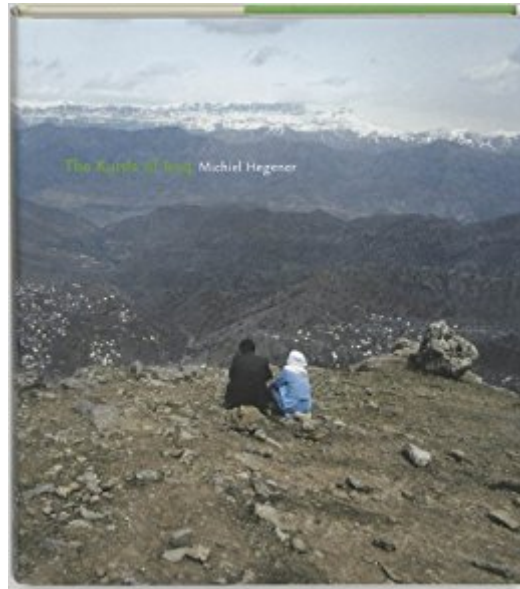




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The Kurds Of Iraq



Synopsis

The Kurds of Iraq have been making headlines for many decades: in the eighties and early nineties mostly as victims of brutal suppression, in the mid-nineties as victims of each other's heavy in-fighting, and since then mainly through their success in achieving a high degree of independence and prosperity within Iraq. The Kurds of Iraq is a book about the Iraqi Kurdistan Region, governed by the highly autonomous Kurdistan Regional Government. The IKR has a 200,000 strong army, its own borders and border patrols, and even its very own stamps. In stark contrast with its volatile past, the IKR, often referred to as 'The Other Iraq', enjoys a high degree of safety and a booming economy. While most books about the Kurds of Iraq focus solely on military, political and humanitarian issues, this book provides unique insights into their farming methods, the position of women, journalism, telecommunications, life in the villages, leisure and, not least, the magnificent archaeological treasures to be found there.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

With, "The Rape of a Nation", Marcus Bleasdale exposes the sub-human working conditions that Congolese miners are subjected to as a result of the consumer Western World's unquenchable thirst for diamonds. The miners, of whose back breaking work is used to extract the highly sought-out jewels, are not provided a living wage, basic medical care, or general safety or protection. The only certainty in this tangled web of deceit and treachery is the financial enrichment the miners will provide for the lives of those who selfishly allow their misery to continue. Due to the ongoing conflict

of armed rebels and warlords who violently fight for control of this most beloved natural resource, 45,000 people a month unnecessarily lost their lives at the time of this book's release as a result of these two warring factions lust for complete control of this precious symbol of wealth and stature. In a more generous world, these jewels would be used to enrich the lives of those who tirelessly labour day in and day out to unearth them instead of forcing upon them a down trodden life of poverty, heartache, and sexual exploitation. Thankfully, Bleasdale shines a light of hope on this dark atrocity by compassionately documenting with the lens of his camera the horrors the miners face to bring this stone into the reach of those whose greed and lack for human compassion knows no bounds. Although this book will not put an end to this unjust cycle of unmerciful exploitation, there is one thing that those who have read or own this book can do as consumers to make a difference. When purchasing jewelry embroidered with a diamond(s), simply ask the sales representative, "WHERE DOES THIS DIAMOND COME FROM". If the response is, The Democratic Republic of Congo, then you have a choice of whether or not its purchase is more important to you than the suffering and deaths of the miners who unearthed this most beloved jewel that has come to be known as, "A Woman's Best Friend". I apologize if I came off forceful or too preachy with this review, but this book had a profound effect on me. I as a result recommend you purchase, "The Rape of a Nation", by Marcus Bleasdale and use it as an educational tool to make a difference, in some form, shape, or fashion. With this said, I at times wonder if I am selfishly viewing this book from a Westerners perspective. I ask myself: What if this is the only viable source of income for the miners? What will come of their families; especially their children or the elderly were they to stop mining? How will their basic needs be met; will things be worse off for them? These are tough questions that remain stuck in my mind after viewing this book. Questions of which I fear may never be adequately answered. The only complaint that I have is the pages are black with no white border which causes a distraction to the eye when viewing the images being they are black and white, but it is not enough to take away from the book's message. The images are beautifully photographed and effectively give the reader an insight into the lives of the miners as they continue to make a living as best they know how. It is my hope that you purchase this wonderful book and formulate your own opinions based on the information given. Respectfully, Jamusu.

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