





involved in the study of material culture in Muslim societies.

I am excited and in fact feel provoked, as the book has manifested, that the author had successfully gone through the mysterious “cultural immersion”. Upon leading a full life in Uzbekistan and accomplished the mastery of both the Russian and Uzbek languages he was well disposed to manoeuvre the heritage tunnel spinning his head with the multitude of values unbeknown to him. His exploits through the rustic country, rugged mountains and infinite horizon of forest would match with deeper emotion in circumventing the cultural network, passing through the cal de sac of unexplained attributes and reaching the thoughts of real life assurance that have wired him to be “one of us”. The subtle and essential values inculcated drove his adrenalin towards the congregation of behaviour, thereby providing an immense source of motivation to be part of the living culture of the country. This is thus a classic case in the study of any melting pot from any continent, whereby mere coexistence would miss out the rich and deep cultural experience.- Dr Yahya Mat Hassan , an academia and a pollster.

The Caucasus region of Eurasia, wedged in between the Black and Caspian Seas, encompasses the modern territories of Armenia, Azerbaijan, and Georgia, as well as the troubled republic of Chechnya in southern Russia. A site of invasion, conquest, and resistance since the onset of historical record, it has earned a reputation for fearsome violence and isolated mountain redoubts closed to outsiders. Over extended efforts to control the Caucasus area, Russians have long mythologized stories of their countrymen taken captive by bands of mountain brigands. In *The Captive and the Gift*, the anthropologist Bruce Grant explores the

long relationship between Russia and the Caucasus and the means by which sovereignty has been exercised in this contested area. Taking his lead from Aleksandr Pushkin's 1822 poem "Prisoner of the Caucasus," Grant explores the extraordinary resonances of the themes of violence, captivity, and empire in the Caucasus through mythology, poetry, short stories, ballet, opera, and film. Grant argues that while the recurring Russian captivity narrative reflected a wide range of political positions, it most often and compellingly suggested a vision of Caucasus peoples as thankless, lawless subjects of empire who were unwilling to acknowledge and accept the gifts of civilization and protection extended by Russian leaders. Drawing on years of field and archival research, Grant moves beyond myth and mass culture to suggest how real-life Caucasus practices of exchange, by contrast, aimed to control and diminish rather than unleash and increase violence. The result is a historical anthropology of sovereign forms that underscores how enduring popular narratives and close readings of ritual practices can shed light on the management of pluralism in long-fraught world areas.

A JIGIT WITHOUT HIS HORSEITBMA Jigit without his HorsePartridge Publishing Singapore Novel ini terinspirasi oleh sosok historis dan kontroversial yang didengar Tolstoy ketika bertugas sebagai tentara di Kaukasus. Kisah ini menghidupkan sang pejuang terkenal, Haji Murad, seorang pemberontak Chechnya yang berjuang dengan garang dan gagah berani melawan kekaisaran Rusia. Haji Murad adalah gambaran menggetarkan sosok pejuang tragis yang masih dikenang hingga kini. Inilah sebuah kisah indah tentang cinta, perjuangan, dan pengorbanan yang layak Anda renungkan. " Karya pamungkas Leo Tolstoy yang baru diterbitkan setelah kematiannya ini adalah do-ngeng moral paling dahsyat pada zaman kita. Diterbitkan oleh penerbit Serambi Ilmu Semesta" (Serambi Group)

By looking at the top 0.1 percent of Russian society, this book captures the stories of multimillionaires and billionaires, their spouses, and their children. It traces how rich Russians moved from conspicuously spending cash into a conscious social class, legitimizing their wealth through philanthropy and more bourgeois manners

Award-winning author Marion Molteno takes us on a magical journey of discovery into the life of a writer and her readers. From book events in small English towns to huge literary festivals in India and Pakistan, from the mountains of Tajikistan to remote parts of Africa, she traces the roots of the fictional worlds she has so brilliantly created in her novels. Weaving through these vignettes are reflections on the creative process, her own and anyone's — her own journey as a writer, what fiction does for us, and the vital relationship between writers and readers. With an ability to find significance in the ordinary and the extraordinary alike, she describes encounters with the people and cultures that have inspired her, and rediscovers at every turn what connects us to others, from next door or around the world. Compelling, written with great pace, and full of insights into different cultures. And what a brave book it is – laying bare levels of feeling and reflection that, though beautifully written, still feel quite raw.

The second edition of this highly successful reference book is the most comprehensive and up-to-date source of information on the ruling elite in the various republics available in the English language. Containing a detailed guide to the structure and hierarchy of organizations in the republics, and biographies of the most prominent members of the

elite, it functions both as a directory and a handbook and reflects the changes that have taken place with the break-up of the USSR.

Vladimir Putin has explicitly based his nation-building initiatives on the assumption that there exists a vast pool of common values in Russia that cut across ethnic and regional divides. *Nation-Building and Common Values in Russia* explores whether Putin is correct in his assumption, and to what degree a "commonality of values" among the citizens of a country is a crucial element in the establishment of a common identity among them. The study raises two basic questions: Which values are actually common among various groups in Russia's population? And which nation-building strategies are the Russian authorities actually pursuing, centrally and locally? Sociological and political approaches to the study of nation-building and national cohesion in Russia are employed to answer these questions, and the findings contribute to a better understanding of nation-building processes in post-Communist Russia in general and of Putin's strategies in particular.

Includes entries for maps and atlases.

A rugged land between the Black and Caspian seas, the Caucasus is a battle ground for a fascinating and formidable clash of cultures: Russia on one side, the predominantly Muslim mountains on the other. In *Caucasus*, award-winning author Nicholas Griffin recounts his journey to this war torn region to explore the roots of today's conflict, centering his travelogue on Imam Shamil, the great nineteenth century Muslim warrior who commanded a quarter-century resistance against invading Russian forces. Delving deep into the Caucasus, Griffin

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transcends the headlines trumpeting Chechen insurgency to give the land and its conflicts dimension: evoking the weather, terrain, and geography alongside national traditions, religious affiliations, and personal legends as barriers to peaceful co-existence. In focusing his tale on Shamil while retracing his steps, Griffin compellingly demonstrates the way history repeats itself.

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