



Ranjit Singh: Maharajah Of The Punjab

Khushwant Singh

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Ranjit Singh was in every way as remarkable a man as his contemporaries, Napoleon and Mohammed Ali. From the status of petty chieftain he rose to become the most powerful Indian ruler of his time. His empire extended from Tibet to the deserts of Sindh and from the Khyber Pass to the Sutlej.

Ranjit Singh: Maharajah Of The Punjab Details

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From Reader Review Ranjit Singh: Maharajah Of The Punjab for online ebook

Mayank Pandya says

true portrait of lion of punjab...author clearly shows his scholarship and deep dwelving in to the repository of knowledge and bringing out UNBIASED work on the era of independent Punjab a rarity that came after 800 years out of a genius of man who turned the tide of invasions and those who were fond of invading were themselves besieged by undisputable mighty although most generous and forgiving ruler in history...language is very clear and informative and it reads like a novel...Khushwant singh continues to live through his work

Amit says

Typical Khushwant Singh. Pithy and tight narrative. It is the story of a man who was the first in a almost a thousand years to turn the tide on the invaders from the North West frontier of undivided India. His life is fascinating, as it is not the tale of a savage warrior but an example of a shrewd tactician. Never does one find a single instance of wanton revenge or bloodletting in his conquests which, considering the era he lived in, is most striking. In less than a hundred years from the time Nadir Shah and Abdali struck terror into the Indian heartland, his generals had the Sikh standard hoisted across the forts of North West India. A great king if India has seen one.

Taranpreet Singh says

what an amazing book. A perfect delight to read.

Ranjit Singh was neither a selfless patriot nor an avaricious freebooter. He was neither a model of virtue nor a lascivious sensualist. Above all he was too warm and lively a character to have his life told in a lifeless catalogue of facts, figures and footnotes.

Harnam Singh says

Book was really a classic but seemed a bit boring at some times though Kushwant's description about Ranjit and his whole life was really fantastic.

Mayurakshi says

Khushwant Singh can make any topic interesting with his impeccable writing skills. This too was an extremely interesting read with all the details of the era being imbibed so well that you can live the times.

Risha says

3.75 stars

Raman Dee says

I want this's book

Lovish Setia says

We Punjabi's all have heard of the ruler and know that Ranjit Singh was the only king left who was able to deal with the English men. The book is a well-researched account of the various aspects of Ranjeet Singh's life. One surely comes to know what was Punjab and the way of life of the Punjabi's during the 19th century. How a son of a petty chief with his shrewdness, courage and diplomacy rose up the ranks to become the king of a strong empire.

Khayam Arif says

Not much impressed by this book, only the glorious side of Ranjeet is displayed

Vikrant Singal says

Excellent read from a historical perspective. My history reading had sort of jumped from the 1757 battle of Plassey and 1761 battle of Panipat straight to the 1857 mutiny, missing about 100 years. So the Ranjit Singh era from 1800 to 1839 was a really good eye opener in many ways. What a remarkable life - he unified the Punjab clans and made Punjab and India secure from Muslim attacks from the North West which had plagued India for 300 years. I was kept wondering how history would have turned out if this had been achieved earlier. Also, how he would have reacted if still alive during 1857. Amazing that he never ordered the death of a king or general he had defeated. But the book is also hagiographical - the negative aspects of Ranjit Singh are generally not dealt with. And a bit tedious, with too much emphasis on military aspects. Recommended for history lovers and North Indians.

Rajat TWIT says

It's a fairly good read if you are interested to know about the Sikh Empire and the political scenario of the Northern part of India during early to late Eighteenth century. But those who wanted to know more about the persona life of Maharaja Ranjit Singh will find it a long and tiring read with little outcome. Though it is a well-researched book, and the lucid writing of Khushwant Singh makes it an exciting read, but continuous introduction of various small fights or trivial information make the whole book a rather boring affair. Most

part of the book consists of the diary notes of British representatives, descriptions of various battles that Maharaja's army fought and the visits of Maharaja to various cities. After a point, everything becomes redundant and useless information.

More than a biography, this book is a detailed record keeping of Maharaja Ranjit Singh. Though it is the most authentic source to read about Maharaja and there is no contest about the great empire that he had created. But if you want to compare him with his other illustrious contemporaries like Napoleon and Mohammed Ali, then you need to tell his stories in more elaborated form, and not in a date-to-date description of Maharaja's life (mostly through the diaries and letters of British people).

I wanted to know more about Maharaja's personal life including his dealing with family members, his relationship with wives and children. Especially, as per many claims, I wanted to know about his marriage with a nautch dancer. According to my knowledge he had to apologize to Akal Takht and had to make huge offerings. I didn't find record of it in book; I hope I haven't overseen it.

Over all, a good book which won't quench your thirst about the history. At most, it will give you an early hint of British Raj in starting and the great empire that Maharaja Ranjit Singh built so tirelessly. And oh yes!! There is a proper story of Kohinoor.

Samima Shah-Faheem says

Started as a petty 'misldar', Ranjit rose to the Maharaja of Punjab. An intelligent and progressive young lad who became the Raja of Punjab when he was just 18. An extraordinary personality, whose high-spirits and dynamic disposition made him the conqueror of impenetrable lands like Peshawar and Sindh. No doubt, a remarkable biographical account by Khushwant Singh and a must read.

Sukanta Hazra says

Good from the historical point of view. Provides pretty detailed information about the life of Ranjit Singh, but I found the writing style boring and repetitive.

Syed says

Never easy writing a biography of someone of this stature and making sure it compels the reader to keep going. Khushwant Singh's writings reek of the Punjabi Spirit. He has made it sound like a story which keeps you going. What I like about him is the fact that he moves away from the very orthodox style of writing biographies by stuffing the book with historical facts and all. I like how he actually paints the picture of the pre partition Punjab. How it looked, how and why was it different from other monarchies. The book is highly recommended.
