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Dubai: The Story Of The World's Fastest City



Synopsis

Today, Dubai is a city of shimmering skyscrapers attracting thousands of tourists every year. Yet just sixty years ago Dubai's population scraped a living by picking dates, diving for pearls, or sailing in wooden dhows to trade with Iran and India. Dubai is everything the rest of the Arab world is not. Until recently it was the fastest-growing city in the world, with an economy whose growth outpaced China's while luring more tourists than all of India. The city has become a metaphor for the lush life, where the wealthy mingle in gilded splendour and luxury cars fill the streets, yet it is also beset by a backwash of bad design, environmental degradation and controversial labour practices. Dubai tells its unique story.

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Customer Reviews

Highly informative book about Dubai and its history. I already have the paperback version and good to have the e-book version as well as I just received my Kindle Paper White.

Very informative and interesting. I feel I have learned from this book and it will help me with my upcoming trip to Dubai.

Kane's research into Dubai and the UAE is second to none. He has covered the entire spectrum of Dubai's emergence as a player and complimenting Dubai as a dynamic Emirate amongst the international league of players. The praise for HH Sh Mohamed is worthy. I recommend this book wholeheartedly as a set book for scholars.

The book is as described by the seller, and arrived sooner than expected. I found this to be a most interesting book, I would recommend this book to anyone interested in factual history, and is written in an easy to read manner. I could not put it down.

I bought the Paperback version, and it was a mistake. I have never had a book with such small print size. Was very difficult to read, and I could not get very far through the book.

I had heard about this book and was happy to be able to pick it up at a great price. Book arrived in very good condition and I have no complaints.

My husband bought the book in the duty-free shop of Dubai airport as an impulse buy. It took a while to pick it up but now I can't put it down. The author covers all the key topics (almost done) and gives personal stories and not just dry facts. It reads like a novel in places and adds a lot of information you can rarely find published or in a book. I have lived in Dubai 6 months and this book is making me understand so much more now, it really adds depth to my life here, and I realize why Dubai is the way it is. After reading this book, it has given me a new lens to read the local newspaper, my interactions with locals, and my appreciation for the Sheikh. I think if you are an expat in Dubai or do business here, you should definitely read this book.

I have felt for some time that a good book about Dubai is very much needed, particularly a book that gives insight and understanding; sadly, this is not that book. This tome lives recklessly in that uncomfortable place between fawning and over fawning and preening and suffers from being blinded by the dazzle and glitz of Dubai and fails horribly to get under the skin of the emirate and come up with compelling answers to serious questions. Its fast-paced, is easy to read (perhaps too easy) and moves along at quite a lick without ever really stopping to reflect and see the Big Questions. In the light of the Arab Spring, turmoil in Syria and an increasing sense of despair in Egypt the book feels oddly outdated and out of touch. It goes on a familiar journey and down well

trodden paths and comes up with familiar, tired answers. I feel this story would probably best be told by Private Eye in its usual mix of cynicism and self-righteousness (but amusing and self-deprecating). The book delivers as a racy superficial account of the Dubai of a few years ago but lacks ambition (unlike Dubai) and balance (like Dubai). The UAE's 'favourite emirate still waits for a thoughtful, intelligent and broader more balanced analysis shorn of the rhetoric and romanticised notions that so clearly cloud the judgement of this book.

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