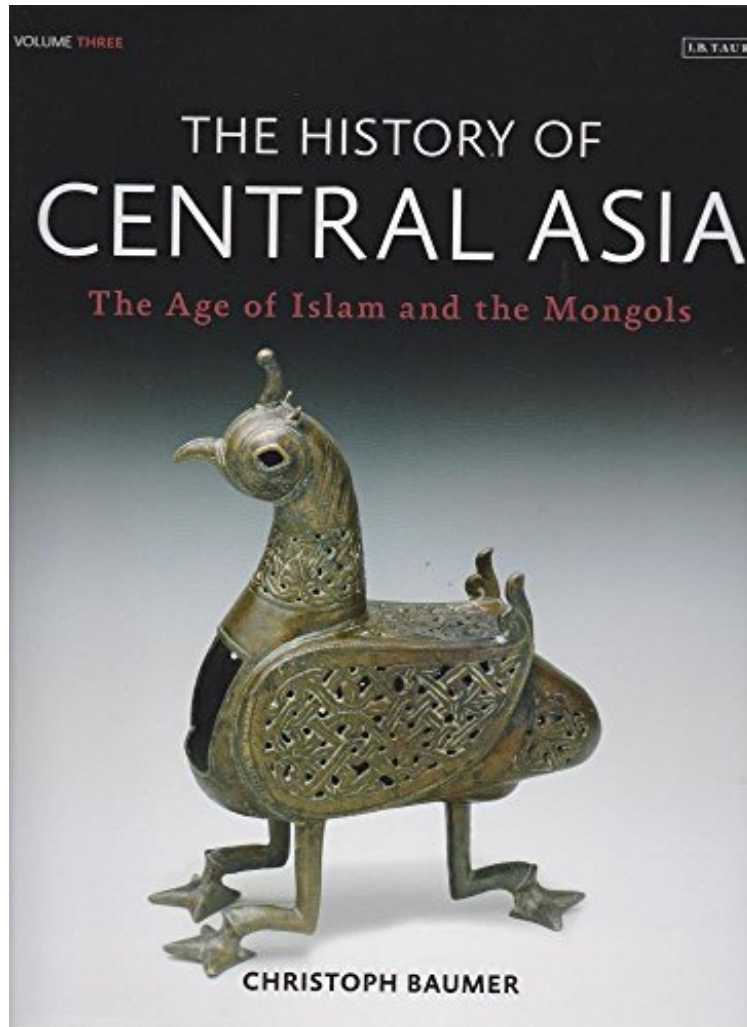


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The History of Central Asia, Volume 3: The Age of Islam and the Mongols

Cristoph Baumer

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Cristoph Baumer : The History of Central Asia, Volume 3: The Age of Islam and the Mongols before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The History of Central Asia, Volume 3: The Age of Islam and the Mongols:

1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Not a Coffee Table BookBy dmiguerContrary to my initial suspicion, this is not a coffee table book. You still may need a small table to bear its weight while reading it however. Coffee table books are filled with fuzzy photos to help pass time and encourage light conversation. They usually avoid detailed text that could deter uninterrupted flipping through the pages.In contrast, this book has many high quality images of archaeological sites, ancient manuscripts, textiles and architecture. It is accompanied by in depth writing

about the period between the rise of the Abbasid dynasty c. 750 AD to the end of Timurid dynasty c. 1500 AD. It covers a geographical area between Baghdad and Karakorum, the respective capitals of the Muslims and Mongols, and the far flung conquests between Moscow and Delhi. The author, Christoph Baumer, is an art historian and explorer of Central Asia, primarily of the Taklamakan, Tibet and Wutai Shan areas in China, although his travels have taken him all over the region. He has family connections to Sven Hedin, the late 19th - early 20th century geographer of Great Game fame, whom he has followed in the footsteps of. The strength of this book lies not only in the original photography and writing, but also in Baumer's study of the ethnic groups of the period. He covers many of the lesser known but important cultures of medieval Iran, and the Turkic and Mongol migrations. It is a great value both as a printed artifact and an illustrated exploration. After seeing it I also sent for the earlier volume in the series on the Silk Road. 5 of 5 people found the following review helpful. ... of this history and have awaited each succeeding volume like a kid expecting the next Harry Potter. By James C. Harrison I'm a huge fan of this history and have awaited each succeeding volume like a kid expecting the next Harry Potter. That said, if you want to learn why Central Asia is so important to human history, you'd probably be better off to begin with Starr's book *Lost Enlightenment*. The Stans aren't just hard questions on Jeopardy, and they produced a lot more than ravening hordes, though they that too. Philosophy, religion, medicine, astronomy, architecture, and many other fields owe a lot to the region. 1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Much awaited history of the region. By ngyalfold As good or better than the previous volumes. If it were lighter and cheaper, I would make it required text for my course. As it is, the series will be placed on "Reserve," so students can enjoy them. Why? Well, first, the volumes are beautiful, the text is accessible and the chapters are organized in the most useful way. More, this is history as it should be written: Documented and clear, with just the right amount of "human interest" touches.

Between the 9th and the 15th centuries, Central Asia was a major political, economic and cultural hub on the Eurasian continent. In the first half of the 13th century it was also the pre-eminent centre of power in the largest land-based empire the world has ever seen. This third volume of Christoph Baumer's extensively praised and lavishly illustrated new history of the region is above all a story of invasion, when tumultuous and often brutal conquest profoundly shaped the later history of the globe. The author explores the rise of Islam and the remarkable victories of the Arab armies which inspired by their vital, austere and egalitarian desert faith established important new dynasties like the Seljuks, Karakhanids and Ghaznavids. A golden age of artistic, literary and scientific innovation came to a sudden end when, between 1219 and 1260, Genghiz Khan and his successors overran the Chorasmian-Abbasid lands. Dr Baumer shows that the Mongol conquests, while shattering to their enemies, nevertheless resulted in much greater mercantile and cultural contact between Central Asia and Western Europe.

About the Author Christoph Baumer a leading explorer and historian of Central Asia, Tibet and China has written several well-received books in the fields of history, religion, archaeology and travel. These include *The Church of the East: An Illustrated History of Assyrian Christianity*, *Traces in the Desert: Journeys of Discovery across Central Asia* and *China's Holy Mountain: An Illustrated Journey into the Heart of Buddhism*, all published by I.B.Tauris. His magisterial four-volume study of Central Asia began in 2012 with volume 1, *The History of Central Asia: The Age of the Steppe Warriors*, and continued in 2014 with volume 2, *The Age of the Silk Roads*. The final volume will publish in 2018.