

BOOK ANNOUNCEMENT

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Jean-Baptiste Jeangène Vilmer, *Turkménistan*

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240 pages
30 €



Turkmenistan, a Central Asian dictatorship, is one of the most closed-off countries in the world – It also one of the worst with North Korea in terms of freedom of the press. As a result, Turkmenistan is frequently misunderstood. The small amount of information that ends up in the Western media is a caricature of Turkmenbashi's cult of personality and the country's tremendous gas reserves.

For the very first time, this book presents Turkmenistan, a complex country oscillating between tradition and modernity, in all of its aspects: geography, history, politics, economy, population, society and culture, with over 280 color photographs. Among the many aspects of contemporary Turkmen society illuminated, this book sheds light on, for instance: Opposition movements, blocked websites, the

zemzem (a desert lizard), the öwlat (sacred tribes), television programs, weddings, domestic violence, forced psychiatric hospitalization, child labor, the 2009 school year, the Big Game of pipelines, the development of monitored tourism, the agricultural system, baby names, the September 2008 shooting, drug trafficking, daily superstitions, the alphabet, nomadism, theater, cooking, the giant artificial lake in the middle of the desert, the rewriting of official history, etc.

The book is in French.



Jean-Baptiste Jeangène Vilmer, 30, holds a Ph.D. in both Political Science and Philosophy, as well as an LL.M. in International Law. He is a fellow of the Raymond Aron Center for Political Research at the Ecole des Hautes Etudes en Sciences Sociales (Paris). Author of several books, he was a lecturer at the University of Montreal (2004-2007), a postgraduate fellow of the MacMillan Center for International and Area Studies at Yale University (2008-2009) and a fellow of the Amsterdam Center for International Law at the Universiteit van Amsterdam. He lived more than 250 days in Turkmenistan between 2007 and 2009, as an attaché to the Embassy of France.

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“The Turkmen people, at least those who are not cut off from the world, are as weary of their government as of the stigma attached to it by well-intentioned Westerners. They demand nothing but integration. That requires the knowledge of others – hence this book, which I hope will contribute to a better understanding of the nature and challenges of the modern Turkmen society.”

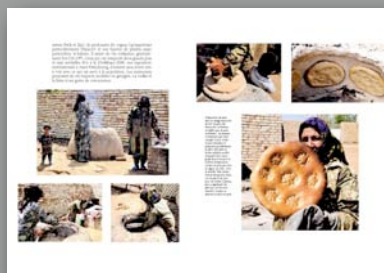


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