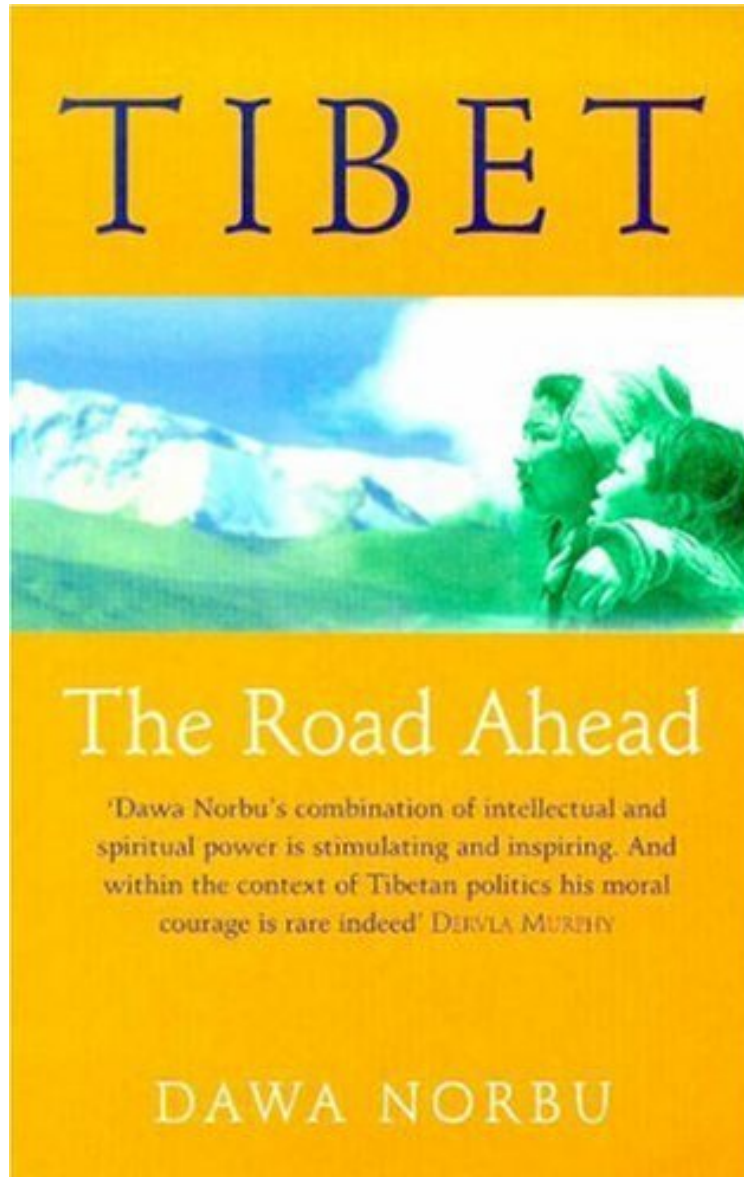


[Free] Tibet: The Road Ahead

Tibet: The Road Ahead

Von Dawa Norbu

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Von Dawa Norbu : Tibet: The Road Ahead before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Tibet: The Road Ahead:

KundenrezensionenHilfreichste Kundenrezensionen0 von 0 Kunden fanden die folgende Rezension hilfreich. Tibet in the 20th century written by an insiderVon lupoThe first five chapters (pp. 3-94)1 The Life of a Missionary2 My Father's Death3 The Monks of Sakya4 The Law's Delays5 Love and Marriagedescribe the life in the old Tibetan

