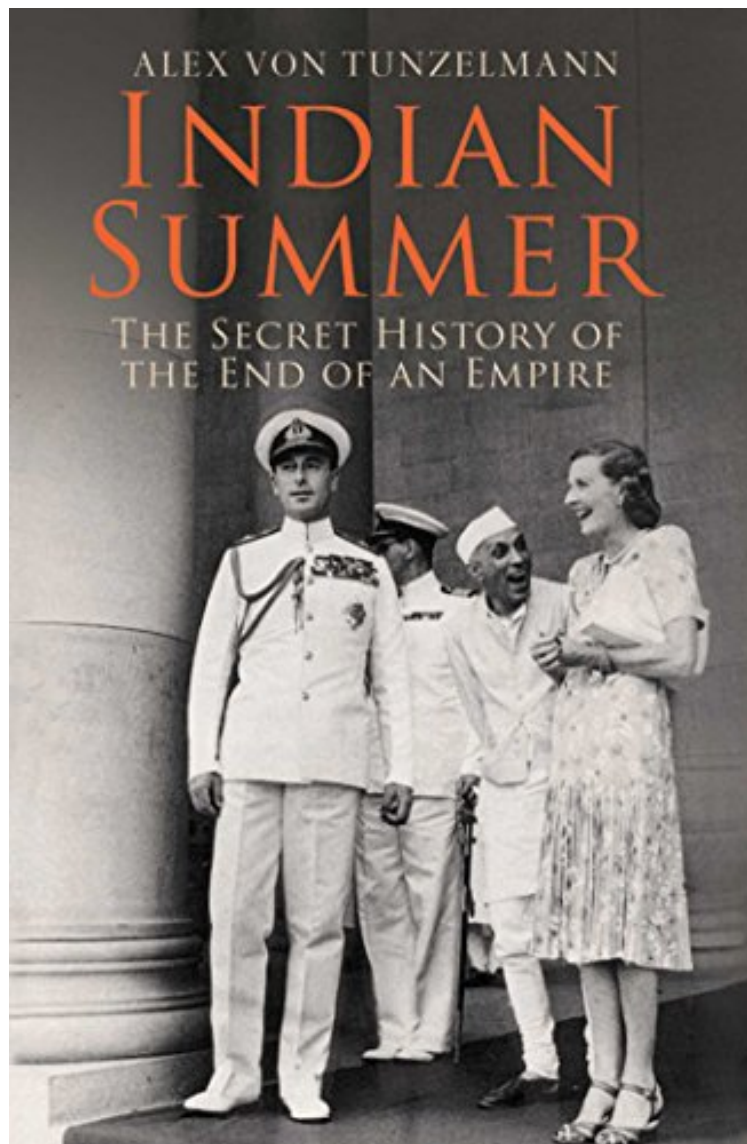


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## Indian Summer: The Secret History of the End of an Empire (English Edition)

Von Alex von Tunzelmann

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**Von Alex von Tunzelmann : Indian Summer: The Secret History of the End of an Empire (English Edition)** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Indian Summer: The Secret History of the End of an Empire (English Edition):

KundenrezensionenHilfreichste Kundenrezensionen3 von 3 Kunden fanden die folgende Rezension hilfreich. An

almost complete book on the topic Von Amad The book is very well researched and written. It is recommended to anyone who is interested in the following: = What led to the partition of the Indian subcontinent? = Role of Mountbatten in keeping the British government guilt / blame free while millions died as a result of their decisions in the subcontinent and why instead of getting blamed/tried for the massacres that erupted across the length and breadth of the subcontinent, people almost cried while saying farewell to the Mountbattens? = Affair and relationship of Edwina Mountbatten (Dickie Mountbatten's wife) with Jawaharlal Nehru, the first PM of India. = Understand the issues between India and Pakistan today. = Why are the governments still unable to resolve the Kashmir issue even after 72 years? The structure is very logical and takes the reader through the events of the partition of the Indian subcontinent very nicely. Previous knowledge is recommended on key players and overall history of the Subcontinent to take full advantage in understanding the book but not required. (+) Author has tried to be very objective about her research on the topic and has drawn conclusions on events based on statistics instead of opinions. (+) The book touches almost all the major and even most minor events that lead to the partition and covers the issues that arose as a result of it describing the role of all key players involved and their actions. (+) Wherever needed the book provides background knowledge to understand the event being described. (-) The book was somewhat lacking on Jinnah. For Nehru, Gandhi and the Mountbattens the book provides quite personal accounts. This makes the book to provide more information on what was going on in India after partition and only refers to Pakistan when required.

