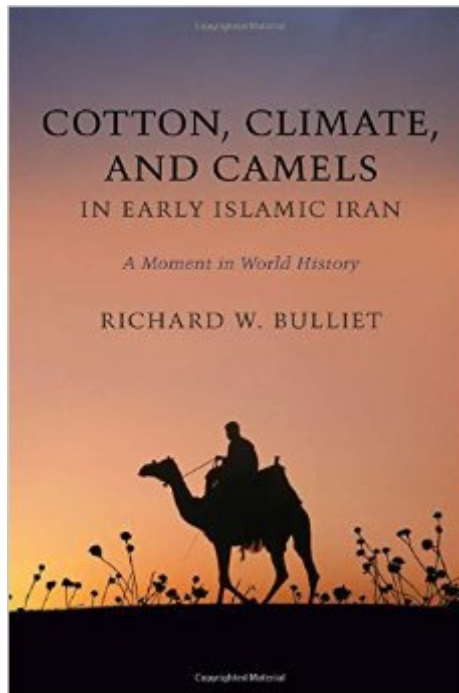


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Cotton, Climate, And Camels In Early Islamic Iran: A Moment In World History



Synopsis

A boom in the production and export of cotton made Iran the richest region of the Islamic caliphate in the ninth and tenth centuries. Yet in the eleventh century, Iran's impressive agricultural economy entered a steep decline, bringing the country's primacy to an end. Richard W. Bulliet advances several provocative theses to explain these hitherto unrecognized historical events. According to Bulliet, the boom in cotton production directly paralleled the spread of Islam, and Iran's agricultural decline stemmed from a significant cooling of the climate that lasted for over a century. The latter phenomenon also prompted Turkish nomadic tribes to enter Iran for the first time, establishing a political dominance that would last for centuries. Substantiating his argument with innovative quantitative research and recent scientific discoveries, Bulliet first establishes the relationship between Iran's cotton industry and Islam and then outlines the evidence for what he terms the "Big Chill." Turning to the story of the Turks, he focuses on the lucrative but temperature-sensitive industry of cross-breeding one-humped and two-humped camels. He concludes that this unusual concatenation of events had a profound and long-lasting impact not just on the history of Iran but on the development of world affairs in general.

Book Information

Paperback: 184 pages

Publisher: Columbia University Press (July 5, 2011)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0231148372

ISBN-13: 978-0231148375

Product Dimensions: 5.5 x 0.4 x 8.2 inches

Shipping Weight: 8.8 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 5.0 out of 5 stars Â Â See all reviews Â (3 customer reviews)

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Customer Reviews

This is a very short, well written account of a seldom covered period of middle eastern history. Bulliet is obviously brilliant and makes some fascinating inferences. Once in a while it takes a leap of faith to follow him in his reflexions but even when his arguments are found wanting, he remains exceptionally intelligence and truly thought-provoking as you can't help but get thinking about

whatever interests you in a different light.

I read this book in my History of Islamic Technology at Gettysburg College. While Bulliet has a tendency to defend his topic ad nauseum, but he makes fascinating inferences about Islamic Iranian society that tie together his inferences in previous books into one, highly informative book on how and why the cities of Iran rose and fell and how they all impacted the development of the Islamic society in the Middle East we know today. Great for any scholar of Islamic society.

Quick service and item as described. Would recommend and use this provider again.

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