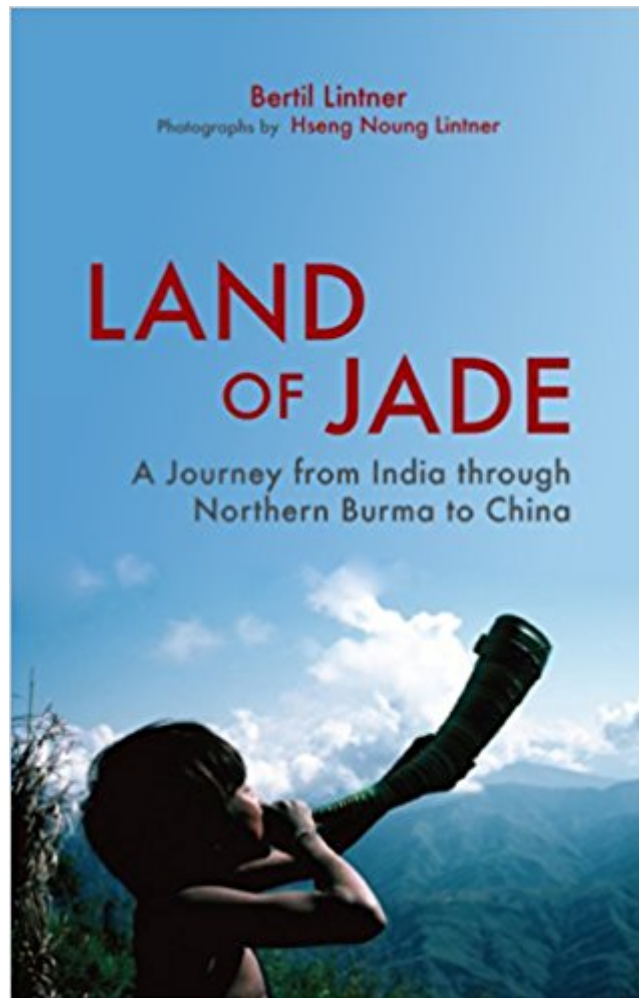




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Land Of Jade: A Journey From India Through Northern Burma To China



Synopsis

Bertil and Hseng Nong Lintner, and their baby daughter, born enroute, spent one and a half years traveling through northern and eastern Burma, from 1985-87. Throughout their account, they describe, with rare and deep insight, the struggle by northern Burma's ethnic groups against brutal Burmese army rule, and record the decline and fall of the Communist Party of Burma. During their incredibly arduous 2,275 kilometre trek, mostly on foot and at times in great danger, they recorded the history of a forgotten 40-year war, an account which otherwise would never have been committed to paper in such rich detail. Land of Jade further provides poignant descriptions of the efforts of simple ethnic tribes-people to forge lives amid the larger struggles of political antagonists, drug lords, foreign interlopers and assorted other opportunists – a situation that remains painfully relevant to many in diverse locations to the present day.

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Customer Reviews

Few journalists risk experiencing first-hand the stories they are reporting or the actual people they

are writing about, especially in places as remote, obscure, and off-limits as Burma. A few days in Rangoon suffices for them. Or talking with rebels from Burma who have crossed into Thailand, who may or may not know what is really happening back home. Bertil and his wife (a photojournalist) did what we all wish we had the courage to do, and crossed from Assam into far Upper Burma where they put themselves in the hands of Kachin rebel groups fighting since 1948 for a homeland of their own -- against a tyrannical and brutal regime of Dictator General Ne Win. It is a great book, splendid reading, as they make their way on foot across Upper Burma and down to the Golden Triangle of the Shan States. After more than a year, they were able to cross into China and exit through Hong Kong. Bertil and Hseng Naung went on to become world famous for other books (on the Asian underworld in particular). Bertil received a "Genius Grant", contributed to The Wall Street Journal and Far Eastern Economic Review and, in my view, has become the best journalist in Asia. What other people write about, Bertil knows first-hand and face-to-face. He is Swedish, with Austrian roots, speaks more languages than I have fingers, and lives in Chiangmai when he is not in Vladivostok, Andorra, or some other "interesting" place. Meanwhile, the Kachin peoples' battle for freedom from the Burma Army continues today, after half a century.

A wonderful adventure of a book! Written in 1986, this is the story of a trek of Homeric proportions through one of the last unmapped wilderness on the Asian continent. Revolutionaries, drug lords, jade miners, a very well written adventure story featuring a Western journalist his Burmese (Shan) photographer wife and their infant daughter as they chronicle an important era in recent Burmese history. If you have a yen for hair raising armchair adventure and want to understand the recent history of Burma, this book is a must read. Richard W. Wise, author: *The French Blue* and *Secrets of the Gem Trade: The connoisseur's Guide to Precious Gemstones* [Paperback] [2006] (Author) Richard W. Wise

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