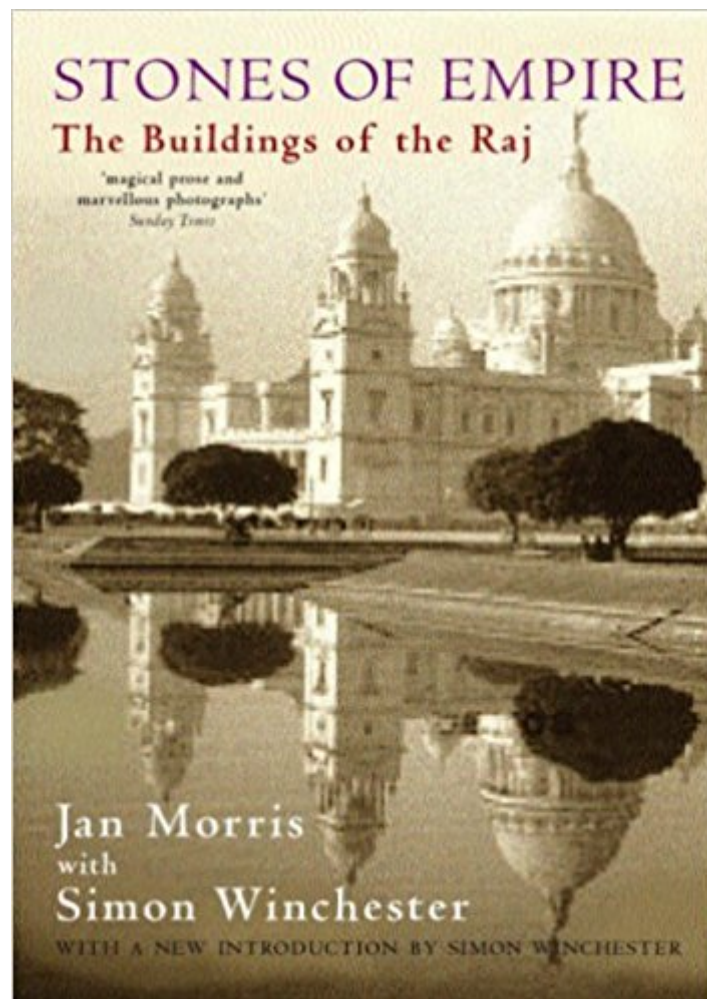




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Stones Of Empire: The Buildings Of The Raj



Synopsis

No empire in history built so variously as the British empire in India. The buildings there attest to the richness of an imperial presence that lasted--from the first trading settlement to the end of the Raj--some three hundred years. The attitude of the British to India was compounded partly of arrogance, but partly also of homesickness, and it shows in their constructions. Georgian terraces were adapted to tropical conditions, Victorian railway stations were elaborately orientalized, seaside villas were adjusted to suit Himalayan conditions, and everywhere the fundamental ambivalence of the British empire, a baffling mixture of good and evil, was mirrored in the imperial architecture. This book, now reissued with an introduction by Simon Winchester, was the first to describe the whole range of British constructions in India. The text and photographs illustrate these buildings not simply as physical objects, but as reflections of an empire's mingled emotions. *Stones of Empire* charts an enterprise in architecture, engineering, and social adaptation unique in human history.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

`Review from previous edition '...magical prose and marvellous photographs''Sunday Times --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

Jan Morris is an Honorary Fellow of the University College of Wales. Her many publications include *Venice*, *The Pax Britannia Trilogy*, *The Oxford Book of Oxford*, and *The Matter of Wales*. Simon Winchester is the author of the bestsellers *The Map That Changed the World*, *The Professor and the Madman*, and *Krakatoa*.

Fascinating read

The complexity of the Raj is depicted splendidly in her architecture: East literally meets West with the West coming out not so fantastically. The fascination, however, is seeing a gothic church and mall spread over a Hill Station, or a White House style palace re-produced in a princely state. Nothing the West produced touches the splendor and achievement of the Taj Mahal. Next to that structure, even the best of Western Architecture, the Palladian style, fares poorly. Great book!

FANTASTIC BOOK

Despite originally being published in 1983, this compact book is still a "one of a kind" terrific combination of information for all types of public and private buildings with excellent pictures that highlight every style and type of architecture that the British Raj produced from the 1780s thru the 1930s. The men who conceived and planned this architecture and why /how it was built during the Raj's nearly two centuries in India is told concisely and well. The book is divided into 8 chapters with the two [2] chapters in particular - domestic architecture of the cities and countryside and the wide range of styles of public buildings that displayed the Raj's pomp and power - these chapters are particular well written, illustrated and interesting. India after independence did not obliterate these "Stones of the Raj" unlike Communist China's wholesale destruction of any 19th and 20th century architectural reminders of the west's presence and dominance. India doesn't celebrate or venerate these buildings but pragmatically continues to utilize many of them from Edwin Lutyens massive Viceroy's palace and other government buildings in New Delhi to racecourses, railroad stations, private clubs, hotels, churches, forts, law courts, bridges, tunnels and museums.- all chronicled in detail by Ms Morris. The fact that the British built their structures "so damn well" has ensured their continued survival and use. Ms. Morris writes in a fluent, easy style that is both informative and entertaining and it is quite a remarkable achievement of chronicling the Raj's architectural and historical monuments. I highly recommend this book for its architectural and historical information and give it a 5 star rating.

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