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Kurdistan: In The Shadow Of History, Second Edition



Synopsis

Kurdistan was erased from world maps after World War I, when the victorious powers carved up the Middle East, leaving the Kurds without a homeland. Today the Kurds, who live on land that straddles the borders of Turkey, Iran, Iraq, and Syria, are by far the largest ethnic group in the world without a state. Renowned photographer Susan Meiselas entered northern Iraq after the 1991 Gulf War to record the effects of Saddam Hussein's campaigns against Iraq's Kurdish population. She joined Human Rights Watch in documenting the destruction of Kurdish villages (some of which Hussein had attacked with chemical weapons in 1988) and the uncovering of mass graves. Moved by her experiences there, Meiselas began work on a visual history of the Kurds. The result, *Kurdistan: In the Shadow of History*, gives form to the collective memory of the Kurds and creates from scattered fragments a vital national archive. In addition to Meiselas's own photographs, *Kurdistan* presents images and accounts by colonial administrators, anthropologists, missionaries, soldiers, journalists, and others who have traveled to Kurdistan over the last century, and, not to forget, by Kurds themselves. The book's pictures, personal memoirs, government reports, letters, advertisements, and maps provide multiple layers of representation, juxtaposing different orders of historiographical evidence and memories, thus allowing the reader to discover voices of the Kurds that contest Western notions of them. In its layering of narratives—both textual and photographic—*Kurdistan* breaks new ground, expanding our understanding of how images can be used as a medium for historical and cultural representation. A crucial repository of memory for the Kurdish community both in exile and at home, this new edition appears at a time when the world's attention has once again been drawn to the lands of this little-understood but historically consequential people.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

I was a bit surprised when the package containing this book was delivered to me. The box was about twice the size I was expecting, and weighed a ton. Make no mistake: this book comprises an invaluable archive of Kurdish resources, firsthand letters, and a wealth of photographs. This is indispensable for scholars interested in the ethnography, history, and international status of one of the most overlooked groups in the world. Whether you are of Kurdish descent, involved in Middle East studies, or the role that photography and art can play in communicating identity, get this book!

Very nice book with the history of the Kurds. I bought it for my bf for a gift, he loved it, along with his family. The nice thing is that the book has the English passages also written in Kurdish/Turkish but for Iraq Kurds this is not ideal. Not all read English and most can't read (only speak) Kurdish, since the gov didn't allow the language, it would be great if they had Arabic translation as well, since most are formally taught Arabic in school. Though it seems wrong to have the Arabic language with the Kurdish, considering the issue between the two cultures. Also it's only translated in Kurmanji Kurdish and not Sorani, which again is best for the Iraq Kurdish (if they can read Kurdish). Luckily my bf reads English well and his family are able to read Turkish. Otherwise this book is beautiful and full of a lot of information.

Highly recommended! This is a historically concise history of Kurdistan. Covering from past to present, using newspaper articles and photography. Crammed full of historical articles, color & black/white photography.

I highly recommend this book. It is rich with rare photos about Kurds and Kurdistan. This helps learning more about this great and isolated nation.

Excellent photos and descriptions that I haven't seen before in one book. The book illustrates long and painful history of Kurds with few short periods of victory and betrayal by their opponents. This book will satisfy anyone interested in Middle Eastern bloody history and conflicts.

I like this book because of the explanation of the content, which is very clear. I recommend this book to everyone who wants to learn more about history of Middle East.

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