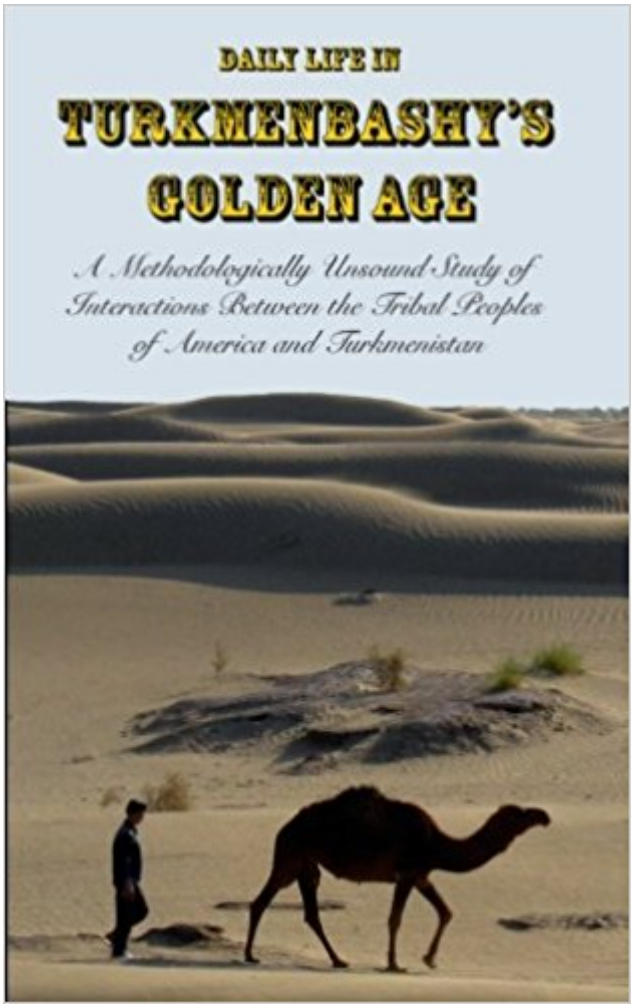
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Daily Life In Turkmenbashy's Golden Age: A Methodologically Unsound Study Of Interactions Between The Tribal Peoples Of America And Turkmenistan




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Synopsis

In 2004, Sam Tranum moved to Turkmenistan, an isolated, totalitarian petrostate bordering Iran and Afghanistan, to serve as a Peace Corps Volunteer. That same year, the Economist magazine predicted his new home would be the worst place in the world to live, despite the fact that its leader, known as Turkmenbashy, insisted that his country was experiencing a Golden Age. This is the story of Tranum's nearly two years in Turkmenistan, dodging secret police, exploring ancient Silk Road cities, covertly teaching classes on democracy and human rights, and learning to appreciate fermented camel's milk.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

"Beautifully written, and with plenty of anecdotes from his time in the country, Tranum merges recent history with that of daily Turkmen life and traditions." --Open Central Asia magazine (Spring/Summer 2011)"Visits to ancient Silk Road cities and run-ins with secret police along with covert operations to spread his views on human rights and democracy all make for a fascinating read." --Open Central Asia magazine (Spring/Summer 2011)"For two years, Tranum lived [in Turkmenistan] with host families, outside of the capital, Ashgabat, deeper than most foreigners go in one of the most closed societies in the world." --Transitions Online (April 22, 2011)"Further reading" -- US Defense Language Institute Foreign Language Center's "Turkmen Cultural Orientation" publication, 2012"Engaging and perceptive account of two years' work and travel in Turkemenistan from a then Peace Corps volunteer. The best of a crop of volunteer memoirs of Central Asia." --Lonely Planet guide to Central Asia

Although ’s publish-on-demand service has been great, I am looking for a regular publisher for this book. Feel free to contact me at samtranum (at) gmail.com.

