

VTechWorks staff will be away for the Thanksgiving holiday starting Wednesday afternoon, Nov. 25, through Sunday Nov. 29, and will not be replying to requests during this time. Thank you for your patience. x

The Nomadic Alternative



Date
1993

Author
Barfield, T. J.

Metadata
[Show full item record](#)

Abstract

The book offers an ethnographic and historical examination of several nomadic pastoral societies. Each chapter follows basic themes, allowing comparison across cultures and historical periods. These themes include: the ecology of nomadic pastoralism; comparative social organization of pastoral peoples; political relations between nomads and the outside world; the rise and fall of great steppe empires; and the future of nomads in the modern world. The book examines each cultural area using specific ethnographic cases to develop and support the theoretical issues raised. It makes a major distinction between developments that can be explained as a result of internal evolution, and those which are the result of adaptations made to the outside world. Five individual case studies of different nomadic groups are provided, including: cattle keeping in East African pastoralism; the camel nomadism of the desert Bedouins; shepherding amongst pastoral tribes of southwest Asia; the horse rider nomads of the Eurasian Steppe; and yak breeding in high altitude pastoralism in Tibet. (CAB Abstracts)

URI
<http://hdl.handle.net/10919/66221>

Collections
[Sustainable Agriculture and Natural Resource Management \(SANREM\) Knowledgebase](#) [3994]

If you believe that any material in VTechWorks should be removed, please see our [policy and procedure for Requesting that Material be Amended or Removed](#). All takedown requests will be promptly acknowledged and investigated.

[Virginia Tech](#) | [University Libraries](#) | [Contact Us](#)

The following book is required and available in the OSU Book Store and in online stores like Amazon.com. Barfield, Thomas J. 1993 The nomadic alternative. Englewood Cliffs (NJ): Prentice Hall. Additional readings are made available through Carmen and the course wiki. Key Topics: It studies the cattlekeepers, the camel nomads, the good shepherds of southwest Asia, the horseriders, the yakbreeders, and the enduring nomad. Market: For anthropologists and all those interested in nomadic cultures. Product details. Item Weight : 6.2 ounces. It covered a good variety of types of nomadic cultures, while still having some depth. I thought that occasionally, I was confused about which specific group the author was talking about, as he flip flopped between groups within chapters. Be realistic, consider alternate forms of travel. Sometimes things happen not the way we plan them. No worries, there are always alternatives that might be even better! Meet the locals. Local people can help you around unfamiliar places a lot.