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Tibetan history, as it has
been recorded, is

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particularly focused on the history of Buddhism in Tibet. This is partly due to the pivotal role this religion has played in the development of Tibetan and Mongol cultures and partly because almost all native historians of the country were Buddhist monks.

~~History of Tibet~~

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History. Ruins in eastern Tibet near Qamdo indicate that humans inhabited the region some 4,000 to 5,000 years ago.

According to Tibetan legend, the Tibetan people originated from the union of a monkey and a female demon.

The Chinese Tang dynasty annals (10th century ce) place the

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Tibetans' origin among the nomadic pastoral Qiang tribes recorded about 200 bce as inhabiting the great steppe northwest of China.

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Hugh Edward

Richardson CIE OBE

FBA (22 December

1905 – 3 December

2000) was an Indian

Civil Service officer,

British diplomat and

Tibetologist. His

academic work focused

on the history of the

Tibetan empire, and in

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particular on
epigraphy. He was
among the last
Europeans to have
known Tibet and its
society before the
Chinese invasions which
began in 1950.

~~Hugh Edward
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Tibet has a long and
rich history as a nation
existing side-by-side

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with China while political power in Asia shifted between empires and kingdoms. In 1913, the 13th Dalai Lama issued a proclamation reaffirming Tibet ' s independence and the country maintained its own national flag, currency, stamps, passports and army.

~~Tibet ' s history and~~

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For centuries, Tibet has occupied a unique place in the Western

imagination: romantic, mysterious, a remote mountain kingdom of incarnate lamas and nomadic herdsman, of gold-roofed monasteries and hidden valleys which hold the secrets of eternal youth.

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The earliest inhabitants of Tibet were a pastoral people. They herded goats, cattle and sheep. By 100 BC people in Tibet learned to irrigate the land and grew rice and barley as well as raising herds of

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livestock. In the 6th century AD Tibet was divided into different kingdoms but early in the 7th century AD Tibet became a single, unified state.

At different times in its history Tibet has been renowned for pacifism and martial prowess,

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Lama may be the only
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French has been
fascinated by Tibet since
he was a teenager. He
has read its history,
agitated for its freedom,
and risked arrest to
travel through its
remote interior. His love

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and knowledge inform every page of this learned, literate, and impassioned book.

Talking with nomads and Buddhist nuns, exiles and collaborators, French portrays a nation demoralized by a half-century of Chinese occupation and forced to depend on the patronage of Western dilettantes. He

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demolishes many of the myths accruing to Tibet – including those centering around the radiant figure of the Dalai Lama. Combining the best of history, travel writing, and memoir, Tibet, Tibet is a work of extraordinary power and insight.

Tibet has long fascinated the West, but

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What really lies beyond our romantic image of a mystical mountain kingdom of peace and spirituality? Patrick French set out to discover the truth, and his extraordinary account has been widely acclaimed. Travelling through the country, French meets exiled monks, nomads and a nun secretly fighting

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Chinese rule, but also young Tibetans with a more pragmatic attitude to their situation.

Interweaving these encounters with little-known stories of war and turmoil from Tibet's past, he reveals a more nuanced, fascinating and surprising picture of this complex place than any other book has done.

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In 1982, while he was still a schoolboy, Patrick French met the Dalai Lama for the first time.

Ever since, he has been fascinated by Tibet's people, its history, and its recent plight. For centuries, Tibet has occupied a unique place in the Western imagination: romantic, mysterious, a remote

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A mountain kingdom of incarnate lamas and nomadic herdsmen, of gold-roofed monasteries and hidden valleys which hold the secret of eternal youth. In recent years, Tibet has acquired an additional resonance as the oppressed vassal of its mighty neighbour China. Its plight has attracted Hollywood

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stars, and the exiled Dalai Lama has become the global embodiment of spiritual attainment and unflagging commitment to his nation. The effect of these myths has been more to obscure than to reveal the reality of the country, its people and its plight. Tibet, Tibet has its origins in Patrick French's twenty-year

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involvement in the Tibetan cause. Part memoir, part travel book, part history, it is a quest for the true Tibet. relationship with China. He meets victims and perpetrators of Mao's Cultural Revolution, and young nuns who continue the fight against Communist rule. He stays in the tents of nomads, and hears first-

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hand accounts of the
hopeless battle against
overwhelmingly
superior Chinese forces
which ended, in a single
day, a way of life which
had endured for
thousands of years. On
his journey, Patrick
French is continually
sidetracked by a cascade
of information, thoughts
and reflections on such
subjects as how to blind

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A cabinet minister using a yak's knucklebones, the correct method of travelling across a desert by night, and the reasons for the Dalai Lama's transformation into 'an unknown dark-brown bird, bigger than a normal raven'. Patrick French has found a new way of writing about a place and its history. He fascinatingly illuminates

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one of the most persistently troubling of international issues, and confirms his reputation as one of the finest writers at work today.

In 1927, Oxford University Press published the first western-language translation of a collection of Tibetan funerary texts (the Great

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Liberation upon
Hearing in the Bardo)
under the title The
Tibetan Book of the
Dead. Since that time,
the work has established
a powerful hold on the
western popular
imagination, and is now
considered a classic of
spiritual literature. Over
the years, The Tibetan
Book of the Dead has
inspired numerous

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commentaries, an illustrated edition, a play, a video series, and even an opera.

