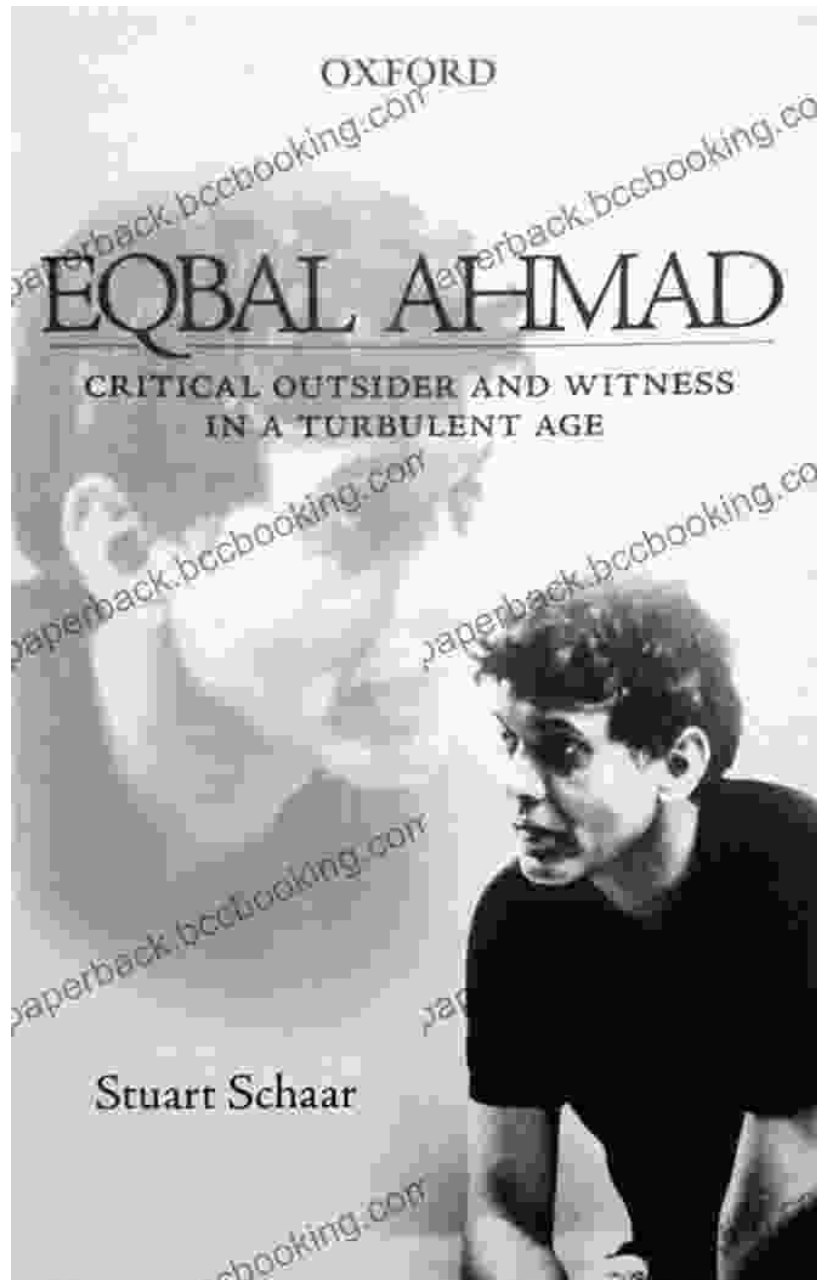
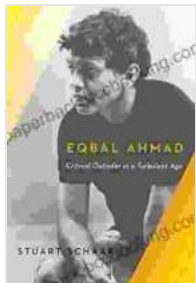


Eqbal Ahmad: A Critical Outsider in a Turbulent Age



Eqbal Ahmad, a Pakistani intellectual, scholar, and activist, was a towering figure in the fields of political science, international relations, and postcolonial studies. Throughout his life, he remained a critical outsider,

offering incisive insights and challenging conventional wisdom on issues ranging from imperialism and neocolonialism to the Middle East conflicts and the rise of global inequality.



Eqbal Ahmad: Critical Outsider in a Turbulent Age

by Stuart Schaar

★★★★★ 5 out of 5

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Enhanced typesetting : Enabled
Word Wise : Enabled
Print length : 240 pages



This comprehensive article delves into the life, work, and legacy of Eqbal Ahmad, exploring his major contributions to the understanding of contemporary global issues and his enduring relevance in today's world.

