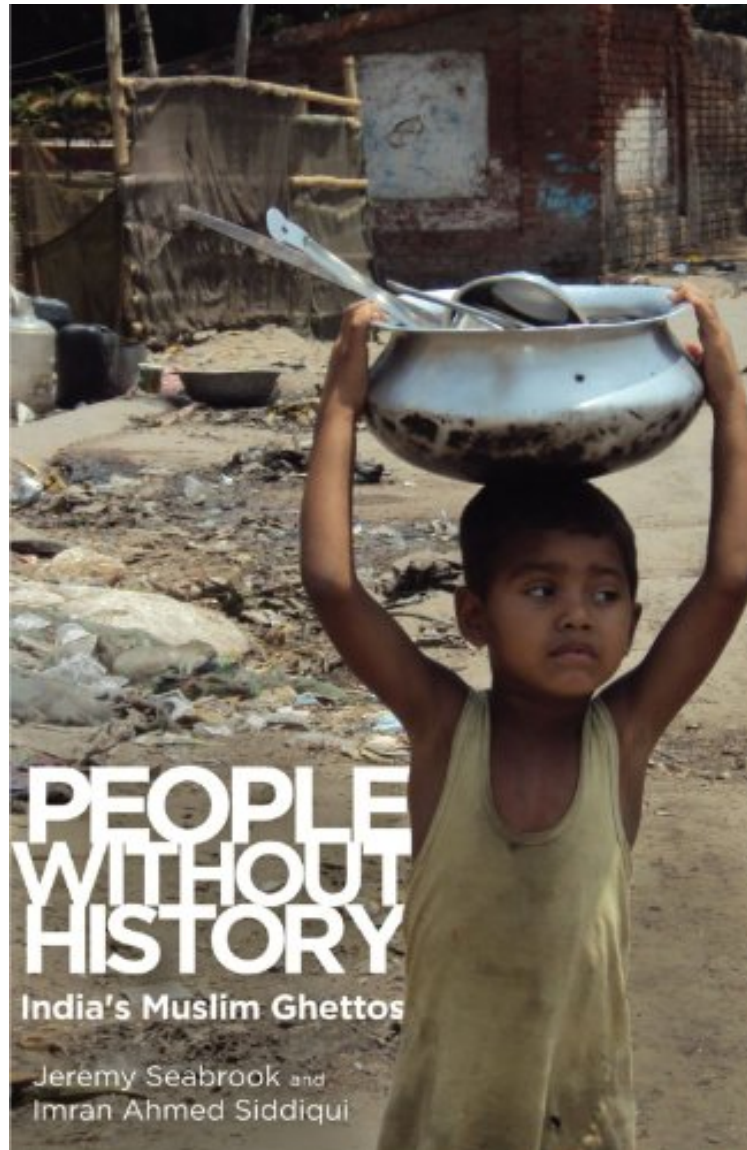


[Free pdf] People Without History: India's Muslim Ghettos

People Without History: India's Muslim Ghettos

Jeremy Seabrook, Imran Ahmed Siddiqui
audiobook / *ebooks / Download PDF / ePub / DOC



[Download](#)

[Read Online](#)

#3925978 in Books Pluto Press 2011-05-04 2011-03-15 Original language: English PDF # 1 7.80 x .70 x 5.081, .70 #File Name: 0745331130272 pages | File size: 52.Mb

Jeremy Seabrook, Imran Ahmed Siddiqui : People Without History: India's Muslim Ghettos before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised People Without History: India's Muslim Ghettos:

0 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Five Stars By Marjorie Excellent, kind of knew but always good to have mo info 1 of 3 people found the following review helpful. Only a collection of sad stories... By Joost Strickx The subtitle 'India's Muslim Ghetto's' is somehow a misnomer, as this book tells a great number of life-stories of Muslims

from Kolkata (formerly known as Calcutta). It would be wrong to deduct that this book analyses the plight of the Muslim communities in India, especially as the Muslim communities in Kolkata cannot be considered typical for the Indian Muslim communities at all. The Muslims of Kolkata, who historically are mostly descendants of immigrants from Bihar and Uttar Pradesh, have the particularity that they speak Urdu, and this amidst a Bengali-speaking majority. For 33 years West-Bengal has been governed by the secular Communist Party of India, which traditionally did not focus on the urban poor. This book is a very hard read, due to the subject matter and Seabrook's approach. It made me wonder why one reads berhaupt books. I presume, one motivation is that people read for pleasure. However, I cannot imagine that a reader of 'People without history' could describe this collection of life stories of very unfortunate people as 'entertaining'. Reading successively all these sorry stories undoubtedly does move that reader, who has not given up after the first chapter. Exemplary is the tragic-comical story of Mohammad Abdur Rouf, a BSc, who after successfully applying for a government job waits for 25 years (!!) for the confirmation letter. On 29 November 2007 his appointment is confirmed and he can start to work... for 41 days as he has reached retirement age. A court ruling entitles him to a full pension, however until now he did not receive anything... Other stories recount the abysmal living conditions, the despair of the people, the futility of education, the exploitation, the injustice...that is not my understanding of 'fun'. I presume another motivation to read books is to be informed, to learn something. This book however does not really offer analyses, it simply recounts stories and unfortunately the writer does not suggest solutions either. No happy end here. The persevering reader, who does reach the final pages of this book, could conclude that resignation is the only solution and move on and forget about these lost people and their miserable lives. I had already read another book of Jeremy Seabrook, 'Notes from Another India', and did find that book much more worthwhile. Seabrook's stated objective for that book was 'to explore positive initiatives taken by the people's movements and grassroots organisations' and this from different parts of India. With 'People without history' Seabrook's aim was to show the fate of the poor who are isolated from the image of contemporary India and the growing separation of Muslims of India from the Hindu mainstream. I do not know if the courageous reader of this book will deduct that much of all these sad stories.

"In the poor Muslim bustis of Kolkata, where 'India Shining' remains a cruel mirage, and 'Communism' equals urban renewal, Seabrook and Saddiqui chronicle dreams betrayed by history. In the most profound sense, this book is a voyage of solidarity that tells truth to the lies of globalization and Islamophobia." --Mike Davis, author of Planet of Slums