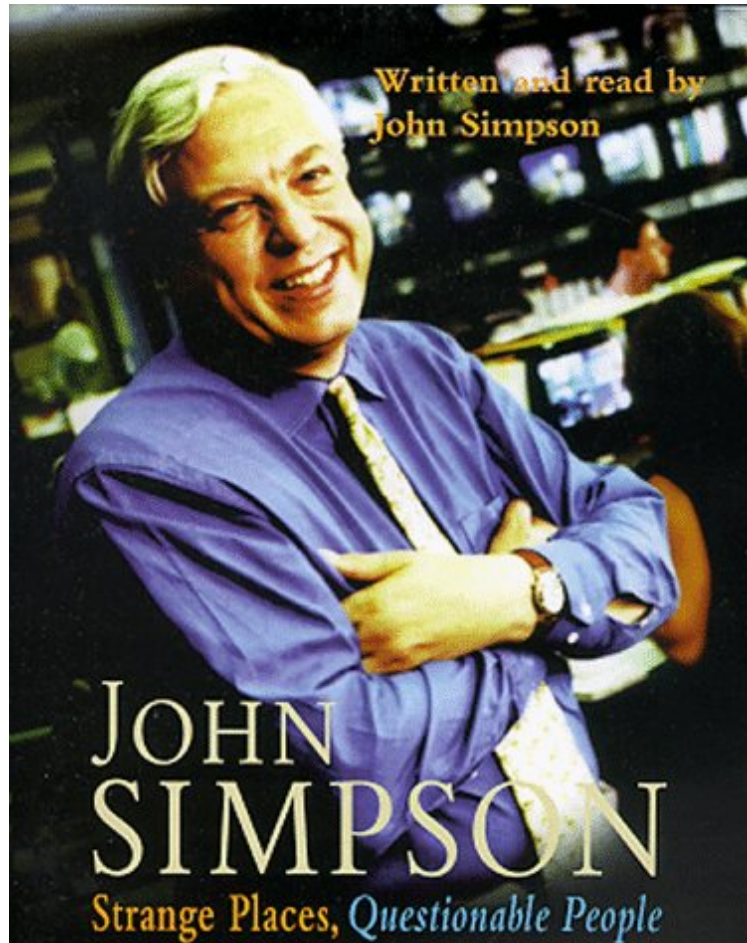


(Mobile ebook) Strange Places, Questionable People

Strange Places, Questionable People

John Simpson

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John Simpson : Strange Places, Questionable People before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Strange Places, Questionable People:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Five Stars By Sharon Obuchon-Staub A most interesting read. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Entertaining insight into 30 wars 150 countries By Scott Christensen Its much easier to criticize than to praise, so I don't have much to say about this book. An easy and entertaining read. If you have any interest in world affairs over the last 30 years I highly recommend it. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Eyewitness to history in the making By Brasidas A very interesting ride through two decades or so of turbulent history as seen by a perpetually curious reporter. John Simpson worked hard to discover the competing versions (and visions) of truth and to tell a compact and concise story, both in written and visual media. One suspects that the duality of his media methods reinforced each other. In chasing the emerging stories, Mr. Simpson tells how he got from apartheid to Northern Ireland, Libya to Tehran, and all over eastern Europe in 1989. In the wake of that amazing year, Mr. Simpson then traveled throughout Eastern Europe see civilizations adjust, come apart, go through

wars, and try to rebuild. From hilarious anecdotes about how to properly pronounce the names of places like Phouc Me, Vietnam, to stories of barely surviving violent crowds, this book is a great read of modern journalism. Mr. Simpson, of course, wants to portray the profession at its most noble, but is more than willing to admit to the blemishes and warts that accompany any human enterprise. His insightful perceptions of the war in northern Ireland, Provos versus IRA versus British Army are very keen (see page 108 "Our idiotic army think this is a war and they can win it by shooting down the enemy. Bloody fools, they're as bad as the Yanks in Vietnam. It's not a war, it's a police action and they're in to for a long haul. We are all.") In this day where we are all deeply concerned about the future of Iran, Mr. Simpson's chapter on Revolutionaries is to be commended, and is worth deeply reading and re-reading. His understanding of the people, from Ayatollah Khomeini to the Shah, are a mix of history, social anthropology, and simple good writing. Moving to Asia, Mr. Simpson's tragic chapter on China is a beautiful read on a people, indeed peoples, trying to survive Maoist Communism and move forward in the inevitable march of Chinese history. His account is history in the making, and if you want a clear and concise understanding of how China got from the Cultural Revolution to the modern bustle of Shanghai, this is as good a primer as I have seen. The lately added chapter on Kosovo is also worth reading for the fin-de-siecle of Balkan hatred and violence that erupted after 1989. No one comes off terribly well in this chapter, but it is good eyewitness reporting with a keen eye to both past history and future implications in this troubled region. Most memoirs tend to be very self serving, self centered and of only passing interest. This one is a must read in the modern "Industrial Age."

John Simpson, BBC World Affairs Editor, reads the first volume of his autobiography. With his uncanny knack of being in the right place at the right time, this is a ring-side seat at all the major events in recent global history, including the Tiananmen Square massacre, the fall of the Berlin Wall, and the release of Nelson Mandela.

About the Author John Simpson is the BBC's World Affairs Editor. He has twice been the Royal Television Society's Journalist of the Year and won countless other major television awards. He has written several books, including two more volumes of autobiography, *A Mad World*, *My Masters* and *News from No Man's Land*, along with the recent bestseller *The Wars Against Saddam*.