

Recent Books from Nepal – July 2023

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Biography/Memoirs

Between the Mountain and the Sky: A Mother's Story of Love, Loss, Healing, and Hope / Maggie Doyne & Shannon Lee Mille
Lalitpur: Safu (Quixote's Cove Pvt. Ltd.), 2023
xii, 252p.
9789937934190
\$ 25.00 / PB
238gm.

Between the Mountain and the Sky shows us the goodness that is possible when a single person--regardless of age--takes action to help another and, in the process, changes the lives of hundreds.

Maggie's story begins in suburban New Jersey, in a comfortable middle-class family that supports her decision to travel the world during a gap year before starting college. During her travels, the trajectory of her life alters when she has a surprise encounter with a Nepali girl breaking rocks in a quarry. Maggie decides to invest her life savings of five thousand dollars to buy a piece of land and open a children's home in Nepal.

That home becomes Kopila Valley Children's Home, and eventually, the nonprofit Maggie launches, the BlinkNow Foundation, also starts the Kopila Valley School, which provides tuition-free education for more than four hundred students. Maggie and BlinkNow's work have been recognized around the world for their innovative, sustainable work.

However, this book isn't a how-to for fledging philanthropists or nonprofit founders--it's a coming-of-age story about a young woman suspended between two worlds, as well as the love, loss, healing, and hope she experiences along the way. And Maggie's inspiring, intimate tale shows readers an important truth: the power to change the world exists within all of us.

<http://www.marymartin.com/web?pid=851791>

The Plight-Witness: A Glimpse of the Bhutanese Cause / Y. N. Chaulagai (Translated from Nepali) Hem Guragai
Nepal: Literature Council of Bhutan, 2023
212p.
9798986300832
\$ 25.00 / PB
180gm.

The Plight Witness is a factual story of the oppressed and evicted Bhutanese. Set in the refugee camps in Nepal in 1991, the novel's plot narrates the first one-year history of Bhutanese refugees and the flashback of the repressive state policy and 1990 movement back in Bhutan.

This is a historical-fiction novel. It represents the tragic life of the evicted Bhutanese Citizens.

<http://www.marymartin.com/web?pid=851792>

Ecology/Environment

Plants of Nepal (Gymnosperms and Angiosperms) / Krishna Kumar Shrestha, Prabin Bhandari & Shandesh Bhattarai

Kathmandu: Heritage Publishers & Distributors Pvt. Ltd., 2022

1110p.

Includes Index

9789937774529

\$ 100.00 / HB

1980gm.

This book is about the history of botanical explorations, plant collection, documentation and nomenclature of plant resources of Nepal from the early 19th century to the present. It encompasses comprehensive information on plant diversity, plant resources, entobotany and flora of Nepal, especially the Gymnosperms (Cycadaceae- Taxaceae) and Angiosperms (Nymphaeaceae- Apiaceae) described from Nepal, representing all seven provinces and 77 districts of Nepal, and from a wide elevational range: as low as 60 m (Jhapa) to 6400m (base of the Mount Everest, Solukhumbu), East Nepal. The arrangement of families in the book is based on the APG system of classification, while the genera and species are arranged in alphabetical order.

Emphasis is given to three categories of plants: extended checklist of native and naturalized species; synoptic checklist of uncertain species (Lacking sufficient information on its occurrence in Nepal); and synoptic checklist of exotic species (planted or cultivated species) documented from Nepal. An attempt has been made to provide the latest nomenclature of the species, with synonyms, local names and English names, life form or habit; distribution in Nepal, elevational ranges, and global distribution. In addition, information on endemic plants, threatened plants, naturalized and invasive species of Nepal: use-value of the majority of species reported from Nepal, are also provided. This book should be useful to a wide range of readers, from students, teachers and researchers in the fields of botany, forestry, agriculture, and floriculture, to policy-makers and all who are interested in the plants of Nepal.

<http://www.marymartin.com/web?pid=851793>

History

Fifty Years in Bigutar, Nepal: The Collapse and Rebirth of a Peasant Community 1971-2021 / Dr. Peter H. Prindle

Kathmandu: Ratnasagar Prakashan Pvt Ltd., 2022

350p.

9789937943659

\$ 30.00 / PB

582gm.

<http://www.marymartin.com/web?pid=851794>

Plains of Discontent: A Political History of Nepal's Tarai (1743-2019) / Maxmillian Morch

Kathmandu: FinePrint Books, 2023

308p.

