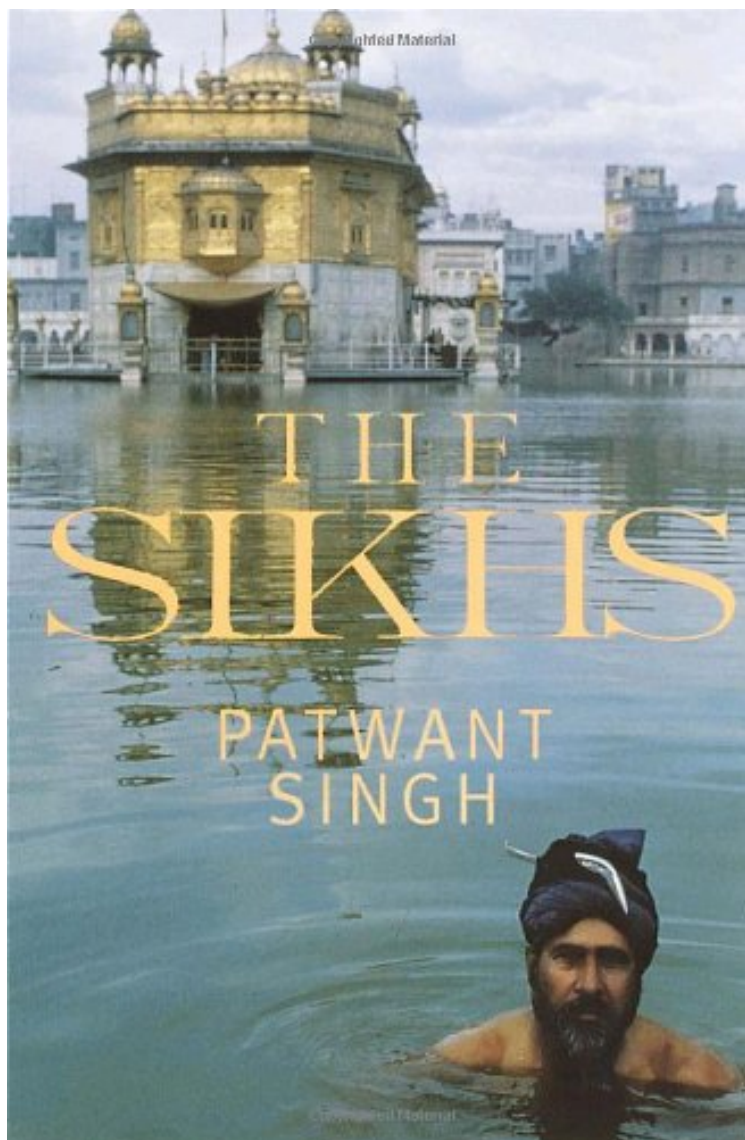


The Sikhs

Patwant Singh

*DOC | *audiobook | ebooks | Download PDF | ePub*



DOWNLOAD



READ ONLINE

#451392 in Books 2001-07-17 2001-07-17 Original language: English PDF # 1 8.50 x .50 x 5.50l, .81 #File Name: 0385502060312 pages ISBN13: 9780385502061 Condition: New Notes: BRAND NEW FROM PUBLISHER! 100% Satisfaction Guarantee. Tracking provided on most orders. Buy with Confidence! Millions of books sold! | File size: 23.Mb

Patwant Singh : The Sikhs before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Sikhs:

1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. A good history of the Sikhs. By Robert W. Beamguard An essential book in English about the Sikhs. Be aware however that this is a history of the Sikh community from its origins, rather

than an overall look at the Sikh religion. Its coverage of doctrine and practice is thinner than might be expected. Not surprisingly, the author concentrates on Sikh history in the Punjab and Delhi. Be prepared for plenty of appalling violence and gore! There is also lots of discussion about modern Indian politics and sectarian issues that concern Indian Sikhs, which may be of limited interest to some readers (but read this anyway). Anyone planning to visit Amritsar will benefit greatly from having read this book; it will indeed transform one's experience of the Harmandir Sahib (the Golden Temple) and its surrounding complex. Sikhism is expanding. It is said to have surpassed Judaism as the fifth largest world religion, and there is a growing number of non-Indian Sikhs. We need a good, modern general survey in English about the religion and its individualistic followers. In the meantime, this book is a great place to start reading about the Sikhs. Guru Nanak, guide us!

1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Meeting the Sikhs By RGI found this book to be extremely informative. It provides a historic overview of the Sikh religion and culture. The author tells of both triumphs and failures in a clear manner. General Sikh beliefs and values are explained. He also provides insight into how religion politics were mixed and used in the creation of Pakistan and an independent India after British colonial rule. The author, a Sikh himself, is not a propagandist and while very proud of his faith culture, will admit to both past ongoing issues within the Sikh community. He also avoids disrespecting other faiths and cultures.

5 of 5 people found the following review helpful. A Sikh Snapshot By T. Dodge Patwant Singh provides a thumbnail of Sikh religious and political developments from the 15th century to the present. I found the last two chapters particularly instructive given America's current Middle East challenges. The resentment created by colonial powers on indigenous societies and the irresistible urge for fledgling democracies to abuse state powers are amply described. A glossary of Indian terms, which were adequately explained for an English reading audience within the text would have been helpful.

