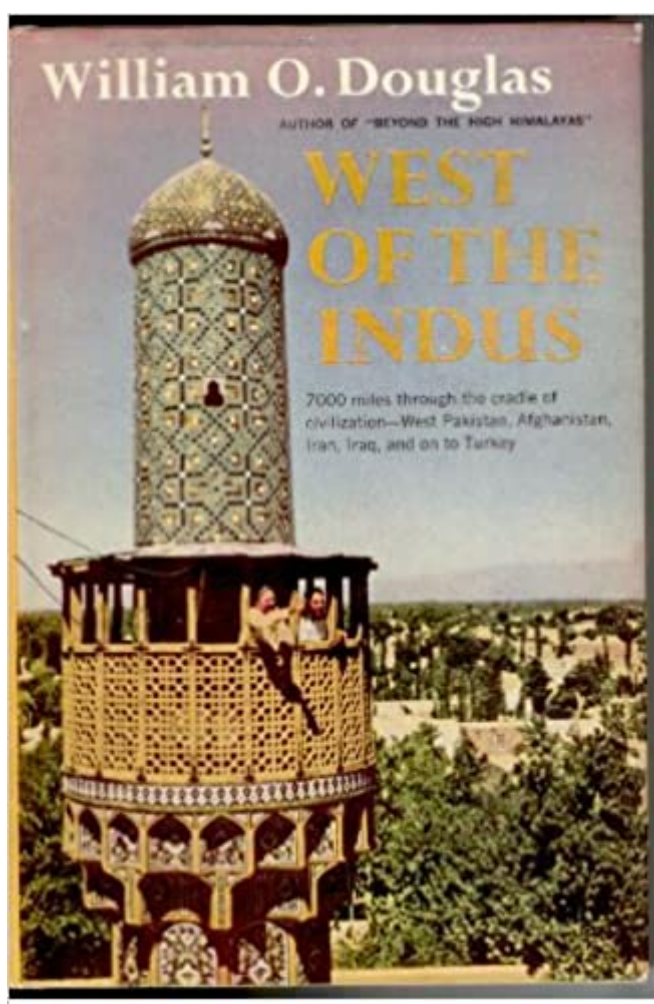


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# West Of The Indus 7,000 Miles Through The Cradle Of Civilization West Pakistan, Afghanistan, Iran , Iraq & On The Turkey ( Travel Middle East )





## Synopsis

The author and his wife traveled throughout West Pakistan, Afghanistan, Iran, Iraq, and Turkey over several months in 1957. They drove in a heavy, overloaded car, fortunately, his wife was raised on an American farm and knew how to repair tractors and cars - so she all too frequently was a `life saver&apos; in keeping their used car moving along the dirt, bedeviling pot-holed country roads. A very interesting travelogue; the author offers many sharp, keen, insightful observations about the peoples and customs he encountered.

## Book Information

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"West of the Indus: 7000 miles through the cradle of civilization - West Pakistan, Afghanistan, Iran, Iraq, and on to Turkey" by William O. Douglas (former U.S. Supreme Court Assoc. Justice), [1958], 513 pgs. The author and his wife traveled throughout West Pakistan, Afghanistan, Iran, Iraq, and Turkey over several months in 1957. They drove in a heavy, overloaded car, fortunately, his wife was raised on an American farm and knew how to repair tractors and cars - so she all too frequently was a `life saver' in keeping their used car moving along the dirt, bedeviling pot-holed country roads.

A very interesting travelogue; the author offers many sharp, keen, insightful observations about the peoples and customs he encountered. "They asked me if I were a Moslem and I said no, that I was a Christian. They said that Islam was superior to Christianity..." (p. 141). "The jisyā still exists in Afghanistan in nominal form. In Kabul it amounts to four, six, or eight afghanis (eight to sixteen cents) a year, payable by the head of the family, the amount depending on his income. The People of the Book in Afghanistan are Hindus, Sikhs, and Jews. Recently military service has been opened to the Hindus and Sikhs. Those who serve in the army are exempt from the tax. But to this day Jews are not admitted to the Afghan Army. So they must pay the head tax. These days when an Afghan is asked for a tip or a bribe he often replies, "Why should I pay jisyā to you? I'm not a Jew!" (p. 103). A quick, easy, and fun read; but not at all any heavily detailed travel, sight-seeing guide - just the bare highlights. Chapters: (1) West Pakistan: Hawk's Bay, Mohenjodaro, the Punjab, Rawalpindi, Swat, Khyber; (2) Afghanistan: the Russians (who were building roads throughout Afghanistan, the Kabul bazaar, Bamian, bats; (3) Iran: the Caspian, Tehran, Isfahanis, the Bahais, Moharram, the Shah, Hamadan; (4) Iraq: Baghdad, floods, Ctesiphon, Babylon; (5) Persian Kurdistan and Azerbaijan: a Kurdish shrine, the Mongols, a salt monopoly, the Red Mountain; (6) Turkey: Merhaba, Trabzon, the Hittites, Ankara, Turks versus Greeks, a press conference.

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