society. Dawa Norbu was born in 1949, therefore he relies mainly on his childhood memories and the narrations of his mother and other relatives. Highlights of this part of this well-written book are 1) the story of the illness and death of his father. His father was a novice monk who broke his celibacy vow, married and earned a living as a missionary, that is: "The main function of the roving religious missions, initiated in the thirteenth century and dispatched thereafter to the nomads of Chang Thang, was to collect donations, a minor purpose was to convert the barbarous nomads themselves." p.82) some astounding critical remarks about monks in the third chapter. The conclusion of this chapter reads: "... ..I would assert that we Tibetans ourselves were responsible for our tragedy to a large extent. It would be unfair to condemn individual lamas, individual monasteries or individual aristocrats. The whole system was rotten to the core, and could not withstand twentieth-century pressures. It was ready to fall, and it fell disastrously." p.633) the description of the main laws in old Tibet which were in use since hundreds of years and especially the story of a lawsuit that his mother had to fight through. 4) in the fifth chapter we read about sex before marriage and the making of marriages and stubborn disobedience to parents. The chapters six to nine (pp.95-158) 6 Shangri-la is Shattered 7 Schools Old and New 8 Limits of Indoctrination 9 Thoughts of Escaped describe the beginning process of the communist 'democratic reforms' which was relatively peaceful and especially for the younger not without expectation. These chapters are a treasury of diverse opinions, reactions and behaviour on both sides, the Tibetans and the Chinese occupants. Dawa Norbu's style and thoughts are always clear and to the point throughout the book. From chapter ten to fourteen (pp.159-228) 10 The Reactionaries are Crushed 11 The Education of the Masses 12 Democratic Reforms 13 'Eat Less, Produce More' 14 The Triumphs of Materialism we have the full tragedy of Tibet. Now the so called 'political education' starts (we still have not reached the 'cultural revolution') and this becomes unbearable for many Tibetans including Dawa Norbu's mother with her children, so that this leads 1959 to their 15 Flight to Freedom This chapter is a welcomed diversion from the political and social themes. It depicts vividly and thrillingly the difficulties, dangers, and final good luck of a little group of Tibetans on their long march mainly at night across the Himalayas with children and babies and donkeys with loads of tsampa. Chapters sixteen to twenty (pp. 247-355) 16 Freedom in Exile 17 Cultural Revolution as Cultural Destruction 18 Reform and Resistance 19 The Xth Panchen Lama: A Microcosm of Tibet's Tragedy 20 Tibet's Future in Post-Deng China deal shortly with the life of the refugees in India and then in a detailed but not overlong manner with the political and social development in Tibet including the relations with the United Nations and their reaction (or not). Of course since 1960 Dawa Norbu was an outsider and never visited Tibet again, I think. But I do not have the impression that this is a disadvantage for the reader. In Berkeley, California, and at the Jawaharlal-Nehru-University in New-Delhi he became a true historian. I believe in his objectivity. Especially chapter nineteen I found very illuminating. Here is also some well-founded criticism of the Dalai Lama on some points, e.g. pp.316 ff. (about the recognition of the Panchen Lama's rebirth): "It is surprising that His Holiness the Dalai Lama acted in the way he did which ultimately served neither the Buddhist purpose nor the Tibetan cause.....the tragedy is that neither the Dalai Lama nor his sycophantic advisers anticipated the Chinese reaction which would practically nullify the Dalai Lama's recognition of a little boy in Chinese captivity." On the whole, he supports the policy of the Tibetan government-in-exile and he seems to me rather optimistic for Tibet's future, from the present perspective of 2012, of course. There is an annexure (pp.368-384): "Transformation of a Warrior Nation to a Peaceful Community: A Historical Perspective". This is a brief overview of Tibetan history since AD 634, in a manner that you don't get confused with many historical dates and names, but you learn the important influences from inside and outside which formed the Tibetan nation and led - alas - to the present danger of the extinction of this unique nation.

Kurzbeschreibung Tibet: The Road Ahead is the extraordinary account of the potential extinction of a civilisation. Written by a gifted Tibetan of humble origins, this book tells the story of ordinary Tibetans in the twentieth century. Professor Norbu refutes China's claim that Tibet has been part of China since the seventh century AD, showing how the relationship between the two countries was symbolic and ceremonial, rather than one of political suppression. He portrays pre-1950 Tibet as a place of complete and genuine freedom, in stark contrast with recent events in the region. Beautifully written and offering a fresh, incisive look at the road ahead for Tibet in post-Deng China, this book will appeal to all those fascinated by, and concerned for 'the land of the snows'.

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Synopsis A nation perilously situated in a geo-political matrix caught in the crossfire of history. This book reaches beyond

immediate history and narrates Tibet's fascinating story of multiple traditions, capturing through outstanding photographs the snows and deserts, the religious ceremonies and festivals on this, the 'roof of the world'.