9789937746960
\$ 30.00 / PB
312gm.

Plains of Discontent sheds light on an often-overlooked aspect of the flatlands of the Tarai, where over 50% of the country's population resides. It is in the Tarai that bitter political movements and battles have taken place, raising fundamental questions about Nepali identity and the structure of Nepal as both a nation and a state. To fully comprehend the anger, resentment and discontent in the Tarai, the book argues, we must delve into its political history. Plains of Discontent is a must-read for all progressive democratic forces committed to building an inclusive and participatory democracy, both within and outside of Nepal. —Baburam Bhattarai, Former Prime Minister

Morch has done a remarkable job of uncovering the historical ruins of the land and the shattered aspirations of the people in the Tarai. He has essentially resurrected a forgotten history. —C. K. Raut, President, Janamat Party

<http://www.marymartin.com/web?pid=851795>

Studies in Nepali History and Society, Vol. 27, No. 2, December 2022 / Pratyoush Onta (et al.)

Kathmandu: Mandala Book Point, 2022

1v.

ISSN: 1025-5109

\$ 30.00 / PB

282gm.

<http://www.marymartin.com/web?pid=851796>

Language, Caste, Religion, and Territory: Newar Identity : Ancient and Modern / David N. Gellner

Kathmandu: Ratna Pusak Bandar, 2023

920p.

Includes Index ; Bibliography

9789937333023

\$ 25.00 / PB

116gm.

We may therefore conclude thus: the Newars are the main group (jati) of Nepal. Newars are its original inhabitants. This is supported by our appearance, our language and our customs. Subsequently others came from all four directions of the compass and entered this central origin-point, our country Nepal. That they should be attracted to the centre is only natural. Since they came here and entered into regular contact with the locals, and called themselves Newars, they also had some influence. Certain words of the language they brought with them, and certain of their customs, became part of Newar society [...But] the basic customs and language remained intact. Thus we can say that the Newars are not just a caste (jät) but an ethnic group (jāti) and a nation (rāstra). This is the reason why scholars say 'the history of the Newars is the history of Nepal'. – Svayambhu Lal Shrestha, in Jhiji, 1968

<http://www.marymartin.com/web?pid=851797>

Journalism/Communication

Dateline Earth: Journalism As If the Planet Mattered / Kunda Dixit

Third Edition
Nepal: Jagadamba Prakashan, 2023
242p.
9789937598149
\$ 20.00 / PB
320gm.

The social web has transformed journalism and changed the way we find out what is happening around us. Information overload has shortened attention spans. It is getting harder to find stories with solutions to global crises.

This is the third and updated edition of *Dateline Earth: Journalism As If the Planet Mattered* for journalists interested in covering issues like climate collapse, global inequities, governance.

Kunda Dixit has devoted his career to covering development and environment in his native Nepal and internationally, and makes the case for a new journalism ethos.

<http://www.marymartin.com/web?pid=851798>

Law

Nepal-India Frontier Diplomacy in Reference to Kali River: Perspectives of International Law / Surendra Bhandari & Achut Gautam

Lalitpur: Law Associates Nepal, 2023

xx, 476p.

Includes Bibliography

\$ 35.00 / PB

490gm.

All countries are equally dignified and sovereign under the international law. The hegemonic enigma espoused by realism, i.e., the big and small, the rich and poor, and the powerful and powerless needs to forgo unconditionally. In this regard, favoring the international law, a major paradigm shift in Nepal-India relations is conspicuously urgent for resolving outstanding issues between these two countries. A robust friendly relationship with India is both necessary and desirable; however, it needs to be built on fairness and respect.

Throughout her history, Nepal has never postured threats or tribulations to India as a trustworthy friend; but ironically, has suffered not only from the British-India wars but also from inhumane blockades by independent India, reminding of the colonial past. Since the Sugauli Treaty, a number of additional treaties that Nepal and India have concluded for strengthening bilateral relations through the rules-based system, have turned abortive in promoting public confidence in Nepal. To reverse this bitter experience, the Lipu Lekh, Kalapani and Limpiyadhra issue together with the Kali River row urgently demands amicable resolution. Accepting this moment as an opportunity, both neighbors need to cooperate for a win-win situation, urgently needed for capturing the prospects of Asian century.

<http://www.marymartin.com/web?pid=851799>

Linguistics

A Grammar of the Thangmi Language, Vol. I & II / Mark Turin

Kathmandu: Himal Books (for Social Science Baha), 2023

2v.

