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by Frank L. Holt**



Into the Land of Bones: Alexander the Great in Afghanistan by Frank L. Holt.

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#### Faculty and Staff.

Dr. Holt (MA, PhD University of Virginia) is one of the world's leading authorities on Alexander the Great, Hellenistic Asia, and new research methodologies such as Cognitive Numismatics. He has published seven books and over sixty articles in journals such as *Zeitschrift für Papyrologie und Epigraphik* and *Ancient Macedonia*. His research has been featured on The History Channel and has frequently been cited in such places as National Geographic, Smithsonian, BBC Current Affairs, and The New Republic; one of his books provides a plot twist in the New York Times best-selling novel *The Venetian Betrayal*. In addition to his large body of academic work, Holt is also a prolific writer for the public, with essays appearing in *Newsweek*, *American Scientist*, *Archaeology*, *History Today*, *Archaeology Odyssey*, *The Chronicle of Higher Education*, *Saudi Aramco World*, and other widely read publications. A popular speaker, Dr. Holt has lectured worldwide for academic and general audiences.

#### Teaching.

Dr. Holt has twice received the University Teaching Excellence Award, as well as the CLASS Master Teacher Award and numerous other classroom honors. In 2011 he was awarded the university's first Distinguished Leadership in Teaching Excellence Award. Dr. Holt's undergraduate and graduate courses include *The Study of Early Civilizations*, *Greek History*, *Roman History*, *Alexander the Great*, *Hellenistic History*, and *Numismatics*.

#### Research Interests.

Dr. Holt has devoted much of his career to two great frontiers, one of subject matter and the other of methodology. In subject matter, his work pushes far beyond the familiar centers of classical culture such as Athens and Rome to explore the vigorous multi-cultural edges of ancient civilizations in places such as Afghanistan. He has achieved this by developing innovative numismatic methodologies, now called the new frontier of Ancient Studies, to write histories where traditional literary sources do not survive. This research has earned several awards, including the Aristotle Prize and the Craddock prize. His eighth book, under contract with Oxford University Press, is being researched and written as an Onassis Senior Visiting Scholar.

#### Recent Books:

*Lost World of the Golden King: In Search of Ancient Afghanistan* (University of California Press, 2012).

*Into the Land of Bones: Alexander the Great in Afghanistan* (University of California Press, 2005; new ed. 2012).

*The Alexander Medallion: Exploring the Origins of a Unique Artefact* (Imago Lattara, 2011).

Book Preview of 'Into The Land of Bones: Alexander The Great in Afghanistan' by Frank L. Holt.

Joseph Rudyard Kipling (1865-1936) – the famous short story writer, novelist and poet who wrote mainly on the British Soldiers in India in one of his famous poems which has become even more relevant in this day and age, talked of the harsh conditions and the hopelessness a soldier has to face up and when fighting the war in the plains of Afghanistan.

Just to get a feel of what he intended to convey to the future generation, I'll just reproduce the last part of the poem titled: 'The Young British Soldier'

When you're wounded and left on Afghanistan's plains, and the women come out to cut up what remains, jest roll to your rifle and blow out your brains and go to your gawd like a soldier.

Kipling hasn't said anything new about Afghanistan, for as you'll see Afghanistan doesn't change much. If Alexander The Great had been alive to see the three Anglo Afghan Wars that the British lost, badly, and of which Kipling saw two, or the boastful Soviets who said they'd bring it to ashes in 3-4 weeks, or the more recent fiascoes committed by the West, he'd have the 'I told you so' look on his face for it is said that when Alexander was stationed in Afghanistan nearly 2,300 years ago, during the course of his almost all conquering expedition, he wrote a letter to his mother in which he briefly hinted at the badassitude of the Afghans, his words echoing the inherent fears of Kipling had regarding fighting in Afghanistan:

I am involved in the land of a 'Leonine' (lion-like) and brave people, where every foot of the ground is like a wall of steel, confronting my soldier. You have brought only one Alexander into the world, but every mother in this land has brought an Alexander in the world. "

While William Dalrymple's book titled 'The Return of a King: The Battle for Afghanistan' which I have covered here published in late 2012 only explores the vortex of events that Afghanistan was caught in when the British invaded it in the late 1830s and the Britisher's resultant defeat which later came to be known as the biggest imperial disaster of the dynasty, this book: 'Into The Land of Bones: Alexander The Great in Afghanistan' authored by Frank L. Holt actually provides those stories of Anglo Afghan Wars in its introduction !!

