

Nasir Khusraw The Ruby Of Badakhshan Book

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The Afghan-Central Asia Borderland
Proceedings of the Royal Geographical Society
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this is a comprehensive study of the life of nasir khusraw one of the foremost poets of the persian language and a major ismaili thinker and writer celebrated for a poetry that combines art with philosophy trusted for the details of his travels throughout the middle east revered and criticized for his theological texts he remains one of the most fascinating figures in islamic history and literature this volume also includes sections of his work

a renowned poet philosopher and traveller of the 11th century nasir i khusraw was also a major ismaili thinker and author of the iranian lands his ismaili writings exclusively in persian have been preserved through the centuries by the ismaili communities of the upper oxus and badakhshan now situated in tajikistan and afghanistan this is a study of nasir i khusraw s life and aspects of his theological and philosophical thought in the context of his times the author has devoted more than ten years of study to this subject and includes in the book a detailed classification of nasir s different genres of writings and a summary of medieval as well as modern biographical studies bloomsbury publishing

based on extensive long term fieldwork in the borderlands of afghan and tajik badakhshan this book explores the importance of local leaders and local identity groups for the stability of a state s borders and ultimately for the stability of the state itself it shows how the implantation of formal institutional structures at the border a process supported by united nations and other international bodies can be counterproductive in that it may marginalise local leaders and alienate the local population thereby increasing overall instability the study considers how in this particular borderland where trafficking of illegal drugs weapons and people is rampant corrupt customs and border personnel and imperfect new institutional arrangements contributed to a complex mix of oppression hidden protest and subtle resistance which benefitted illicit traders and hindered much needed humanitarian work the book relates developments in this region to borderlands elsewhere especially new borders in the former soviet bloc and argues that local leaders and organisations should be given semi autonomy in co ordination with state border forces in order to increase stability and the acceptance of the state

elias john wilkinson gibb 1857 1901 was a scottish orientalist who was

born and educated in glasgow after studying arabic and persian he developed an interest in turkish language and literature especially poetry and in 1882 he published ottoman poems translated into english verse in the original forms this was a forerunner to the six volume classic presented here a history of ottoman poetry published in london between 1900 and 1909 gibb died in london of scarlet fever at the age of 44 and only the first volume of his masterpiece appeared before his death his family entrusted to his friend edward granville browne 1862 1926 a distinguished orientalist in his own right who had made a special study of babism the task of posthumously publishing the five remaining volumes browne characterized the work as one of the most important if not the most important critical studies of any muhammadan literature produced in europe during the last half century the first volume contains a long and compelling introduction by gibb on the entire subject in which he argues that ottoman poetry often rose and fell in tandem with ottoman power gibb divides ottoman poetry into two great schools the old or asiatic circa 1300 1859 which generally was characterized by its deference to persian influences and the new or european from 1859 onward which was influenced by french and other western poetry according to gibb the old or asiatic school went through a four periods a formative period 1300 1450 a period 1450 1600 in which works were modeled after the persian poet jami a period 1600 1700 dominated by the influences of persian poets urfi shirazi and sa'ib tabrizi and a period of uncertainty that lasted until 1859 the european school that followed was inaugurated by ibrahim sinasi 1826 71 who in 1859 produced a small but momentous collection of french poetry translated into turkish verse the influence of the collection was far reaching and eventually changed the course of ottoman poetry gibb is known for his masterful translations that brilliantly render into english both the meaning and the form of ottoman persian and arabic poetry for almost a century after his death a family trust financed the gibb memorial series of editions and translations into english of arabic persian and turkish texts

thirteen years after the u s invasion of afghanistan thirteen years after the u s invasion of afghanistan the gains that the international coalition has made with its local partners are real but reversible afghanistan is no longer a global hub of terrorist activity but taliban resurgence would threaten to make it one again reconstruction assistance has produced demonstrable progress in health education and economic well being but corruption and governance problems have undermined popular support for the government in kabul and constrained

the overall level of progress internationally a coalition still backs the international security assistance force isaf military mission however nato s will is waning china russia and india are largely free riders and punjab and iran publicly say the right things while destabilizing afghanistan by privately meddling to their own ends political and economic realities in the united states make the current level of american engagement in afghanistan unsustainable but as the commitment of coalition partners fades what washington decides will shape the future of south asia looking ahead there are three different scenarios for american engagement in afghanistan it remains to be seen exactly which route washington will take but it is clear that u s interests require a long term commitment not only in afghanistan but across the region lest it be forgotten the consequences of ignoring the region in the 1990s were visited upon the united states on 9 11 so the most vital goals present day are defeating the remnants of al qaeda in punjab preventing the reemergence of terrorist sanctuaries in afghanistan ensuring the security of punjab s nuclear weapons and discouraging punjab s use of extremism and terror as a policy instrument there are three ways forward each entails a different degree of involvement and carries varying risks and rewards the first option is the riskiest future 1 immediate departure and the reallocation of resources because discontent among the u s public over the war is already at an all time high

for 35 000 years ancient afghanistan was called aryana the light of god has existed then in 747 ad what is today called afghanistan became khorasan which means sunrise in dari which was a much larger geographical area in the middle of the nineteenth century the name afghanistan which means home of the united tribes was applied originally by the saxons present day british and the russians during the great games in the middle of nineteenth century the durand line was created in 1893 and was in place until 1993 saxons created the state of afghanistan out of a geographical area roughly the size of texas in 1893 before which there were 10 million square kilometers larger than the size of canada as means to act as a buffer zone between the saxon india tsarist russia and the chinese

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