Five hundred years ago, Guru Nanak founded the Sikh faith in India. The Sikhs defied the caste system; rejected the authority of Hindu priests; forbade magic and idolatry; and promoted the equality of men and women -- beliefs that incurred the wrath of both Hindus and Muslims. In the centuries that followed, three of Nanak's nine successors met violent ends, and his people continued to battle hostile regimes. The conflict has raged into our own time: in 1984 the Golden Temple of Amritsar -- the holy shrine of the Sikhs--was destroyed by the Indian Army. In retaliation, Sikh bodyguards assassinated Prime Minister Indira Gandhi. Now, Patwant Singh gives us the compelling story of the Sikhs -- their origins, traditions and beliefs, and more recent history. He shows how a movement based on tenets of compassion and humaneness transformed itself, of necessity, into a community that values bravery and military prowess as well as spirituality. We learn how Gobind Singh, the tenth and last Guru, welded the Sikhs into a brotherhood, with each man bearing the surname Singh, or "Lion," and abiding by a distinctive code of dress and conduct. He tells of Banda the Brave's daring conquests, which sowed the seeds of a Sikh state, and how the enlightened ruler Ranjit Singh fulfilled this promise by founding a Sikh empire. The author examines how, through the centuries, the Sikh soldier became an exemplar of discipline and courage and explains how Sikhs -- now numbering nearly 20 million worldwide -- have come to be known for their commitment to education, their business acumen, and their enterprising spirit. Finally, Singh concludes that it would be a grave error to alienate an energetic and vital community like the Sikhs if modern India is to realize its full potential. He urges India's leaders to learn from the past and to "honour the social contract with Indians of every background and persuasion." From the Hardcover edition.

.com Sikhism is one of the world's gentlest religions--a sort of eastern version of Anglicanism. It is as though someone had taken the best bits of Hinduism and Islam and merged them into a religion accessible even to the most secular of souls. There is no class or caste system, hence the men are all called Singh (Lion) and the women Kaur (Princess), and it makes no great claim to be the only way; indeed, unlike most religions, it actively promotes the idea that its followers may learn from other faiths. And yet, the popular image of Sikhs as fierce warriors is almost diametrically opposed to the tenets of their faith. Just how this came to be is wonderfully told in Patwant Singh's history of the Sikhs, published to coincide with the 300th anniversary of the Khalsa--the most important date in the Sikh calendar. As may be expected, Singh is a highly partisan narrator. The Sikhs are always bold and noble, and those who oppress them--the Moghuls, the Hindus, and the British--are conniving and duplicitous. But this aside, he tells a truthful story of the early days of Sikhism up to the 20th-century partition of the Punjab and the diaspora to East Africa and Britain. But the book really takes off when we reach the modern era. He provides a moving account of the storming of the Golden Temple in Amritsar by Hindu troops acting on the authority of the Indian government in 1984. This led directly to the assassination of Indira Gandhi by her two Sikh bodyguards, which in turn brought swift and widespread retribution, as thousands of Sikhs were rounded up and massacred. What Patwant Singh doesn't answer, though, is why so many people have felt so threatened by Sikhism over the centuries. Sikhs do not proselytize their religion and they make up only two percent of the Indian population, yet they have been persecuted throughout their history. Maybe, just as nature abhors a vacuum, so religions abhor moderation. --John Crace, .co.uk From Publishers Weekly

In his preface, Singh, a Sikh writer and editor, explains that he wrote this book, in part, to counter the notion that Sikhs are little more than terrorists--a picture, he suggests, that's at least in part the product of a systematic disinformation

campaign waged by the Indian government. In accessible if scholarly prose, Singh traces Sikh history from its origins in the 15th century through Indira Gandhi's 1984 storming of the Golden Temple (the holiest Sikh shrine and the event that led to Gandhi's assassination by her Sikh bodyguards). Sikhs, he argues, have for centuries been an embattled people because their culture and religion defy the predominant religions in the region, as well as the Indian caste system with its ruling elite. For this reason, Hindu and Muslim rulers strove again and again to violently crush the Sikh religion; over the centuries, Sikhs grew increasingly militarized in order to defend their religion and themselves. In the riots that followed the storming of the Golden Temple, for instance, 3,000 Sikhs were killed in New Delhi when, by Singh's account, government troops were withdrawn and the Sikhs were left unprotected. The author discusses how the partition of India, the rise of fundamentalism and the perceived indifference of the Indian government to their concerns led to Sikhs' desire for a separate state in the Punjab. He does occasionally criticize what he sees as indiscriminate Sikh violence ("less saintly companions" is what he calls those who commit violent deeds), but for the most part Singh keeps his focus on demonstrating that the word terrorist is used much too often to describe Sikhs. Although Singh sometimes steers clear of important complications in his story, on the whole, this is a balanced, nuanced and well-documented study of a people little understood in the West. 8 pages of photos and 7 maps. (Apr.) Copyright 2000 Reed Business Information, Inc. From Library Journal After describing the ten Sikh gurus and the contribution of each to the evolution of the religion, Singh, the longtime editor of *Design* magazine, narrates the seemingly constant struggle the religion has faced to survive in the north Indian plains. Alas, his bias toward his religion is all too apparent: All Muslims are treacherous, all Brahmins disreputable, and the British duplicitous. Singh's concentration upon forces affecting the Sikhs makes the work most defensive and hinders the ability to discuss the growth and evolution of this unique group, which has contributed so much to life in modern India. An optional purchase for public libraries that already possess J.W. Grewal's *The Sikhs of the Punjab* (in the "New Cambridge History of the Punjab" series). Other, better purchases are W.H. McLeod's *The Sikhs: History, Religion, and Society* (Columbia Univ., 1989) or *Sikh Identity: Continuity and Change*, edited by Pashaura Singh and N. Gerald Barrier (New Delhi: Manohar, 1999). -Donald Johnson, Univ. of Minnesota Lib., Minneapolis Copyright 2000 Reed Business Information, Inc.