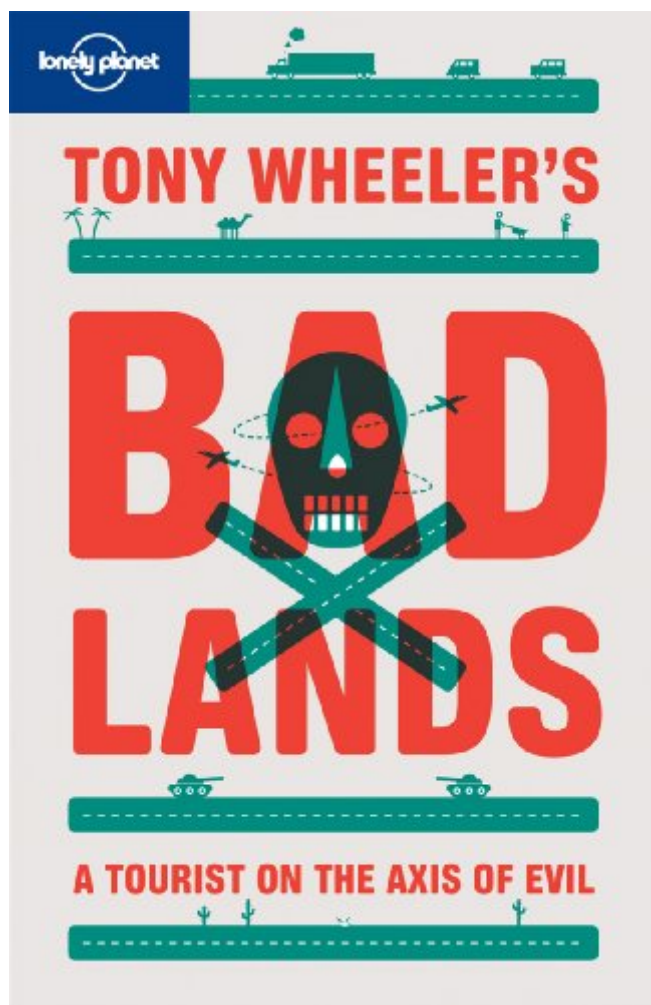


The book was found

Badlands (Lonely Planet Travel Literature)



Synopsis

In an age of plastic knives on planes, Tony Wheeler can make the extraordinary claim of having visited all the rogue countries currently on new readers' lips. *Badlands* is a witty first-hand account of his travels through some of the most repressive and dangerous regimes in the world: Afghanistan, Albania, Burma (Myanmar), Cuba, Iran, Iraq, Libya, North Korea and Saudi Arabia. Taking into account each country's attitude to human rights, terrorism and foreign policy, he asks 'what makes a country truly evil?' and 'how bad is really bad?' - all the while engaging with a colorful cast of locals and hapless tour guides, ruminating on history and debunking popular myths. Written by the founder of Lonely Planet, this fascinating account of life in these closed-off countries will appeal to anyone with an interest in the state of the world today.

Book Information

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General

Customer Reviews

I agree completely with David from Laramie on this one. It's really hard to get grip for whom this book was really intended. The political points are largely poorly reasoned conventional wisdoms, unquestioned and presented in a very assumptive and slightly condescending style. Many of the

pop postulates contained have already passed their sell by dates. The descriptive details of the environment and cities are flimsy, often making one dusty Bad Land seem as physically uninteresting as the next. Travel details and advice do not really exist at all. The book is of little use to an advanced traveler who might be considering similar forays and looking for guidance. Bad Lands is a mostly string of personal anecdotes, which isn't a bad thing for this kind of book, however the author is so detached from his audience that it is hard to appreciate many of those stories. The concept here is a great one, but I suspect the author sacrifices quality thought and writing for the sake of completing the list of countries covered. It completely puts me off of trying out another of his books.

Wheeler has a great idea for a book, and there is no doubt that his adventures are very fascinating. However, his writing is dry and dull. It's interesting to see where he goes and what he does, but there is not as much of that as there is mounds of dry foreign political history. While some is needed, Wheeler could have held back a bit, and added some more detail of the culture, activities, and people. It's good, but it's definitely no page-turner.

I had high hopes when I first opened the book. After all, with the exception of Burma, these are places I am not likely to want to visit anytime soon. The book tries to be a little of everything, a shallow "political" background plus some description of the local people and a few places to visit, none of which done too well. What a pity, a good idea gone bad.

What a great book! Tony Wheeler turns his practiced travelogue eye to some nasty countries you definitely want to think twice about visiting.

This book is inspirational and it in deed has inspired me to begin my own bad lands travel which has already began.

This was a very easy read while still delving deeply into the politics and difficulties of the countries about which he writes.

His skewed perspective (Mother Teresa and George Bush are terrorists just like Bin Laden) sinks this book right away. Instead of sticking to facts about dangerous countries, he uses tired political BS and wrongheaded perspectives in his screed. Laughable and outdated, not an author to take

seriously.

This is one of the most honest books on travel that I have ever seen. It gives one a lot of reality and bang for the buck....

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