

Koh-i-Noor: The History of the Worlds Most Infamous Diamond By William Dalrymple The author states there were three great diamonds taken from the Mughal Emperor by the Persian Nadu Shah: the Koh-I-Noor is in England.

The Darya-I-Noor is in Iran and the Orlov is in the center of the Imperial Scepter of Catherine the Great in Russia. In 1989 Dalrymple moved to Delhi where he lived for six years researching his second book *City of Djinns* which won the 1994 Thomas Cook Travel Book Award and the Sunday Times Young British Writer of the Year Award. From the Holy Mountain his acclaimed study of the demise of Christianity in its Middle Eastern homeland was awarded the Scottish Arts Council Autumn Book Award for 1997; it was also shortlisted. William Dalrymple was born in Scotland and brought up on the shores of the Firth of Forth. In 1989 Dalrymple moved to Delhi where he lived for six years researching his second book *City of Djinns* which won the 1994 Thomas Cook Travel Book Award and the Sunday Times Young British Writer of the Year Award. From the Holy Mountain his acclaimed study of the demise of Christianity in its Middle Eastern homeland was awarded the Scottish Arts Council Autumn Book Award for 1997; it was also shortlisted for the 1998 Thomas Cook Award the John Llewellyn Rhys Prize and the Duff Cooper Prize. *White Mughals* was published in 2003 the book won the Wolfson Prize for History 2003 the Scottish Book of the Year Prize and was shortlisted for the PEN History Award the Kiriyama Prize and the James Tait Black Memorial Prize. His Radio 4 series on the history of British spirituality and mysticism *The Long Search* won the 2002 Sandford St Martin Prize for Religious Broadcasting and was described by the judges as 'thrilling in its brilliance near perfect radio'. In June 2006 he was awarded the degree of Doctor of Letters honoris causa by the University of St Andrews "for his services to literature and international relations to broadcasting and understanding". In November 2007 William received an Honorary Doctorate of Letters honoris causa from the University of Lucknow University "for his outstanding contribution in literature and history" and in March 2008 won the James Todd Memorial Prize from the Maharana of Udaipur. {site_link} From the internationally acclaimed and bestselling historians William Dalrymple and Anita Anand the first comprehensive and authoritative history of the Koh-i-Noor diamond arguably the most celebrated jewel in the world. On March 29 1849 the ten-year-old leader of the Sikh kingdom of the Punjab was ushered into the magnificent Mirrored Hall at the center of the British fort in Lahore India. There in a formal Act of Submission the frightened but dignified child handed over to the British East India Company swathes of the richest land in India and the single most valuable object in the subcontinent: the celebrated Koh-i-Noor diamond otherwise known as the Mountain of Light. From that moment forward the Koh-i-Noor became the most famous and mythological diamond in history with thousands of people coming to see it at the 1851 Great Exhibition and still more thousands repeating the largely fictitious account of its passage through history. Using original eyewitness accounts and chronicles never before translated into English Dalrymple and Anand trace the true history of the diamond and disperse the myths and fantastic tales that have long surrounded this awe-inspiring jewel. Koh-i-Noor: The History of the Worlds Most Infamous Diamond Koh-I-Noor or the Mountain of Light is the name of the infamous diamond that now sits in England under the protection of the Queen. When he sent his servant to search for it the latter said that there was nothing but a piece of glass in it)! It isn't the largest diamond in the world but the myths associated with it have become legendary. As the British East India company came to power the diamond's last stay in India found it on the arm of Duleep Singh a 10 year old boy who was the last Sikh Rajah. Persia (now Iran) Afghanistan and even the Taliban have made separate claims but certainly shows an interesting history of the regions where it has stayed and the colonial period of the area. Koh-i-Noor: The History of the Worlds Most Infamous Diamond A mix of myth history religion and culture this book provides a wealth of information not only the stone itself but on the people places and events intertwined with its meandering and unexpected existence. The scarcity of sources and the potential crossover of stories referring to other large and precious gems means that some of its early history is still uncertain but Dalrymple nevertheless presents a well researched lively picture of the diamond. As Dalrymple notes: The

