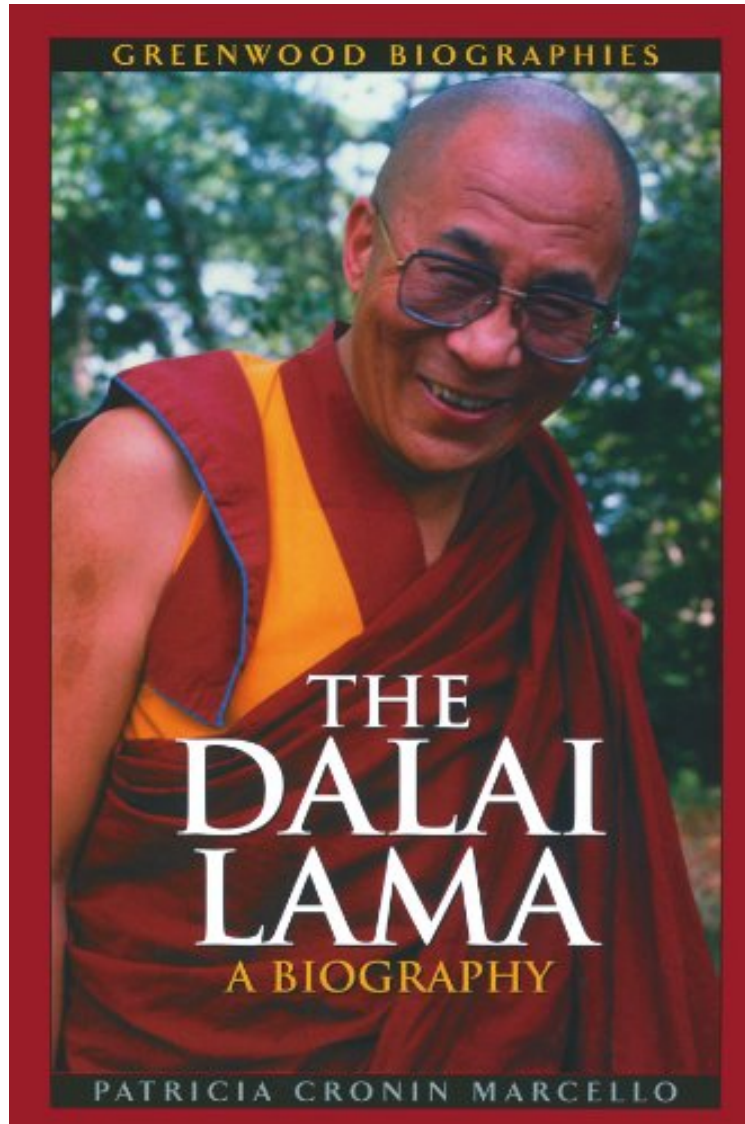


[E-BOOK] The Dalai Lama: A Biography (Greenwood Biographies)

The Dalai Lama: A Biography (Greenwood Biographies)

Patricia Cronin Marcello

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Patricia Cronin Marcello : The Dalai Lama: A Biography (Greenwood Biographies) before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Dalai Lama: A Biography (Greenwood Biographies):

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Good...If you like to read about the Dalai Lama By lmhgranny2011 I didn't really know much about the plight of the Tibetan people until I read this book. I was actually shocked at how long the torture murder of these peaceful people went on w/out somebody in this great big world NOT taking some

