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Imperial Intimacies
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[43x567]the british in india from the pulitzer prize-winning historian: a searing study of the british empire that interrogates the country's pervasive use of violence throughout the twentieth century and traces how these practices were exported, modified, and institutionalized in colonies around the globe. sprawling across a quarter of the world's land mass and claiming nearly five hundred colonial subjects, britain's twentieth-century empire was the largest empire in human history. for many britons, it epitomized their nation's cultural superiority, but what legacy did the island nation deliver to the world? covering more than two hundred years of history, caroline elkins reveals an evolutionary and racialized doctrine that espoused an unrelenting deployment of violence to secure and preserve the nation's imperial interests. she outlines how ideological foundations of violence were rooted in the victorian era calls for punishing recalcitrant "natives," and how over time, its forms became increasingly systematized. and she makes clear that when britain could no longer maintain control over the violence it provoked and enacted, it retreated from empire, destroying and hiding incriminating evidence of its policies and practices. drawing on more than a decade of research on four continents, legacy of violence implicates all sides of britain's political divide in the creation, execution, and cover-up of imperial violence. by demonstrating how and why violence was the most salient factor underwriting britain's empire and the nation's imperial identity at home, elkins upends long-held myths and sheds new light on empire's role in shaping the world today.

victorious century an immersive portrait of the lives of the british in india, from the seventeenth century to independence who of the british went to india, and why? we know about kipling and forster, orwell and scott, but what of the youthful forestry official, the enterprising boxwallah, the fervid missionary? what motivated them to travel halfway around the globe, what lives did they lead when they got there, and what did they think about it all? full of spirited, illuminating anecdotes drawn from long-forgotten memoirs, correspondence, and government documents, the british in india weaves a rich tapestry of the everyday experiences of the britons who found themselves in "the jewel in the crown" of the british empire. david gilmour captures the substance and texture of their work, home, and social lives, and illustrates how these transformed across the several centuries of british presence and rule in the subcontinent, from the east india company's first trading station in 1615 to the twilight of the raj and partition and independence in 1947. he takes us through remote hill stations, bustling coastal ports, opulent palaces, regimented cantonments, and dense jungles, revealing the country as seen through british eyes, and wittily reveling in all the particular concerns and contradictions that were a consequence of that limited perspective. the british in india is a breathtaking accomplishment, a vivid and balanced history written with brio, elegance, and erudition.

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