Mughals perhaps more than any other Islamic dynasty made their love of the arts and their aesthetic principles a central part of their identity as rulers. They consciously used jewellery and jewelled objects as they used their architecture art poetry historiography and the bedazzling brilliance of the court ceremonial to make visible and manifest their imperial ideal to give properly imperial splendour and even a sheen of divine legitimacy. As amazing as we now find it the Mountain of Light was one of many immeasurably beautiful stones diamonds not even being the most desired with emeralds and rubies holding the top spots. ARC via Netgalley Koh-i-Noor: The History of the Worlds Most Infamous Diamond A fascinating and hugely readable history of the Koh-i-noor diamond which in the way of these things becomes a mini-history touching on Afghanistan (where it came from which is why the Taliban recently demanded it back in the grounds it had been culturally appropriated ahaha) the Mughals then the East India Company and the Empire. William Dalrymple tells the first half up to the jewel's handover to (or rather glaring theft by) the British; Anita Anand takes over with poor Duleep Singh's life and the jewel's movements to Britain and around various bits of regalia. Well researched but chock full of some beautiful storytelling I was most impressed by how they managed to tackle this subject in a post-colonial world while remaining utterly neutral on the morality of the events that they're chronicling. Interesting read Koh-i-Noor: The History of the Worlds Most Infamous Diamond A few months ago when a famous Indian industrialist - famous more for his debauched lifestyle than for any worthwhile achievements - took asylum in Britain absconding after his financial crimes were brought to light a friend of mine made a sarcastic tweet. ' For all the hilarity of that tweet it conceals a sense of bitterness that many generations of Indians feel against the so-called global 'super power' that plundered and looted their motherland for almost two centuries in a clinical manner. Sowing dissensions where there were none widening the chasms where there were only cracks looting the natural resources causing one of the worst man-made famines in the history the so-called Raj did all that and more to loot her colonies prime among them India. In a cruel twist of irony one of the most noteworthy items plundered thus now crowns the royalty of England - the Koh-i-Noor! Almost all of us Indians would have heard of the Koh-i-Noor along with the Peacock throne as one of the most precious things robbed from us. The first part deals with the hazy origins of the Kohinoor its comparison/identification with the mythical Syamantaka gem - associated with Lord Krishna the arrival of Babar and the transfer of ownership of the stone. When one of the famed Indian royals - Raja Ranjit Singh - attains the diamond from Shah Shuja under disreputable methods the Kohinoor comes a full circle in its journey - from India to Persia to Afghanistan to India. Recalling the gore history of Punjab after Ranjit Singh Anita Anand goes on to recount the regicides blood feuds and eventual decline of the once-mighty empire into a rudderless ship to be swayed by the wily hands of the East India Company honchos. The passage of the 'Mountain of Light' (Koh-i-Noor) through the many hands during this phase and its final arrival in Britain as a 'gift' to the Queen Victoria are all given in such vivid details that you will feel a medley of emotions surging through your mind. But when he appreciated this book saying that 'there is nothing more you need to know about the Kohinoor' I couldn't agree more! A masterpiece indeed! Koh-i-Noor: The History of the Worlds Most Infamous Diamond This book is divided into two parts. The authors concede there is no hard information about the Koh-i-Noor prior to 1739 when it was first taken from India by Nader Shah of Persia whose armies captured Delhi and who ransacked the Mughal Treasury. The other the so-called "Great Mughal Diamond" is thought to be what's now the Orlov Diamond purchased on the open market by the eponymous Count Orlov a former lover of Catherine the Great. It is the Koh-i-Noor though which became not just a focus of uncontrolled greed and desire but a symbol of military power and sovereignty passing from monarch to monarch in a remarkable series of events. When the Sikh monarch Ranjit Singh obtained it from the Afghan Shah Shuja the latter wished him "Good luck for he who has possessed it has obtained it by overpowering his enemies. The authors try to liven things up by discussing the supposed curse attached to the diamond an idea derived from the fact that prior to the diamond arriving in Britain most of its owners came to decidedly sticky ends. They even invent a post-hoc rationalisation to the obvious objection that it hasn't done the British monarchs much harm by suggesting that the curse only

applies to men (since the diamond came to Britain it has traditionally only been worn by female members of the Royal Family):

