



BOOK REVIEW: PIERCING POWER IS MORE THAN THE HUMAN POWER

Book: *THE MOSQUITO – A HUMAN HISTORY OF OUR DEADLIEST PREDATOR*

Book Author: Timothy C. Winegard, New York, Dutton, (2019): An Imprint of Penguin Random House LLC, 496 p, ISBN 9781524743413, (Hard Cover) ISBN9781524743437 (e Book). Copy right © 2019 by Timothy C. Winegard.

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Abstract: This study has been undertaken to explain how fascinating it is to read about a mosquito with historical background!

Index Terms – Book Review, Mosquito, Malaria, War, Human History

THE MOSQUITO – A HUMAN HISTORY OF OUR DEADLIEST PREDATOR: This book consists of 19 chapters and a conclusion with four appendix parts (Acknowledgements, Selected Bibliography, Notes and Index). I found that, this non-fiction book is engrossing, vastly imposing and instigate how mosquito - the tiny less noted creature determining the fate of human beings, has been time-honoured over millennia. This spellbinding book is remarkably an unspoken story of the biting female mosquito and reminds us that this bug has the ability to alter the world history.

Each chapter is well scrutinized with millennia of historical background inextricably intertwined with scientific facts, about this blood sucking arthropod. Numerous informations have been gathered and a vast collection of history of this super bug with excellent figures is exhibited in each chapter in this spectacular scientific writing. Undoubtedly, the author's swift journey keeps engaged till the end from the thin skinned dinosaurs to banned DDT. I am stunned to read different perspective of American Revolution, Western Military History, British Colonists in India, rise and fall of Roman Empire, Colonial wars, Scotland Surrender and many more in 'Mosquito' as I thought they were just "History" of world. But, across the globe this uninviting guest is always at the frontline for historical changes of nations, wars, population movements, economic collapse, end of greatest military leaders and embosses the history by changing monarchy. I am also astonished to know that without this annoying little mosquito, the world is supposed to be incognito.

The proclamation of the author is irresistible and that changes my view about this omnipresent mosquito - the powerful foe, which shaped human life as well as end their life. Throughout history, an ineradicable impact of this least favourite creature on human population and to blame for millions of deaths, principally malaria also brings seriousness about the mosquito research. The quality of the book is superb and it is undeniably refreshing for the non-fiction readers and interesting for the researchers of mosquito borne diseases.

Imprecise information of the book is that the author states that '52 billion of the 108 billion people died of mosquito born diseases' without a scientific reference. The author also states that 'mosquitoes cannot survive in mercury-dipping environments below 50 degrees' but they do survive as per researches. Also towards the end he states that, 'some mosquitoes are capable of vectoring disease' instead 'mosquitoes can transmit infectious microbe' would be appropriate. As the author is a historian rather than a scientist, we could let him off.

The magic of this book lies in the fact that the piercing power is more than the human power. This well constructed book surprises with the real facts about human living and teaches that, digital life will not save the humanity. Next time when you see a mosquito, you will offer a reluctant respect to this pesky pest! That's the blood chilling "The Mosquito" with surprising insights.

REFERENCES

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