3 von 3 Kunden fanden die folgende Rezension hilfreich. Parties, Love, Politics Von Niclas Grabowski So richtig geheim ist die Geschichte vom Ende des großen Weltreiches in der Geschichte der Menschheit ja nicht. Allenfalls etwas unbeachtet geblieben ist dieses Kapitel der Weltgeschichte, da man in Europa nach dem zweiten Weltkrieg zu vieles andere im Kopf hatte, um sich intensiv mit den Ereignissen in Indien zu beschäftigen. Gerade in Deutschland waren Kriegsfolgen, Teilung Deutschlands, der beginnende Kalte Krieg viel dringender. Und doch war und ist es wichtig, was damals in weiter Ferne passiert ist. Denn noch immer stehen sich auf dem indischen Subkontinent zwei Atomkräfte feindlich gegenüber, noch immer ist das ehemalige Ostpakistan, Bangladesh, ein permanentes, humanitäres Krisengebiet. Und Pakistan selbst ist heute eines der Zentren des militanten Islamismus. Dieses Buch erzählt, wie es zu dieser Entwicklung kommen konnte, und es erzählt auch, wie sich ein von zwei Weltkriegen wirtschaftlich ausgeblutetes Großbritannien von seinen Kolonien lösen musste. Das Buch erzählt das durch die Biographien der handelnden Personen. Nehru, Gandhi, Jinnah, vor allem aber die Biographie des Ehepaares Mountbatton werden hier genau und gelegentlich auch mal sehr unterhaltsam beschrieben. Dabei werden die letzten Tage des Empires, wie auch die Ehe der Mountbattons, vor allem als Farce dargestellt. Die Geschichte Indiens und seiner Teilung dagegen wird als grausame Tragödie beschrieben. Wenn es das Buch auch offen lässt, ob man an dieser hätte etwas ändern können, so fällt doch auf, dass in diesem Buch Gandhi schlecht, Lady Mountbatton dagegen immer gut wegkommt. Und auch die Bedeutung der Liebesgeschichte zwischen der Lady und dem Premier Nehru wird vielleicht doch ein kleines bisschen zu hoch gehängt. Aber dennoch ist dies ein Buch, was über eine wichtige Zeit ein farbenfrohes und gut lesbares Bild liefert. Und ein wenig Klatsch in einem Geschichtsbuch macht Geschichte schließlich auch nicht schlechter, sondern besser lesbar. Vor allem, wenn man dann noch eine tief romantische, aber dennoch wohl wahre Liebesgeschichte zwischen zwei interessanten Menschen zu lesen bekommt.

Kurzbeschreibung The stroke of midnight on 15 August 1947 liberated 400 million Indians from the British Empire. One of the defining moments of world history had been brought about by a tiny number of people, including Jawaharlal Nehru, the fiery prime minister-to-be; Gandhi, the mystical figure who enthralled a nation; and Louis and Edwina Mountbatten, the glamorous but unlikely couple who had been dispatched to get Britain out of India without delay. Within hours of the midnight chimes, however, the two new nations of India and Pakistan would descend into anarchy and terror. INDIAN SUMMER depicts the epic sweep of events that ripped apart the greatest empire the world has ever seen, and reveals the secrets of the most powerful players on the world stage: the Cold War conspiracies, the private deals, and the intense and clandestine love affair between the wife of the last viceroy and the first prime minister of free India. With wit, insight and a sharp eye for detail, Alex von Tunzelmann relates how a handful of people changed the world for ever. From Booklist The end of the British Raj remains a controversial topic among historians. Could partition have been avoided if British and Indian politicians were more prudent? Could the communal violence that cost up to a million lives have been avoided or at least mitigated? Although Von Tunzelmann touches on these questions, she does not attempt to answer them, but perhaps those answers are beyond the scope of this general history of the closing years of British control. Instead, she provides an interesting look at the key players in this tumultuous period. Despite the title, there are no startling revelations here. But Von Tunzelmann's portrayals of Nehru, Jinnah, Gandhi, and Louis Mountbatten are often provocative and at odds with more conventional views. Gandhi, for example, is seen as rather rigid, sometimes petty, and maddeningly indecisive. Nehru, the giant of Indian nationalist aspirations, seems more British than the British themselves and distinctly uncomfortable as a leader of a mass movement. This is not a particularly comprehensive account, but for general readers, this work will be very

valuable. Freeman, Jay Pressestimmen "Indian Summer" is a true tour de force: absorbing in its detail and masterly in the broad sweep of its canvas."--Sir Martin Gilbert, author of "The Somme" "Indian Summer" is outstandingly vivid and authoritative. Alex von Tunzelmann brings a lively new voice to narrative history-writing."--Victoria Glendinning, author of "Leonard Woolf" "Alex von Tunzelmann is a wonderful historian, as learned as she is shrewd. But she is also something more unexpected: a writer with a wit and an eye for character that Evelyn Waugh would surely have admired."--Tom Holland, author of "Rubicon" and "Persian Fire" "An engaging, controversial, very lively and, at times, refreshingly irreverent tour de force. Alex von Tunzelmann has written a dramatic story, laced with tragedy and farce, and done so very well; a remarkable debut."--Lawrence James, author of "The Middle Class: A History" and "Raj: The Making and Unmaking of British India" "Abrilliantly vivid page-turner that captures the backstage dramas raging on the eve of India's independence."--Tina Brown "Irreistible . . . A fascinating book that may well change how we look on the benighted world in which we live today."--"Los Angeles Times" "[A] captivating group portrait, pulling forth the most telling details of each figure's inner life. . . . To have turned an era of such significance and continuing relevance into a page-turner, to both entertain and educate, is an admirable accomplishment."--"San Francisco Chronicle" "A fascinating behind-the-scenes account of the breakup of British rule in India."--NPR's "Fresh Air" "Von Tunzelmann] keeps us riveted. . . . 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