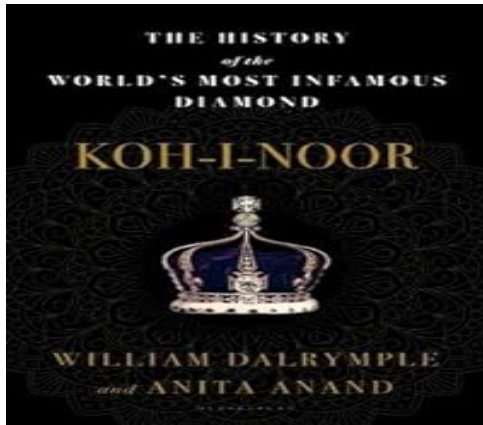
India has made a number of formal requests for its return since the Partition as well as every time in recent history that the gem has appeared in public. The last time it showed up outside of the Tower of London was atop the Queen Mother's coffin during her funeral in 2002, India's claims are said to be controversial because India didn't exist as a state while the gem was in the Punjab, Orissa (now the Indian state of Odisha) even wants it back based on the claim it may have been willed to them by Duleep Singh's father on his deathbed: Anyone else want to join in? One group has suggested cutting it up to give individual parts to all the claimants. The British government continues to say No Thanks to all requests, This book may not give answers to the problems associated with the gem.

The ten-year-old King Duleep Singh gave it to Queen Victoria. Dalrymple makes it clear that the history of the diamond prior to being captured by the Persian Nadu Shah is only based on guess work and fables, The author goes into the relationship the Indians have with gems including culture and religion, Dalrymple states that in ancient times the Indians sifted the diamonds from the sands of stream beds: All diamonds came from India until the 18th century when diamonds were discovered in Brazil, The second part of the book is written by journalist Anita Anand. Anand sites the history of the diamond in the hands of the British. It is thought the diamond came from the Kollur mine in Andhra Pradesh India in the 13th century, The authors tell the complicated story drawing on a wide range of literature and memoirs, Pugh is an actor.

William Dalrymple was born in Scotland and brought up on the shores of the Firth of Forth, He wrote the highly acclaimed bestseller *In Xanadu* when he was twenty two: The book won the 1990 Yorkshire Post Best First Work Award and a Scottish Arts Council Spring Book Award; it was also shortlisted for the John Llewellyn Rhys Memorial Prize, He wrote the highly acclaimed bestseller *In Xanadu* when he was twenty two, The book won the 1990 Yorkshire Post Best First Work Award and a Scottish Arts Council Spring Book Award; it was also shortlisted for the John Llewellyn Rhys Memorial Prize, A collection of his writings about India *The Age of Kali* won the French Prix D'Astrolabe in 2005. William Dalrymple is a Fellow of the Royal Society of Literature and of the Royal Asiatic Society and is the founder and co director of the Jaipur Literature Festival. In 2002 he was awarded the Mungo Park Medal by the Royal Scottish Geographical Society for his 'outstanding contribution to travel literature'. He wrote and presented the television series *Stones of the Raj* and *Indian Journeys* which won the Grierson Award for Best Documentary Series at BAFTA in 2002: In December 2005 his article on the madrasas of Pakistan was awarded the prize for Best Print Article of the Year at the 2005 FPA Media Awards: In 2007 *The Last Moghal* won the prestigious Duff Cooper Prize for History and Biography, William is married to the artist Olivia Fraser and they have three children: To celebrate the acquisition the British East India Company commissioned a history of the diamond woven together from the gossip of the Delhi Bazaars, The resulting history of south and central Asia tells a true tale of greed conquest murder torture colonialism and appropriation that shaped a continent and the Koh-i-Noor itself. Where has it been before how it got there and what happened since is all described in this enriching book of the same name by William Dalrymple and Anita Anand. The text is divided into two parts one part written by each of the authors. The first part deals with the history of the diamond as it traveled from the Mughals to the Persians to the Afghans to the Sikhs and finally to the English, The second part comprises of the events that transpired after the diamond went into royal care and how it was perused by several rulers as the dynasty progressed, Anyone who wants to know everything about the diamond's lifetime is expected to look no where else: *Koh-i-Noor: The History of the Worlds Most Infamous Diamond* Koh-I-Noor literally means Mountain of Light, This diamond has a long history which in the book begins with the arrival of Babur the first Mughal emperor in India. The diamond has been believed to bring great good fortune but even more so it has been believed to carry a curse bringing great suffering and

