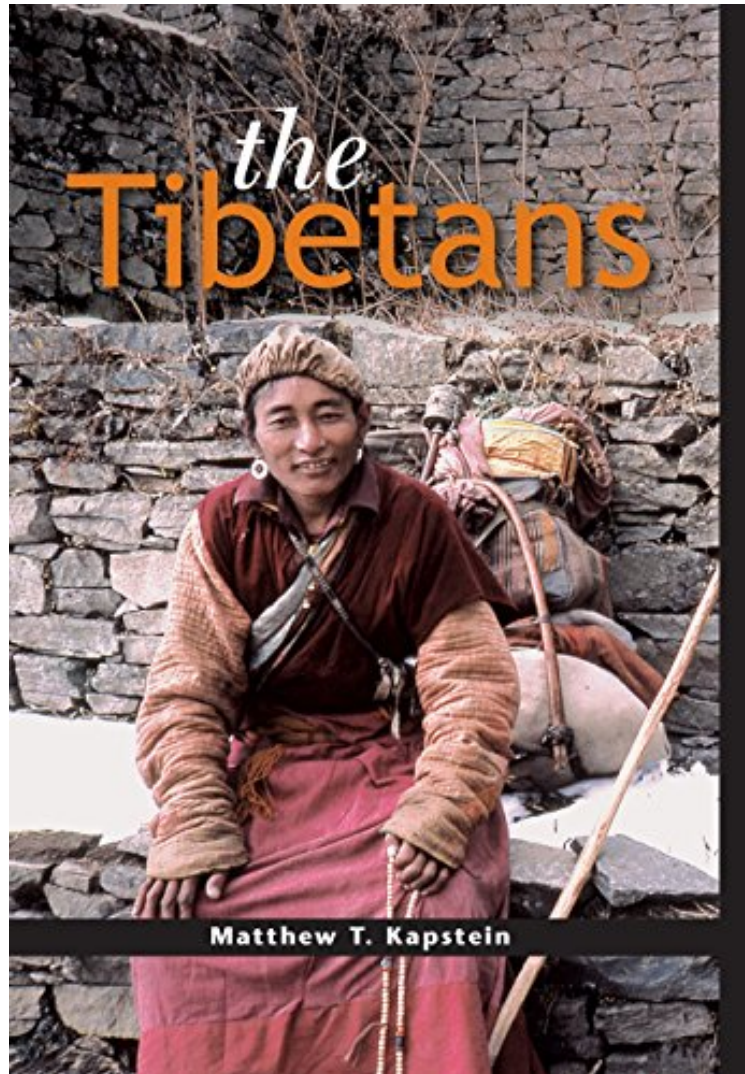


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Kapstein's elegantly written The Tibetans describes the Tibetan area, its inhabitants and the richness of its religious and secular culture in a truly exquisite and highly intelligent manner. It is an impressive achievement. The Tibetans is in every respect a masterful survey in which the political and cultural history of the enormous area inhabited by the Tibetan people get their fair share. Every page of this volume is informed by the author's profound knowledge and understanding of the many facets of this unique culture. In my opinion, The Tibetans will surely displace the earlier, general volumes on Tibet by R.A. Stein and H.E. Richardson and D.L. Snellgrove, and thus quickly become a modern classic." Leonard W.J. van der Kuijp, Harvard UniversityFrom the Back Cover"In the past, for largely geographical reasons, Tibet was isolated from the rest of the world, which meant that our country, people and culture were not only shrouded in mystery, but often gravely misunderstood. More recently, as interest has grown, scholarship concerning Tibet has improved beyond expectation, although it has often singled out narrow topics for consideration. In producing this substantial book, which takes a broad view of Tibetans and their civilization, within a long historical perspective, Matthew Kapstein has brought to his work the authority and clarity he has acquired through many years of friendship with and observation of the people of the Land of Snow." His Holiness The Dalai Lama Interest in Tibet has developed very rapidly during the past several decades, and numerous texts, artifacts, and records of life in Tibetan communities are now readily available to researchers. The Tibetans provides a comprehensive introduction to this intriguing land, orienting the reader to the Tibetan geographical region and its inhabitants. 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