sort of action. It was nice to get to know the Dalai Lama all he went thru did for the Tibetan people...he had unwavering conviction took peaceful actions to assist. Quite honestly, it was sad to think that the Tibetans lost their country.....but maybe it was necessary for them to become part of the rest of the world where they can still continue to work w/people. 1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. The Dalai Lama: A Biography By Patricia Marcello By Jacob Bevilacqua From his potty humor to his politics, Patricia Marcello paints a detailed and holistic picture of his holiness the Dalai Lama. But the book begins even before the Dalai Lama's birth. Marcello explains the history of Tibet, the daily life of a Tibetan, and the lineage of the Dalai Lama's family, both biological and spiritual. The death of the thirteenth Dalai Lama launches a fairytale-like adventure of omens and evidence of reincarnation. After search parties and clever tests of character, the reader is introduced to a divinely precocious young boy in the rural village of Amdo, named Lhamo Dhondup, the future Dalai Lama and the future of Tibet. The boy must leave his family behind to journey to Lhasa, the religious capital and even from his childhood came into conflict with the Chinese. Muslim Warlord Ma Pu-Feng holds Lhamo and his search party from Lhasa for heavy ransom. Lhamo Dhondup does however safely assume his throne at the seasoned age of four. He begins his learning process shortly after, with intense tutoring under monk Reting Rinpoche on subjects from poetry to metaphysics. The young Dalai Lama also becomes interested with the west, watching western films, reading western papers and eventually cultivating friendships with westerners, Heinrich Harrer, the Austrian mountaineer and Thomas Merton, the Catholic trappist monk among them. However, his childhood was short-lived, with China's plans of "liberating" Tibet beginning in January of 1950. At age fifteen he thus began a life of struggling with the Chinese to preserve his homeland, his people, and the customs of his country without the use of violence. Often the Dalai Lama would acquiesce to the Chinese. While many would say that these were the actions of a weak leader, Marcello reveals the thought processes of the Dalai Lama who weighed his decisions based on what he thought would result in the least amount of violence. In hopes of gaining international sympathy, he spread the message of Tibet's suppression to the world through letters and eventually meeting with leaders and making speeches, even addressing the United Nations. After his exile to India in 1959 for the purpose of diffusing tension in Tibet, caught between freedom fighters he did not want to fight and the Chinese who did, he furthered these hopes by establishing a democratically modeled government. Even with continued Chinese aggression, increases of refugees headed for India, and an international reluctance to acknowledge the needs of Tibet, the Dalai Lama never lost his spirit. He wrote prolifically and continued to stress nonviolence, as he felt personally responsible for all sentient beings on earth, an attitude that would win him the Nobel Peace Prize in 1989 and many friends along the way. In the biography, Marcello has a knack for bringing the reader into the intimate space of the Dalai Lama with personal anecdotes, which often portray the Dalai Lama in a humorously human light. She cites stories when yes, the Dalai Lama stole from a local market, tried to take apart a clock and was almost blinded by its shrapnel, and took his driver's car and accidentally crashed it into a tree. She also recounts the historical affairs within his lifetime with great fluidity as the inner political drama amongst leaders she includes avoids the sound of a history book, making it more akin to a trashy novel...in a good way. Similarly the style flowed well with cliffhangers from chapter to chapter such as Chapter Four's conclusion, "Losing [his brother]...was a major blow; yet this first loss was minimal to what he would come to lose in the future". Marcello also did a masterful job acquainting the western reader to everyday Tibetan life with the use of Tibetan words, explanation of Buddhist reasoning and principles, and other seemingly irrelevant information that still added to the overall picture of Tibet. For example did you know that the national beverage is Yak butter tea and due to its dry consistency a bit of yak dung is added to hold it together? The biography also begins with a timeline of events in the Dalai Lama's life, which is helpful for orienting even the most disoriented reader. Although the information was quite insightful into the life of the Tibetan monk, few insights were drawn pertaining to the political reasoning that China would want to deal with the international headache that Tibet became. Understandably the book followed Dalai Lama, however seeing as he was in exile for a large period of time, the reader misses out on the details of the Tibetans actually struggling with the Chinese, or even investigating the perspective of the freedom fighters. Whether a reflection of the Dalai Lama or of the book, there is little evidence of progress for the Tibetan people, and as it pertains to nonviolent demonstrations there was neither description nor commentary on their strategies. These gaps were dismaying, but the substance in the Buddhist theology, the Tibetan injustices, and the detailed life of the charismatic and lovable fourteenth Dalai Lama, left me with the desire to learn so much more about Tibetan politics and eastern philosophy. Marcello leaves us with questions of Tibet's future. Will nonviolence succeed? Or will it prove to be weak against the hardened Chinese superpower? And what will the Dalai Lama become to the evolving and increasingly modern Tibetans? Will his spirit even choose to return? I personally, want to know not only if nonviolence could ever deter an ill-intentioned superpower from their agenda, but also how long can a people hold out for the good of all mankind before they feel compelled to take up arms for the good of their homes and their families? The fourteenth Dalai Lama serves as an inspiration to prioritize all life above those of individuals or even groups, even in the most dismal conditions, though it is a sadly novel concept. 1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Splendid Simplicity By Lisa M. Pferdeort The simplicity of the title mirrors the simple approach to what could be a daunting and challenging biography. Marcello's biography follows a straightforward timeline explanation of critical events in the life of the Dalai Lama without delving too deeply into an analysis of the