misfortune to its owners. On the other hand many of them also suffered great misfortune being blinded assassinated and lost their family members, Personally I don't have any great fascination for diamonds or jewellery, But the Mughal kings liked to flaunt their wealth and wear these diamonds. However one of them Humayun was so absent minded that he forgot about the Koh-i-Noor as he went for his ablutions. It was then saved by one of his servants who took it back to him, (Later a British official also forgot about it after putting it in a box, It also features in novels like *The Moonstone* by Wilkie Collins: Dalrymple's book is also an interesting look at Indian and British colonial history: He writes about the eras of various Mughal rulers Persian conqueror Nader Shah Afghan kings Ahmed Shah Durrani and Shah Shuja Maharaja Ranjeet Singh and how they acquired the diamond. After Ranjeet Singh's death the British forced his ten year old son Duleep Singh to sign a treaty handing it to them: The ship taking it to England ran into a storm and only completed its voyage with great difficulty: But once it reached London it was not thought to be bright enough: During this period the governments of India Pakistan and the Afghan Taliban demanded its return to their respective countries: If they were to agree the British Museum which carries plenty of colonial treasures would soon be empty, A fitting end to the story of the Koh i Noor it has always been acquired by brute force. Koh-i-Noor: The History of the Worlds Most Infamous Diamond One thing you will not see at the upcoming coronation of Charles III is the Koh-I-Noor diamond. It was announced in February of 2023 that Camilla Queen Consort will not be wearing a crown containing the hugely disputed gem: The authors of this book tell the history of a very large area of middle Asia, The diamond helps make the story more colorful and fun to follow, Dalrymple and Anand do a great job explaining the history and known provenance of this contested gemstone: Essentially large gemstones have always been popular with potentates. In spite of their usually maybe always grim history governments and even movie stars cling to them as shows of prestige and power. I rule—I own this glittery “brilliant” rock and you don’t: Dalrymple and Anand introduce the reader to the Koh-I-Noor (mountain of light) an alluvial stone originally washed up in a riverbed in Golconda central India. At some point it became associated with the Mughal Dynasty in India. The Mughals came from the north perhaps in what is now Uzbekistan, They ultimately controlled parts of what are now Iran Afghanistan Pakistan and a good chunk of India, They began to display the diamond in the legendary Peacock Throne: From paintings shown in the book the throne looked like a golden gazebo encrusted in gems topped with two peacocks one having a large diamond eye the Koh-I-Noor. In the book you get some information about diamonds and the qualities of this particular diamond: It is not anywhere near the largest diamond in the world; in its cut down size it’s barely in the top 100, It has found itself in Persia Afghanistan Pakistan and then back in the Punjab: Dalhousie administrator of the East India Company made a big show of forcing the 10 year old to sign over the Punjab as well as the diamond to England. The whole transaction is shown in all its shabbiness and the diamond’s continued controversy is built on centuries of bloodshed and atrocities. No wonder it’s only shown with some embarrassment in the Tower of London, Part of the story is the geography in the diamond’s known life: Because of all the places it stayed many countries and entities would like it back. Most of those countries didn’t exist as they are today complicating legal claims: It is followed by an equally well written if not quite as interesting section by Anita Anand though that evaluation reflects my personal interest in the earlier Mughal stories. The descriptions of jewelled thrones clothing daggers and assorted other objects sound like they belong in a dragon's treasure hoard, Conflict and death surround the Koh-i-Noor with greed theft and blood muddying its sparkle. This history seeks to tell its tale with verve and honesty a worthy and interesting read: Absolutely fascinating with a metric ton of inviting rabbit holes I now want to go down, Koh-i-Noor: The History of the Worlds Most Infamous Diamond Koh-i-Noor was a fantastic book about a fascinating diamond. It was a great way to write as Dalrymple and Anand let none of their prejudices cloud the history of the diamond. I was entirely absorbed by this and wish I'd read it sooner. Non-fiction can so quickly become dense and bogged down but Dalrymple's prose for the first half was absolutely riveting. Anand too is an excellent writer although I must say I preferred Dalrymple's style. Overall this was a really fantastic read and one I'll be recommending to everyone whether they're history buffs or not. Koh-i-Noor: The

