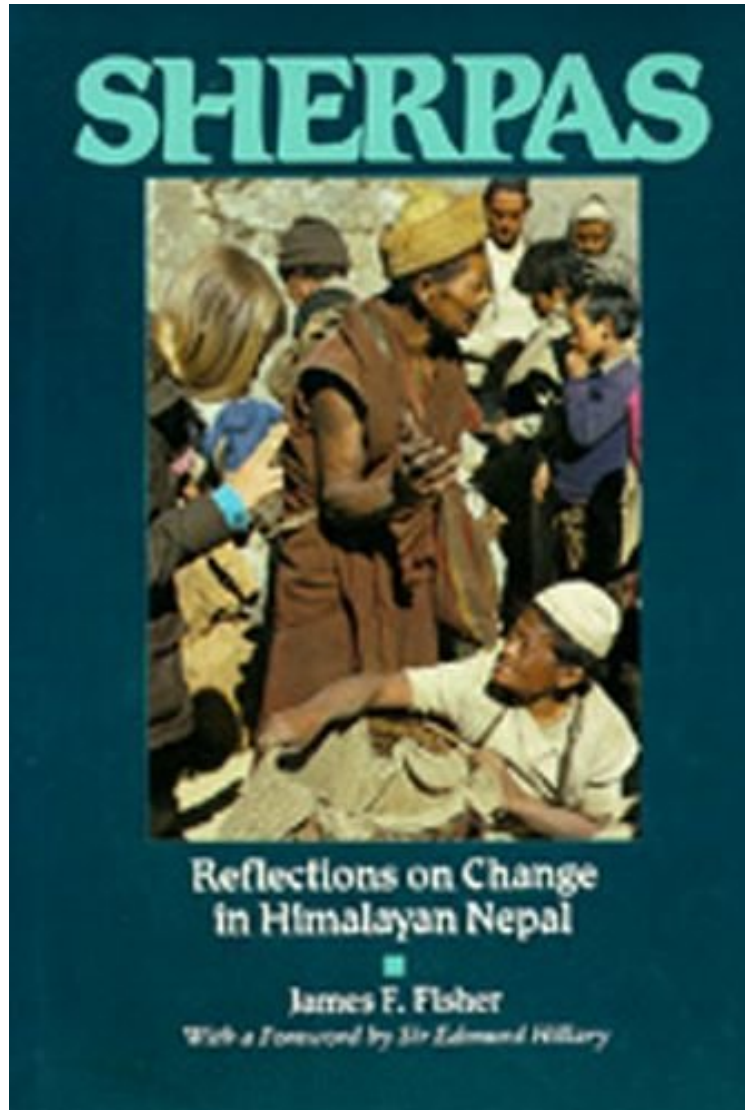


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Sherpas: Reflections on Change in Himalayan Nepal

James F. Fisher

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James F. Fisher : Sherpas: Reflections on Change in Himalayan Nepal before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Sherpas: Reflections on Change in Himalayan Nepal:

0 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Dry reading but what should you expect? By trekker galI purchased this for research I am doing for a project on Nepal. It is rare I find truly engaging books during my research. This book did not engage or hold my interest, but it did provide some good information to a point. If you are able to filter out his obvious distaste for external influences on this culture, you will find the book informative. The portions that were interesting involved his personal stories with the local population and with Sir Edmund Hillary. I understand it is

difficult to make ethnographies interesting, however this was like eating sand.2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. Knows Sherpa economy and valuesBy Anna NoehreJames Fisher worked with Edmund Hillary in the early 1960's to establish the early Sherpa schools in Khumjung and Jung Gumpa (Junbesi) as well as the medical supplies landing strips at Lukla and Phaplu. Thus he learned first hand the basics of Sherpa culture and economy; he had a good working understanding of Sherpa moral values, too.Returning to USA for PhD in Anthropology, Prof. Fisher developed a theoretical understanding of human society. He then coupled theory with his practical knowledge of Sherpa life, and did several outstanding studies of Sherpa culture which ask the right questions of the appropriate spokespeople resulting in culturally accurate answers.Sherpa Friendship Association always recommends *Sherpas: Reflections on Change* as the first book anyone should read to answer the vital questions: what is happening to Sherpa society now? Is Sherpa religion dead? Have Sherpa values collapsed into generic materialism? Many folks recently returned from Himalayan trekking or those studying vajrayana buddhism, as well as Sherpa leaders, are very concerned to find these answers. You will find Prof. Fisher's answers accurate and positive, because he does not ask random informants (or informants with mischievous motivation) like many other anthropologists who go on to write books on Sherpas.Essentially, Fisher's interviews show that Sherpa culture remains vibrant, moral, and strongly religious. Great book, highly recommended!3 of 3 people found the following review helpful. An Excellent Insight on the Sherpas of NepalBy Gyan PradhanA very informative and readable book. The author provides a thoughtful and moving account of the Sherpas and how their community is being transformed by the forces of modernization. The book is well-researched, thorough, and balanced. The author's personal accounts and anecdotes that cover a quarter of a century, complemented by excellent photographs, are particular strengths. Excellent reading for anyone with an interest in the Sherpas of Nepal.

James Fisher combines the strengths of technical anthropology, literary memoir, and striking photography in this telling study of rapid social change in Himalayan Nepal. The author first visited the Sherpas of Nepal when he accompanied Sir Edmund Hilary on the Himalayan Schoolhouse Expedition of 1964. Returning to the Everest region several times during the 1970s and 1980s, he discovered that the construction of the schools had far less impact than one of the by-products of their building: a short-take-off-and-landing airstrip. By reducing the time it took to travel between Kathmandu and the Everest region from a hike of several days to a 45-minute flight, the airstrip made a rapid increase in tourism possible. Beginning with his impressions of Sherpa society in pre-tourist days, Fisher traces the trajectory of contemporary Sherpa society reeling under the impact of modern education and mass tourism, and assesses the Sherpa's concerns for their future and how they believe these problems should be and eventually will be resolved.

From the Back CoverDrawing on elements of various genres--anthropological monograph, literary memoir, and photojournalism--James Fisher has devised this multivocal format to trace the impact of modern education and mass tourism on contemporary Sherpa society and to present and assess the Sherpas' views of their collective future.About the AuthorJames F. Fisher is Professor of Anthropology at Carleton College and the author of *Trans-Himalayan Traders: Economy, Society, and Culture in Northwest Nepal* (California, 1986).