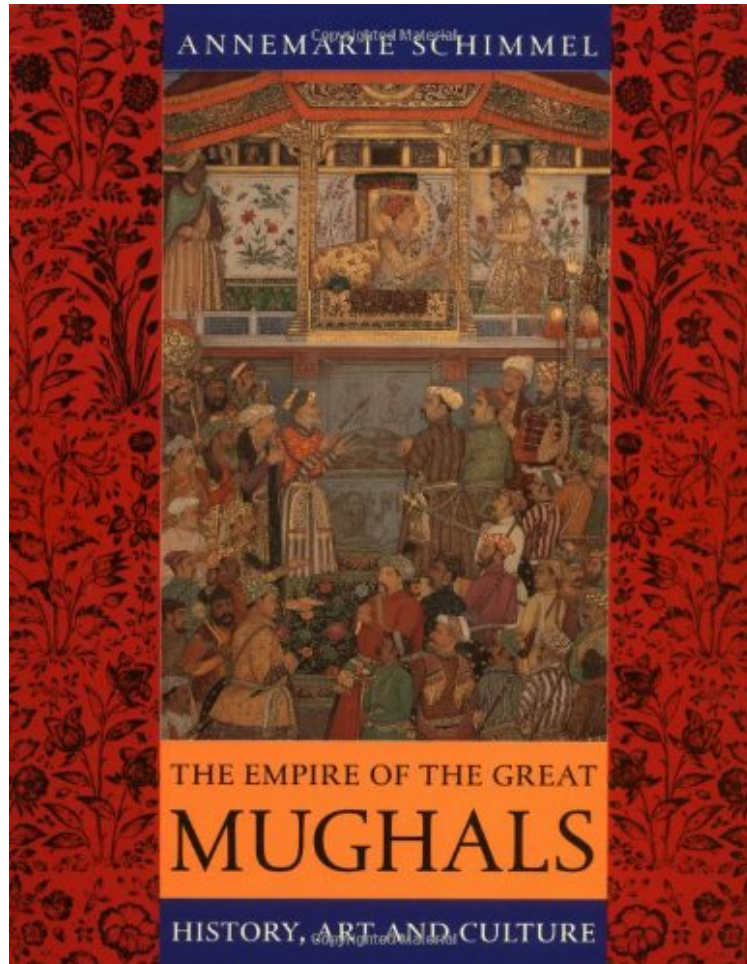


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The Empire of the Great Mughals: History, Art and Culture

Annemarie Schimmel

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Amazing book by an amazing scholar! I picked up this book on a

friend's recommendation because I am planning a first trip to India in 2016. I had no idea that the Mughal Empire was so vast and so gloriously cultural. Nor did I know that it was Muslim. My preconceptions about pre-Raj India were way off the mark. This book is a must read! It is fascinating on every page.

Long viewed as an exotic wonderland of unimaginable treasures, the Mughal Empire (1526-1857) was, in reality, the mightiest Islamic empire in the history of India. In *The Empire of the Great Mughals*, historian Annemarie Schimmel describes the political, military, and economic rise of the Mughals, the incredible unfolding of the empire's power and splendor, and the empire's gradual collapse at the hands of the British. Beginning with a concise historical overview, Schimmel paints a detailed picture of daily life in the empire: the role of rank in this strictly hierarchical society, the life of women, and the various religions, languages, and styles of literature of the era. She pays particular attention to the remarkable accomplishments and techniques of artists at the Mughal court, including the Taj Mahal, the most impressive demonstration of the Mughal rulers' refined sense of beauty. The capstone to the career of Annemarie Schimmel, whom the *New York Times* called one of the 20th century's most influential scholars of Islam, *The Empire of the Great Mughals* is a fascinating portrait of an exquisitely rich and refined civilization.

"This is a splendid book, fittingly enough for a history of one of the world's great empires—and a worthy memorial to its distinguished author, who died last year. But, as Annemarie Schimmel shows, there was much more to the Mughals than magnificence: her history shows us a more human side to their civilisation than we've seen before. From palace politics to childcare, from war to women's polo and pets, this is a wonderfully vivid portrait of a fascinating age." —*The Scotsman*

About the Author: Annemarie Schimmel (1922-2003) was professor of Indo-Muslim culture at Harvard University and the University of Bonn. She was a consultant in the Islamic Department of the Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York, for ten years. Her books include *Islam: An Introduction* and *My Soul is a Woman: The Feminine in Islam*.