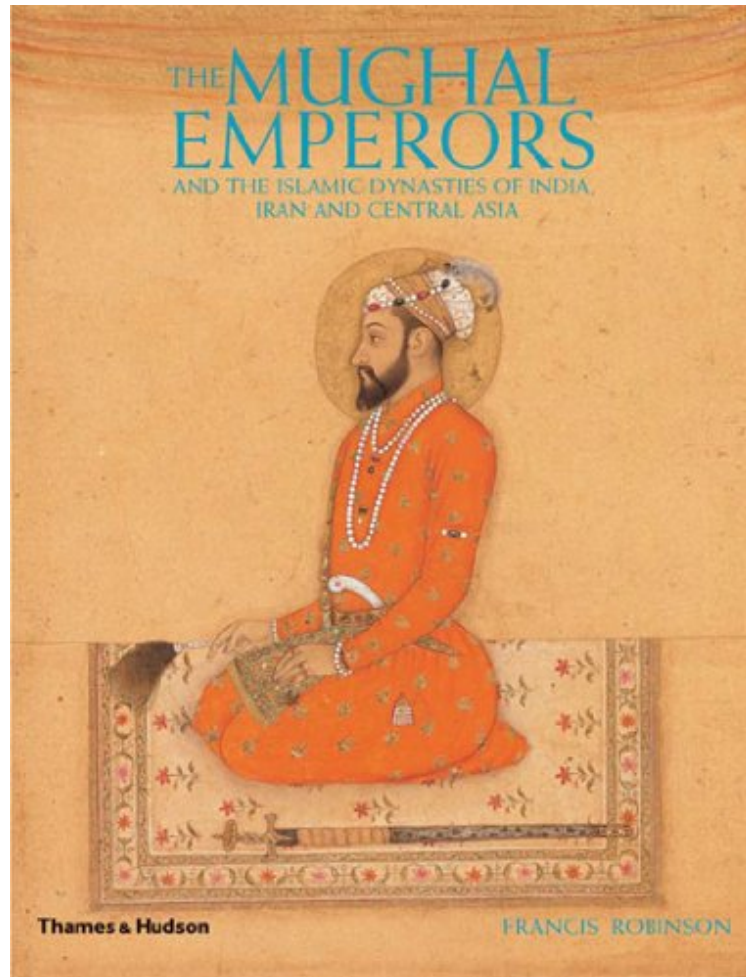


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The Mughal Emperors: And the Islamic Dynasties of India, Iran, and Central Asia

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Francis Robinson : The Mughal Emperors: And the Islamic Dynasties of India, Iran, and Central Asia before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Mughal Emperors: And the Islamic Dynasties of India, Iran, and Central Asia:

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illustrated. You can't claim to have a handle on world history if you are not acquainted with the Mughal dynasty and its wider context in space and time, wonderfully portrayed in this beautiful book. 1 of 7 people found the following review helpful. **Mughal Emperors** By M. Khan This book is good for a cursory look. the author seems biased against the subjects of his writing and tries to write controversial catchy snippets rather than valuable historical account

A detailed history of the long line of Mughal rulers from 1206 to 1925, illustrated with exquisite paintings, manuscripts, and architecture. In the West "mogul" refers to a person of great power and influence. The word derives from the Persian "Mughal" or Mongol, the people who, initially under Genghis Khan, had an enormous impact as they set out to conquer the world. This book describes the rulers from the thirteenth to the twentieth centuries whose reigns and lands were affected by Mongol/Mughal power and who all shared the Muslim high civilization that flourished from Iran and Central Asia through Afghanistan to north and central India. Among the prominent leaders were Timur, or Tamerlane, who lived a life of remorseless conquest; Shah Abbas the Great, who brought the achievement of early modern Iran to its peak at Isfahan; Akbar the Great, who fostered an idea of inclusive government for India; and Shah Jahan, who gave India its finest monument, the Taj Mahal. In lively biographical portraits, illuminated by vivid quotations from contemporary chroniclers, these great men come back to life. We see them as administrators trying to meet the challenge of building strong central governments, as military leaders engaged in bloody and fratricidal struggles for succession, and as enlightened patrons of the arts and sciences. Women also play a prominent part in events, from court politics and artistic patronage to occasionally ruling. 260 illustrations, 140 in color.

From Publishers Weekly This illustrated volume is a fascinating, thorough history covering dozens of Middle Eastern and Indian leaders from the 13th century on, each struggling with the problems of maintaining strong central power among a wide-spread, pre-industrial society. When not conquering and pillaging, the profiled rulers—who exhibit tremendous passion and curiosity—experimented with the use of paper currency, built monuments that still stand today and fostered advancements in calligraphy, poetry, architecture, painting, mathematics and astronomy. Each emperor's tale is unique, but among this span of rulers several constants remain: Islam and the range of ideas it offers are constantly subordinated by the demands of power, substance abuse is widespread, and women are given a surprising role in architecture, business and political ventures. Just as commonplace are illicit affairs, strained alliances, ascendancy struggles and morbid deaths (Il Khan leader Teguder is killed "by having his back broken, a form of execution which, like being kicked to death in a carpet, avoided the spilling of noble blood"). These stories, accompanied by full-color illustrations, capture beautifully the glory, excess and tragedy at the heart of these illustrious Islamic dynasties. Copyright Reed Business Information, a division of Reed Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved. About the Author Francis Robinson is Professor of the History of South Asia at the University of London. He has also been Visiting Professor at the University of Washington, as well as President of the Royal Asiatic Society of Great Britain and Ireland. He is the author of numerous books on the Islamic world.