issues. Even though the book follows a relatively effortless structure, the actual events of the life of the Dalai Lama are fascinating enough to quickly carry the reader through the text. Marcello's effort to capture the Dalai Lama's inspiration, humor, and devotion is validated in her biography of his life. The clean chronology makes it very easy for a reader who knows nothing about the Dalai Lama and Tibetan customs to follow along and understand the basic principles that he has followed. Sporadically throughout the book, though mostly concentrated in the beginning, are sections dedicated to the history behind specific customs. Marcello does a wonderful job explaining the history of the Dalai Lama and the traditions that are associated with the selection of the Dalai Lama, especially since the customs may seem quite strange to most Western readers. Her biography is obviously well researched with full notes at the end of every chapter and direct quotes that help make the events more real and relatable. One of the most enjoyable aspects of the biography was Marcello's ability to intertwine the stories with the lovable sense of humor of the Dalai Lama. Each chapter is sprinkled with either a quote or situation which convinces the reader that, even though he dealt with serious and difficult issues, the Dalai Lama still was a human being at heart, one whose wit and cleverness kept him optimistic. It is an often occurrence for the reader to find him or herself smiling or laughing out loud at the comical situations described, which is appreciated, especially because of the gravity of the other events described. Although the biography is applauded for its simplicity, it is also one of its shortcomings. Admittedly by the author, the book is aimed at a high-school reading level and has little depth when it comes to exploring specific issues of negotiation with the Chinese, or even explaining the perspectives of other players. There is very little attention to the Chinese outlook, which suggests the bias of the author. Understandably, however, it is a biography of the Dalai Lama, not the Chinese, so it is clear why there is not equal representation of ideas. Also, one of the most difficult things to overcome as a reader was the insurmountable number of strange names and places. There was a constant urge throughout the book to look at a map, yet there is not one provided in the book pages themselves. The timeline and index were helpful, but a map and a list of important names and relationships would have been even more so. After finishing Marcello's biography, I found myself wanting to read the autobiography of the Dalai Lama published in 1990. Marcello refers to it often and many of the fun stories and inspirational quotes come from that autobiography, which creates a certain attraction to it. It would be fascinating to hear about all the events of his life from the Dalai Lama's point of view. In addition, Marcello's biography, though thorough in its descriptions of Tibetan tradition and the lifestyle of the Dalai Lama, had little description of Buddhist teachings themselves. I understood basic concepts from her text, but found it a little difficult to understand where the Dalai Lama's principles and actions were rooted from. I am glad, however, that I read this biography first. It served as a useful introduction to the life of the Dalai Lama and served to keep me interested enough to want more.

The Dalai Lama is both the living conscience of the Tibetan people and an internationally respected human rights symbol. His high-profile appearances and books have fueled the surging popularity of Buddhism in the United States and throughout the West. This new, up-to-date biography provides insight into the curious and winning personality of the Dalai Lama as a boy and his wisdom as a man. The Buddhist spiritual worlds and the Dalai Lama's rarified role are engagingly and evenly presented. The Dalai Lama's story is revealed from his early family life to his experiences in the world, his education as the 14th incarnation of the Lama, his exile in India, and his current struggles to help Tibet regain its independence from China. Especially helpful is the clear historical overview of the Tibetan crisis after the Chinese invasion. A timeline and glossary also supplement the text. Though the book is written especially for high school students doing reports, it will also be of immense interest to general readers.

From School Library Journal Grade 10 Up—This biography of the exiled Tibetan leader makes up in depth of detail what it lacks in objectivity. Drawing extensively from the Dalai Lama's own published memoirs and many other accounts of his life and the situation in Tibet, Marcello's lengthy, strictly chronological account begins with the subject's birth, selection for the position, education, and career, concluding with a short chapter on his present life. The author clearly supports the Dalai Lama's position against Chinese occupation of Tibet; the Chinese position is mentioned in several scattered places but not explained. She often reports individuals' positions and feelings without attribution, though all of the direct quotations are footnoted. The writing style is fairly clear, but dry. Illustrations are limited to a two-page "photo-essay" with four black-and-white photographs of the Dalai Lama. Whitney Stewart's *The 14th Dalai Lama* (Lerner, 2000) and Louis G. Perez's *The Dalai Lama* (Rourke, 1993), both written for a slightly younger audience, include many illustrative photographs and sufficient background information to explain the events described. Chris Gibb's *The Dalai Lama* (Raintree, 2003) is much shorter but features larger, color photographs, and includes coverage of other important Tibetan religious figures. Clearly, Marcello's book is aimed at high school report writers, and is a serviceable addition for libraries serving them. Jonathan Betz-Zall, City University Library, Everett, WA Copyright 2003 Reed Business Information, Inc. About the Author PATRICIA CRONIN MARCELLO is a freelance writer. She is the author of biographies of Jerry Garcia, Pope John Paul II, Princess Diana, and Matt Damon.