And this book came out in 2005. (The.Ijtema® tip: Do not buy W. Dalrymple's 'The Return of a King' if you are buying this book)

What this book does is time travels more than 2300 years into history straight to the times of Alexander The Great and chronicles his defeat at the hands of the Afghans – the British were not the first to taste defeat, nor the first to stand humbled against the raw brute power of their poor but extremely smart-ass foes.

This book confirms the story and how!

Of the few pages I have read, the prose is simple, the narrative superb and the cover of the book which mimics a scene in the middle of a battle, with all the dust that such battles give rise to, typical of a south Asian terrain, typical of a classic battle in south Asia is so on the spot, for covers help book sell, you know. Ask the Japanese the importance of packaging.

The.Ijtema® Conclusion.

This also makes me wonder something related, although not directly, Islam was introduced to Afghanistan I believe during the reign of Caliph Hadrath Umar Bin Abdul Aziz (may Allah subhanahu wa ta'ala have mercy on him) and others which means before that, they were pagans, and if Islam was forced on them, they'd have retaliated like history (and they have retaliated even against the Muslim Arabs, no doubt) proves it so many times over and over again, which means it was not forced on them but they came to accept it whole-heartedly over a period of time, for today Afghanistan is 99% Muslim, so which effort truly conquered their hearts such that they never let go of the truth? I hope you get the hint. Although not denying other efforts did play their part.

Title: Into the Land of Bones: Alexander the Great in Afghanistan.

Author: Frank L. Holt.

Publisher: University of California Press.

Type: Hardcover / Paperback / eBook.

Available from: All major bookstores.

"Afghanistan — where empires go to die. " — Mike Malloy.

The Russian's 'I told you so look' now stands multiplied.

Into the Land of Bones: Alexander the Great in Afghanistan (2005)

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Excellent book. It was very interesting to see very same mistakes taking place again and again through centuries - man has to accept that some places are too wild and remote and because of that very difficult to put under control of any kind.

These isolated parts of world should be left alone - if they ever choose to connect to any place other than their immediate neighbors let it be of their own will.

If you are interested in Alexander the Great this book will shine some light on a subject that even ancient Greeks avoided because it was the endeavor destined never to succeed.

Into the Land of Bones : Alexander the Great in Afghanistan.

What George W. Bush called the "first war of the twenty-first century" actually began more than 2,300 years ago when Alexander the Great led his army into what is now a sprawling ruin in northern Afghanistan. Accounts of Alexander's invasion of ancient Bactria read eerily like news from our own day. In this vivid, meticulously researched, and elegantly narrated book, Frank L. Holt follows Alexander's historical, archaeological, and numismatic legacy back and forth between ancient Bactria and modern Afghanistan. Recounting the plight of the most powerful leader of the time as he led the most sophisticated army of its day into the treacherous world of tribal warlords, Holt describes those grueling campaigns and the impact they had on Alexander, his generals, their troops, and the world. Into the Land of Bones also examines the conflict from the point of view of the local warlords who pushed the invading Greeks to the limits of their endurance—and sometimes beyond, into mania and mutiny. The lively narrative situates the current war in Afghanistan in a broader historical perspective.

Holt explains how the three modern superpowers that have invaded Afghanistan—Britain in the nineteenth century, the Soviets in the twentieth, and the United States in the twenty-first—are continuing the struggle that Alexander began centuries ago. That this legacy continues to play itself out today is a testament to the timeliness of Holt's fascinating and original account.

Отзывы - Написать отзыв.

LibraryThing Review.

Into the Land of Bones is a short book, about 160 pages, with a polished writing style that is delightful to read. It's primary mission is to reconstruct Alexander the Great's three years of trying to . Читать весь отзыв.

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