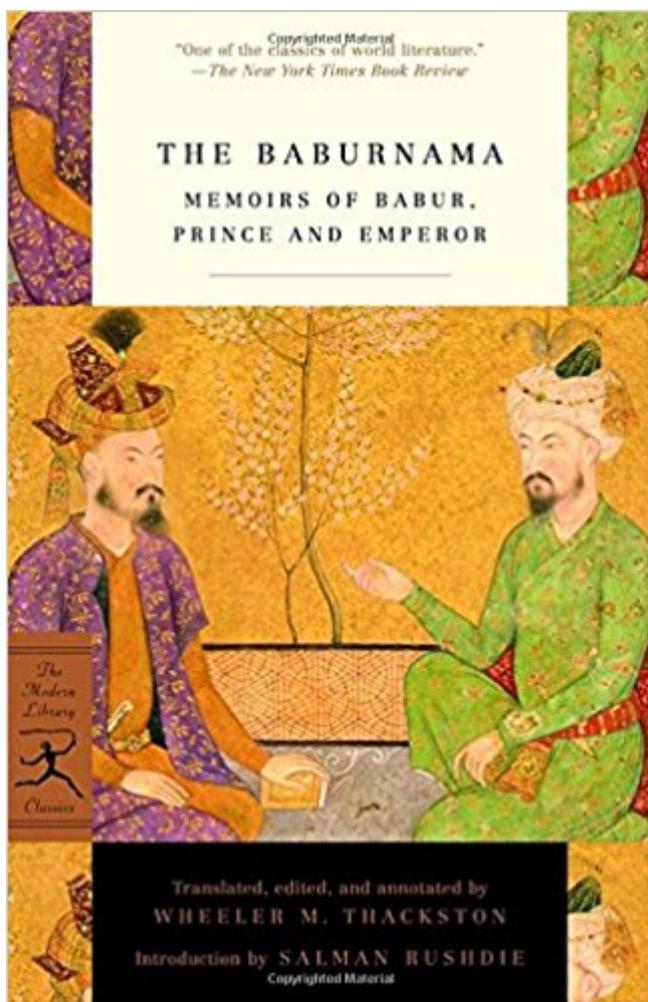


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The Baburnama: Memoirs Of Babur, Prince And Emperor (Modern Library Classics)



Synopsis

Both an official chronicle and the highly personal memoir of the emperor Babur (1483–1530), The Baburnama presents a vivid and extraordinarily detailed picture of life in Afghanistan, Pakistan, and India during the late-fifteenth and early-sixteenth centuries. Babur's honest and intimate chronicle is the first autobiography in Islamic literature, written at a time when there was no historical precedent for a personal narrative—now in a sparkling new translation by Islamic scholar Wheeler Thackston. This Modern Library Paperback Classics edition includes notes, indices, maps, and illustrations.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Zahiruddin Muhammad Babur was the first Mughal, or Mongol, emperor of India. A devoted warrior who fought by the bloodthirsty standards of his time, Babur was also a gifted scholar and ethnographer, and his memoir, The Baburnama—which translator and editor Wheeler Thackston heralds as the first autobiography in Islamic literature—paints a fascinating portrait of the lands he conquered, such as Hindustan: "A strange country. Compared to ours, it is another world. Its mountains, rivers, forests, and wildernesses, its villages and provinces, animals and plants, peoples and languages, even its rain and winds are altogether different." They were different indeed, and we're fortunate to have this beautifully illustrated record of Babur's wonderment at the new places he saw. --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

Thackston's work is the first English translation in 70 years of Babur's candid 16th-century autobiography—the earliest known autobiography in Islamic literature. Babur, one of the most significant figures in Indo-Islamic history, was descended from Timur (known in the West as Tamerlane). During the 15th century, Timurid influence on eastern Islamic art and architecture was incalculable. Driven from Timurid lands in eastern Iran and central Asia, Babur established a new domain in northern India. One of Babur's Mogul descendants would build the Taj Majal. Thackston's richly illustrated translation is extremely readable and straightforward; it captures the spirit of one of the most attractive figures in Islamic history. Highly recommended for academic libraries and for larger public libraries with reader interest in this area. —Robert Andrews, Duluth P.L., Minn. Copyright 1995 Reed Business Information, Inc. --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

It is very interesting to read history through the eyes of those who make it. What is more interesting is to read what they are thinking at the time. This is a very important book that is extremely detailed. The author describes his enemies, friends, family, cities, climates, animals and even fruits. Anyone interested in history needs to read this book. I gave it four stars instead of five because at some points the author goes into great detail and loses the reader on the way. He gives too many names (which all sound alike). The book starts off slow, but gets better with time. The climax is when the author reaches India. In my opinion his description of the fruits and landscape in India is amazing.

In this book we read the thoughts of a man who lived more than 400 years ago and was the founder of one of the great empires of the world. It is remarkable that he found the time to write in so much detail about his experiences yet being so busy defending and building an empire all his life starting from the time he became a king at the age of twelve. Never before or since do we get such an intimate glimpse at what it means to be a king. It is refreshing to read it today as it must have been then.

Babur was a king in the true sense of the word. His autobiography outlines his fierceness as a warrior as well as his compassion toward the people in his court. Although he lived in a time where one would think there would be little time for introspection, this is exactly what his narrative is: and introspective look at his own life, his shortcomings, his downfalls, his triumphs and tragedies. One is touched by Babur's humbleness, his sensitivity towards some of the most simple of things, and at his sense of awe and appreciation of beauty in the world around him. Although in some ways I

preferred the AS Beveridge translation, this is also a wonderful translation with beautiful pictures and notes in the margins to help explain things. Even if you are not normally interested in this type of book, Babur leads you into his world and you are compelled to read on!

Wonderful source of historical information. Amazing effort of a group of Turkish speakers who established an extraordinary multicultural empire.

The Baburnama is an important literary text but it is also a challenging text to read, not the least because of the myriad names that Babur continuously lists. It isn't for the general reader but those looking to understand Mughal history will find the Baburnama an indispensable text.

Fascinating book. Definitely dives into the world of Timurid elites and the chaotic transitions that occurred in Khorasan and Northern India. Really enjoyed reading it.

prior to a trip to Central Asia aka The 'Stans I delved into this a bit bewildered and unstable. Then during the trip the importance of this dynasty became more vivid. It is a difficult read for a novice.

I would compare this extraordinary memoir by an extraordinary man to The Tale of Genji - both of them are "firsts" in their culture. The descendants of Tamerlane were both ruthlessly crafty Central Asian kings and warriors, and ultra refined connoisseurs of art and architecture, poetry, food, gardens, and (alas for them) wine. The Baburnama has it all. To encounter the private thoughts of a great conqueror is a unique experience. The Baburnama is well-written and well translated. It is one of the great treasures of literature, and will give the reader a much better idea why Afghanistan and Central Asia are the way they are.

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