Includes Index; Bibliography

\$ 75.00 (Set) / PB

1612gm.

Volume I : Ethnography and Grammar
9789937597746
Vol. II : Texts and Lexicon
9789937597753

This monograph is a grammar of Thangmi, an endangered Tibeto-Burman language spoken in the districts of Dolakha and Sindhupalchok in central-eastern Nepal. The language is spoken by upwards of 30,000 people belonging to an ethnic group of the same name. The Thangmi are one of Nepal's least documented communities.

These two volumes include a grammatical description of the Dolakha dialect of Thangmi, a collection of glossed oral texts and a comprehensive lexicon with relevant examples. In addition, the reader will find an extensive ethnolinguistic introduction to the speakers and their culture. (Originally Published by Brill in 2012)

<http://www.marymartin.com/web?pid=851800>

Literature

Blue Planet (Eco Fiction) / Bijay Hitan; (Translator) Gatha Rijal
Kathmandu: Phoenix Books, 2023
216p.
9789937705882
\$ 20.00 / PB
178gm.

Vijay Hitan considers himself Belpali (British Nepali). Hitan, a retired Nepalese soldier from the British Gurkha Regiment, is active in knowledge promotion and environmental protection after obtaining higher education in environmental science from Greenwich University. The blue planet of the universe is a tireless warrior of 'Paradise Literature Creation' or 'Paradise Writing' or 'Eco-Writing' active in order to regulate the environmental balance, environmental protection and the natural cycle between animals and plants. Various collections of poems, stories, essays and dramas have been published by this author who fills the foreign soil with Nepali fragrance.

Vijay Hitan is the bridge of environmental balance and literary creation. He balances the ecology of life on earth through literary creation. They seem committed.

<http://www.marymartin.com/web?pid=851801>

Politics/Current Affairs

Complexities of South Asian Political Order / N.P. Upadhyaya (Aryal)
Kathmandu: The Telegraph Nepal, 2023
288p.
\$ 25.00 / PB
314gm.

"Complexities of South Asian Political Order", a collection of essays on contemporary regional political issues by N.P. Upadhyaya (Aryal).

<http://www.marymartin.com/web?pid=851802>

Democracy in Turns: A Political Account of Nepal / Sanjay Upadhya

Kathmandu: FinePrint Pvt. Ltd., 2023
292p.
9789937746878
\$ 25.00 / PB
210gm.

As Nepal struggles to construct a new democratic identity under its seventh constitution in as many decades, the wider machinations and manipulations that have dominated politics ever since the country emerged from the unification of petty principalities in the mid-eighteenth century continue to cast a long shadow, Sanjay Upadhyaya argues. *Democracy In Turns* critically examines the country's past political experiments-complete with all key players and proceedings-in an effort to understand modern Nepali democracy and envision its future.

<http://www.marymartin.com/web?pid=851803>

Tibetan Studies

A Life In Tibetan Studies: Festschrift For Dieter Schuh At The Occasion of His 80th Birthday / Christoph Cuppers, Karl-Heinz Everding & Peter Schwieger
Bhairahawa, Rupandehi: Lumbini International Research Institute, 2022
lii, 764p.
English & German Languages
9789937130042
\$ 100.00 / PB
1762gm.

<http://www.marymartin.com/web?pid=849165>

Drenpa's Proclamation: The Rise and Decline of the Bon Religion in Tibet / Per Kvaerne & Dan Martin
Kathmandu: Vajra Books, 2023
xiv, 658p.
Includes Index
9789937733304
Vajra Academic, Vol. III
\$ 65.00 / HB
1124gm.

Drenpa's Proclamation, dating from the 11th century C.E., is the earliest known coherent account, told from the perspective of the Bon religion, of how and why it came to pass that Buddhism was introduced into Tibet during the Tibetan Empire (a period that ended in 842 C.E.). Bon emerged in the 10th-11th century C.E. in Central Tibet, in the context of the 'Later Propagation' of Buddhism in Tibet in the same period, but was viewed by its adherents as distinct from Buddhism and as having flourished in Tibet for centuries before the advent of Buddhism.

Drenpa's Proclamation is here translated in its entirety for the first time. It contains unique insight into how Tibetans in the 12th century envisaged the religion of their ancestors, and a wealth of information about cosmological, mythological, and ritual topics.

<http://www.marymartin.com/web?pid=851804>