Early Life and Intellectual Influences

Eqbal Ahmad was born in Bihar, India, in 1933. His upbringing in a politically active family and his exposure to the writings of Marxist thinkers like Karl Marx and Antonio Gramsci shaped his early intellectual development. He attended the University of Cambridge in the United Kingdom, where he studied history and economics.

After graduating, Ahmad returned to Pakistan and began his teaching career at the University of Punjab. During this time, he became involved in the nascent progressive movement in the country. He was influenced by

the ideas of Frantz Fanon and other anti-colonial thinkers, which led him to develop a critical perspective on the political and economic structures of the postcolonial world.

Exile and Activism

In 1968, Ahmad left Pakistan and moved to the United States to escape the oppressive regime of General Ayub Khan. He accepted a teaching position at Hampshire College in Massachusetts, where he spent the rest of his life.

While in exile, Ahmad became a prominent voice in the anti-war movement during the Vietnam War. He also actively supported the Palestinian liberation cause and was involved in several solidarity organizations.

Through his writing and activism, he sought to raise awareness about the injustices and inequalities faced by marginalized communities around the world.

Critical Perspectives on Imperialism and Neocolonialism

Eqbal Ahmad's work focused primarily on understanding the dynamics of imperialism and neocolonialism in the post-World War II era. He argued that the United States had emerged as the dominant global power, shaping the political and economic landscape of the Global South.

In his seminal book, "Imperialism and Revolution in the Middle East," Ahmad analyzed the complex relationship between Western imperialism and the rise of revolutionary movements in the Middle East. He argued that the West's military and economic intervention in the region had destabilized local societies and created fertile ground for radicalism.

Understanding the Middle East Conflicts

As a scholar and activist, Ahmad had a deep understanding of the Middle East conflicts and the role of external powers in fueling them. He criticized the Israeli-Palestinian conflict as a product of Western colonialism and the displacement of the Palestinian people.

Ahmad's work on the Middle East was both insightful and controversial. He challenged mainstream narratives and called for a more nuanced understanding of the region's complex history and political dynamics.

The Global South and the Struggle for Justice

Eqbal Ahmad was deeply committed to the struggles for justice and liberation in the Global South. He believed that the people of the developing world had the right to self-determination and that their voices needed to be heard on the global stage.

Ahmad actively supported various social movements, including the anti-apartheid struggle in South Africa and the indigenous rights movement in the Americas. He saw these movements as part of a larger struggle for global justice and equality.

Legacy and Enduring Relevance

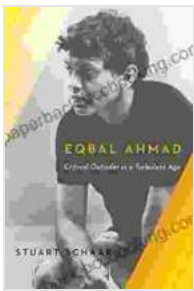
Eqbal Ahmad passed away in 1999, leaving behind a legacy of critical scholarship and activism. His work continues to inspire and challenge scholars, policymakers, and activists around the world.

In an era marked by rising inequality, global conflicts, and the resurgence of authoritarianism, Ahmad's critical perspectives remain highly relevant. His insistence on giving voice to the marginalized, his analysis of the dynamics of power, and his commitment to justice make his work essential reading

for anyone seeking to understand the complexities of the contemporary world.

Eqbal Ahmad was a brilliant intellectual, a tireless activist, and a passionate advocate for justice. As a critical outsider, he offered invaluable insights into the political, economic, and social challenges of his time.

His work continues to resonate with us today, reminding us of the importance of critical analysis, empathy, and the unwavering pursuit of justice. Eqbal Ahmad's legacy serves as a guide for those who seek to create a more just and equitable world.



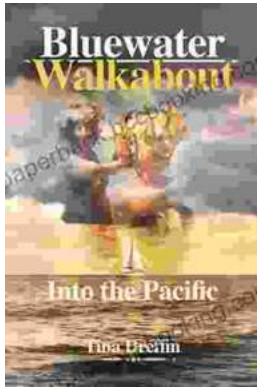
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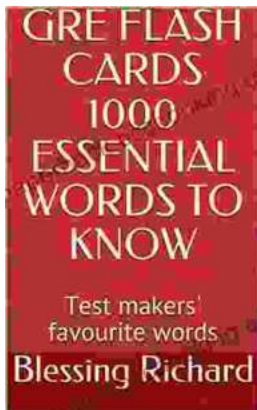
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