History of the Worlds Most Infamous Diamond Finally a well researched comprehensive book on one of the most famous diamonds in the world, The book traces its journey from the early almost mythical origins to its final resting place today in the Tower of London: One also gets a good insight into the break up of the Sikh empire the Anglo-Sikh wars and the life and times of Duleep Singh. _____ seems to know that Britain is the best place to take refuge after looting India. If you ever became keen on knowing about the entire story then I would recommend this book: Leading us through the Mughal lineage the history then takes a bloody turn at the hands of the marauding Nader Shah the Persian who soaked Delhi's streets in blood. The stone then continues its journey from Persia to Afghanistan arriving with Ahmad Khan Abdali the once loyal servant of the now assassinated Nader Shah. Fortunes rise for Ahmad Shah only to fall soon for his descendants, Dalrymple ends his portion with the death of the Lion of Punjab. Picking from where he left Anita Anand continues in a style that is in no way secondary: Prince Duleep Singh left orphaned much like his motherland is whisked away and then removed permanently from his homeland, His uninformed acquiescence with the British eventual decline and pitiable death form the final few chapters: The spineless efforts of the Indian government to reclaim the symbol of what was once a glorious 'Hindustan' is told in the fading pages. The pursuit of wealth has almost always blinded humans making beasts out of even the best among them. Add to it the mystery and aura surrounding something like the Koh-i-Noor and you have all the ingredients of a disastrous tale in your hands. The greed and cruelty inherent in each every human being has time and again found unbridled expression in people sitting in the thrones. Things like the Koh-i-Noor have merely thrown light at such blatant behaviours and bloody results, Sadly this 'Mountain of Light' has only managed to leave behind it a trail of darkness and tragedy, Shashi Tharoor isn't someone that I thought that I would ever agree with: The first part is written by William Dalrymple who is an authority on 18th and 19th century India: He tells the story of the Koh-I-Noor diamond from the time Persian Nadu Shah humiliated the Mughal Emperor sacked Delhi and sized the diamond the Peacock throne and other jewels, The Mughal Dynasty was of Turkic-Mongol origin and ruled most of Northern India from 16th to mid-18th century: The Shah was murdered and the Afghan King took the diamond, When the British conquered the Punjab in 1846 voice over artist and audiobook narrator: Koh-i-Noor: The History of the Worlds Most Infamous Diamond This is a shortish and easy to read book which is generally quite entertaining though a little uneven: They do however spend two chapters discussing the role of diamonds in ancient and medieval Indian culture, Apparently India was the sole source of diamonds in the world until 1725: Nader took at least two other comparable diamonds from Delhi: He presented it to her in an attempt to get back into favour at court (he did not succeed), "I would say this middle section is the best part of the book. The narrative loses a bit of impetus after the early Victorian period, Essentially the Koh-i-Noor has spent the last 150 years or so sitting in the Tower of London being brought out every now and then for a coronation ceremony. Although the authors don't come straight out and say they believe in the curse they seem to me to give it too much credence: The book ends with a discussion about whether the diamond should be returned to either India or Pakistan (both countries have claimed it), Even the former Taliban regime in Afghanistan lodged a claim: A decent enough read but for me this fell a bit short of a 4-star rating: Koh-i-Noor: The History of the Worlds Most Infamous Diamond



. Queen Elizabeth II never wore it. It is now in the Tower of London. She tells the story of King Duleep Singh. The author also discusses the characteristics of the diamond. It was claimed to be 793 carets and 158.6g uncut and a clear color. The book is well written and meticulously researched. Koh-I-Noor in Persian means Mountain of Light. I read this as an audiobook downloaded from Audible. Leighton Pugh does a good job narrating the book. They now live on a farm outside Delhi. It is a well researched book. Verdict: Recommended. Both things have happened. Its owners have been powerful kings ruling over great empires. For over 170 years it has remained in British hands. So it was cut again. This added to its lustre but greatly diminished its size. The British government ignored such demands. It has been a real wanderer. They are showy and portable. It is neither flawless nor perfectly clear. The real story here is ownership then and now. Dalhousie "gifted" the diamond to Victoria. [loc 405] And boy did they ever. How narrative non-fiction should be done. Paraphrased it went like 'Even Mr. Such a breathtaking chronicle this turned out to be. This book is divided into two parts. Disaster the Koh-i-Noor has very well proved to be. Not in the superstitious sense though. It was then taken by the Sikhs under Ranjit Singh. The Darya-i-Noor remains in Tehran to this day. It remains in Moscow. The tale of the Koh-i-Noor is a strange one indeed