This book was incredible and an excellent read. I decided to check out this book on the Kindle because there are not many books about Turkmenistan, and I wanted to find out more about what life is like there. Sam Tranum does an excellent job of describing his experience, what life was like for him, admitting his mistakes, and trying to do his best to navigate corruption. His account of his time there is vivid, honest, humorous, and very frustrating. Even with all the obstacles placed by the Turkmen government and the Red Cresent officials, he still tried his best and admitted his faults during his experience. What I enjoyed most was his sense of getting what the Turkmen people go through and realizing his complaints about being punished by being sent back to the United States was nothing in comparison to what Geldy might face for trying to help him complete a internet center no one in the Red Cresent or Turkmen government really wanted. I also appreciated how he was not afraid to speak out, even at the end of his experience.As a former Peace Corps volunteer in Bulgaria from 2000-2003 who resides there today, I overall enjoyed his honest account into life as a Peace Corps Volunteer. I would highly recommend this book to anyone wanting to understand what the Turkmen people have to endure under their government. When I get a chance to read another book, I plan to check out his book on oral histories in Soviet Kyrgyzstan.

Chances are, if you’ve heard of Turkmenistan, you’ve heard of Turkmenbasy (aka: Saparmurat Niyazov), the eccentric former president of Turkmenistan, and his absolutely off the wall laws. But what would it be like to live in those conditions? Sam Tranum answers this question for us. The only flaw is that Turkmenistan comes across as any other corrupt, despotic country.I’ve been living in Russia for two years now, so I can certainly sympathize with a lot of his experiences from bureauocracy, unreliable transport and being ripped off. But Turkmenistan is definitely a stranger country, with a lot of absolutely fascinating sites like a massive irrigation canal built through the heart of the desert, crumbling prehistoric ruins of early Indo-European civilization, a burning crater, and of course, self-flattering monuments of Turkmenbasy himself.The reason that this book gets a five star rating is that Sam Tranum has excellently woven enough history into the narrative of his two year Turkemenistan experience. I came away feeling like I had actually been there, and plowed through the book in just a matter of days (while riding around on unreliable Russian transport, I may add). Though the subject matter will hit home best with other expats who have lived or are living in similar countries, even those who don’t travel much would walk away with a good understanding of

Turkemenistan, as experienced by a Westerner.

Sam Tranum writes in a way that captures you and then catapults you into a life few Americans have seen. His style with words are artistic at times, causing you to see the terrain, feel the heat, and see the faces at the Red Crescent. I felt privileged to see from the inside, a daily stroll in Turkmenistan Tranum shows the hardships that the people there have dealt with for centuries. He weaves in a vast amount of history that brought me back to Sunday School teachings where I sat as a young boy wide eyed listening to stories of the Silk Road. It is a delightful read, full of intrigue & adventure, history & day to day life, and vignettes of the people that want & desire the same as you & I.Daily Life in Turkmenbashy's Golden Age by Sam TranumTRH

I found this clip of life in Turkmenistan extremely absorbing. Written from an outsider's point of view, but Sam is so incredible at becoming part of the culture and family to the people he is describing. If you want to feel what it's like to be there and live there and if you are in awe of people and life you must read this.

Sam gives excellent descriptions of his life in Turkmenistan - the uncertainty, the danger, and the delights. He conveys his feelings of despair and then pleasure well, so the reader can experience his emotion. He also describes the scenery and smells that bring his story alive.The book could have used a little more proofreading though. I noticed missing words in a couple of sentences. .

Tranum's account of his Peace Corps experience in Turkmenistan is an enjoyable read providing a unique perspective on life in this Central Asian nation. Intertwining the historical context of Turkmenistan with his present day experiences, the author allows the reader deeper access to the place beyond superficial observations of the nation and its peoples. Tranum's work is a well written and honest, a worthwhile read for anyone seeking to broaden their understanding of present-day Turkmenistan.

Slightly dated now, but does give a terrific overview of TM life. I also think of it as a "coming of life" story.

I liked this book very much. It is written with sarcasm and cynicism that in my opinion was warranted. This book gives a clear picture of how frustrating it is to make change in country that is

determined NOT to change. I''m very happy I read this book before my first visit to Turkmenistan.

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