Translators, scholars, and popular devotees of the book have claimed to explain its esoteric ideas and reveal its hidden meaning. Few, however, have uttered a word about its history. Bryan J. Cuevas seeks to fill this gap in our

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knowledge by offering the first comprehensive historical study of the Great Liberation upon Hearing in the Bardo, and by grounding it firmly in the context of Tibetan history and culture. He begins by discussing the many ways the texts have been understood (and misunderstood) by westerners, beginning

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with its first editor, the Oxford-educated anthropologist Walter Y. Evans-Wentz, and continuing through the present day. The remarkable fame of the book in the west, Cuevas argues, is strikingly disproportionate to how the original Tibetan texts were perceived in their own country.

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Cuevas tells the story of how The Tibetan Book of the Dead was compiled in Tibet, of the lives of those who preserved and transmitted it, and explores the history of the rituals through which the life of the dead is imagined in Tibetan society. This book provides not only a fascinating look at a

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A popular and enduring spiritual work, but also a much-needed corrective to the proliferation of ahistorical scholarship surrounding The Tibetan Book of the Dead.

Presents a comprehensive history of the country, from its beginnings in the seventh century, to its

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rise as a Buddhist empire in medieval times, to its conquest by China in 1950, and subsequent rule by the Chinese.

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China. Its plight has attracted Hollywood stars, and the exiled Dalai Lama has become the global embodiment of spiritual attainment and unflagging commitment to his nation. The effect of these myths has been more to obscure than to reveal the reality of the country, its people and its plight. Tibetan cause.

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Part memoir, part travel book, part history, it is a quest for the true Tibet. He finds a land with a long, warlike past and a complex interlocking relationship with China. He meets victims and perpetrators of Mao's Cultural Revolution and young nuns who continue the fight against Communist rule. He stays in the tents of

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A nomad and hears first-hand accounts of the hopeless battle against overwhelmingly superior Chinese forces that ended, in a single day, a way of life which had endured for thousands of years. On his journey, Patrick French is continually sidetracked by a cascade of information, thoughts and reflections on such

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subjects as how to blind a cabinet minister using a yak's knucklebones, the correct method of travelling across a desert by night and the reasons for the Dalai Lama's transformation into an unknown dark-brown bird, bigger than a normal raven.

A gripping portrait of modern Tibet told

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through the lives of its people, from the bestselling author of *Nothing to Envy*. “ You simply cannot understand China without reading Barbara Demick on Tibet. ” —Evan Osnos, author of *Age of Ambition* NAMED ONE OF THE BEST BOOKS OF THE YEAR BY Parul Sehgal,

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Economist Just as she did with North Korea, award-winning

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Demick explores one of the most hidden corners

of the world. She tells the story of a Tibetan

town perched eleven

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A thousand feet above sea level that is one of the most difficult places in all of China for foreigners to visit.

Ngaba was one of the first places where the Tibetans and the Chinese Communists encountered one another. In the 1930s, Mao Zedong ' s Red Army fled into the Tibetan plateau to

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escape their adversaries in the Chinese Civil War. By the time the soldiers reached Ngaba, they were so hungry that they looted monasteries and ate religious statues made of flour and butter—to Tibetans, it was as if they were eating the Buddha. Their experiences would make Ngaba one of the

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engines of Tibetan resistance for decades to come, culminating in shocking acts of self-immolation. Eat the Buddha spans decades of modern Tibetan and Chinese history, as told through the private lives of Demick ' s subjects, among them a princess whose family is wiped out during the Cultural Revolution, a young

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A Tibetan nomad who becomes radicalized in the storied monastery of Kirti, an upwardly mobile entrepreneur who falls in love with a Chinese woman, a poet and intellectual who risks everything to voice his resistance, and a Tibetan schoolgirl forced to choose at an early age between her family and the elusive

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lure of Chinese money. All of them face the same dilemma: Do they resist the Chinese, or do they join them? Do they adhere to Buddhist teachings of compassion and nonviolence, or do they fight? Illuminating a culture that has long been romanticized by Westerners as deeply spiritual and peaceful, Demick reveals what it

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is really like to be a Tibetan in the twenty-first century, trying to preserve one's culture, faith, and language against the depredations of a seemingly unstoppable, technologically all-seeing superpower. Her depiction is nuanced, unvarnished, and at times shocking.

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“ A memorable and vivid history lesson about a remote mysterious place that, in terms of its sheer survival, has

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implications for our own lives.” —The Times-Picayune Over the course of three years, journalist Thomas Laird spent more than sixty hours with His Holiness the Dalai Lama in candid, one-on-one interviews that ranged widely, covering not only the history of Tibet but science, reincarnation, and

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Buddhism. Laird brings these meetings to life in this vibrant, monumental work that outlines the essence of thousands of years of civilization, myth, and spirituality. Tibet ' s story is rich with tradition and filled with promise. It begins with the Bodhisattva Chenrizi (“ The Holy One ”) whose spirit

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many Tibetans believe resides within the Dalai Lama. We learn the origins of Buddhism, and about the era of Great Tibetan Emperors, whose reign stretched from southwestern China to Northern India. His Holiness introduces us to Tibet ' s greatest yogis and meditation masters, and explains

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how the institution of the Dalai Lama was founded. Laird explores, with His Holiness, Tibet's relations with the Mongols, the Golden Age under the Great Fifth Dalai Lama, Tibet's years under Manchu overlords, modern independence in the early twentieth century, and the Dalai Lama's personal

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meetings with Mao just before His Holiness fled into exile in 1959. The Story of Tibet is “ a tenderly crafted study that is equal parts love letter, traditional history and oral history ” (Publishers Weekly).

“ Captivating reading. ” —Tricycle

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