



## Books about South Asia

You should be able to order most books through your local library. Books marked [MPH] can be ordered via MPH, the mail order service for Quaker Books (details in the enclosed book catalogue). Alternatively, you can often get hard-to-find books secondhand from [www.amazon.co.uk](http://www.amazon.co.uk)

Books marked with [C] are particularly suitable for children

## Books covering the whole region

*Himalaya* by Michael Palin

Book, DVD and Audio book CD

In his most challenging journey to date, Palin tackles the Himalayas, the greatest mountain range on earth.

In a journey rarely, if ever, attempted before, in 6 months of hard travelling Palin takes on the full length of the Himalayas including the Khyber Pass, the hidden valleys of the Hindu Kush, ancient cities like Peshawar and Lahore, the mighty peaks of K2, Annapurna and Everest, the bleak and barren plateau of Tibet, the gorges of the Yangtze, the tribal lands of the Indo-Burmese border and the vast Brahmaputra delta in Bangladesh. He also passes through political flashpoints including Pakistan's remote northwest frontier, terrorist-torn Kashmir and the mountains of Nagaland.

### Book:

*Himalaya*

By Michael Palin

Hardcover: 288 pages (also available in paperback)

Publisher: Weidenfeld Nicolson Illustrated (2004)

ISBN: 0297843710

### DVD: BBCTV 2005

Release date: 22 November 2004

Duration: 352 minutes

Classification: certificate 12

ASIN: B0002XOZR4

### Audio book CD: BBCTV 2005

Duration: 6 hours

BBC Reference no. 0563523514

Winner of a Silver Award for Best Non-Fiction at the Spoken Word Awards 2005

*The Geopolitics of South Asia: From Early Empires to the Nuclear Age*  
by Graham Chapman

A fascinating textbook for those wanting to significantly extend their understanding of this diverse region.

This enthralling volume tells the story of one of the world's greatest cultural heartlands – the Indian sub-continent. It shows how geological movements moulded the land of this unique cradle and how they still impact on it; from the early settlers, the great Mogul Empire and the British Raj, through the impact of railways, the development of irrigation systems on the economy and the spread of representative democracy.

Anyone who is planning on carrying out research in South Asia or indeed anyone who simply wishes to understand more about this cultural heartland should read this book.

This second edition is fully revised and updated including new material on the Northwest frontier, Afghanistan and Kashmir, and updating and extending its coverage of international relations.

Paperback: 348 pages

Publisher: Ashgate (2nd edition, 2003)

ISBN: 0754634426

www.ashgate.com

## Book covering Afghanistan

### *The Kite Runner* by Khaled Hosseini

The kite runner of Khaled Hosseini's deeply moving fiction debut is an illiterate Afghan boy with an uncanny instinct for predicting exactly where a downed kite will land. Growing up in the city of Kabul in the early 1970s, a boy called Hassan was narrator Amir's closest friend even though the loyal 11-year-old with "a face like a Chinese doll" was the son of Amir's father's servant and a member of Afghanistan's despised Hazara minority. But in 1975, on the day of Kabul's annual kite-fighting tournament, something unspeakable happened between the two boys.

Paperback: 324 pages

Publisher: Bloomsbury Publishing PLC (2004)

ISBN: 0747566534

Also available in hardback and audio CD.

## Books covering Nepal

### *The Waiting Land: Spell in Nepal – 1998 travelogue* by Dervla Murphy

In *The Waiting Land* seasoned travel writer Dervla Murphy affectionately portrays the people of Nepal's different tribes, the customs of an ancient, complex civilisation and the country's natural grandeur and beauty. With her special brand of Irish understatement, she delights in the unpredictability of her journey and in the surprises which make her travels in that unique country such a stirring experience.

Having settled in a village in the Pokhara Valley to work at a Tibetan refugee camp, she makes her home in a tiny, vermin-infested room over a stall in the bazaar. In diary form, she describes her various journeys by air, by bicycle and on foot into the remote and mountainous Lantang region on the border of Tibet.

Murphy's charm and sensitivity as a writer and traveller reveal not only the vitality of an age-old civilisation facing the challenge of Westernisation, but the wonder and excitement of her own remarkable adventures.

Paperback: 224 pages

Publisher: Flamingo (1998)

ISBN: 0006550908

### *Insight Guide: Nepal*

This guide includes a section detailing Nepal's history; ten features covering aspects of the country's life and culture, ranging from spectacularly colourful festivals to Everest conquerors; a region-by-region visitor's guide to the sights, and a comprehensive travel tips section packed with essential contact addresses and numbers. Plus hundreds of photographs and 17 maps.

Paperback: 300 pages

Publisher: Insight Guides (2003)

ISBN: 9812349197

## Books covering India

### *The Heart of India by Mark Tully*

Imbued with his love for India, and informed by his experience of India (where he worked for the BBC for over 20 years), Mark Tully has woven together a series of stories set in Uttar Pradesh, which tell of very different lives.

Paperback: 256 pages

Publisher: Penguin (1996)

ISBN: 0140179658

Also available in hardback and audio cassette

### *No Full Stops in India by Mark Tully*

Mark Tully is the BBC Correspondent in India and is a respected authority on the country. This is his book about India – not a travel book, but a book about the place and the people.

Paperback: 368 pages

Publisher: Penguin (1992)

ISBN: 0140104801

Also available in hardback

### *The Age of Kali : Indian Travels and Encounters by William Dalrymple*

William Dalrymple, who wrote about India in “City of Djinnns”, returns to the country in a series of essays. Featured in the pages this work are 15-year-old guerrilla girls and dowager Maharanis; flashy Bombay drinks parties and violent village blood feuds; a group of vegetarian terrorists intent on destroying India’s first Kentucky Fried Chicken outlet, and a palace where port and cigars are still carried to guests on a miniature silver steam train.

In the course of his travels, Dalrymple meets such figures as Imran Khan, Ismail Merchant, Benazir Bhutto and Baba Sehgal: the Indian Gary Glitter. He witnesses the macabre nightly offering to the bloodthirsty goddess Parashakti – She Who is Seated on a Throne of Five Corpses; he experiences civil war in Kashmir and caste massacres in the badlands of Bihar, and dines with a drug baron on the North-West Frontier; he discovers such oddities as the terrorist apes of Jaipur (only brought to book when the municipality began impregnating their bananas with opium); and the shrine where Lord Krishna is said to make love every night to his 16,108 wives and 64,732 milkmaids. Dalrymple also ventures into Pakistan in this book.

Paperback: 356 pages

Publisher: Flamingo (1999)

ISBN: 0006547753