Individual Assignment VI

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Book Review on Strangers no more by Sanjoy Hazarika

Back among the year 1994, the journalist-author-activist Sanjoy Hazarika printed a book remarked as as “Strangers of the Mist: Tales of War and Peace from India’s Northeast”, which, in line with the words of the author “looks at however little or no men and girls have reacted to imperial, insensitive administrations, politicians and policies, through their eyes and mine.” This book was printed at a time once serious work on the Northeast was still rare, the book became a typical purpose of reference for anyone inquisitive about this still-misty region.

Now, twenty-four years later, his latest book, Strangers No More: New Narratives from India’s Northeast is AN bold try to “explain however and wherever things substitute the Northeast today”.

The chapters don't follow a thematically coherent order. The author flags issues and issues that merit our conjointly as nations attention: the harm that AFSPA has shaped over the years, the problem of kid miners and ecological harm in Meghalaya, dams and environmental destruction in Arunachal Pradesh and Sikkim, and thus the should address post-conflict trauma in Mizoram, Assam, Nagaland.

The AFSPA remains the author’s major obsession that concern seems among the book throughout. The author provides the u. s. of America AN executive director account of his experiences at the Justice Reddy Committee to review AFSPA, 1958 wherever he was a member. he's appalled that the govt had didn't repeal the Act as a result of the Committee had suggested. But he takes some satisfaction in his contribution to the Committee’s call to suggest the repeal of the Act.

But the repeal of the AFSPA, by itself, square measure reaching to be no cure. The system of exemption has become thus well entrenched that the law’s repeal might mean nothing quite symbolic gesture. Incidentally, the state geological formation, that saw the foremost dramatic protests against AFSPA, has been out of the Act’s reach since 2004 – a reality The author doesn't mention anyplace – and it’s unclear if this makes any distinction to things either manner.

Elsewhere, the author offers a gripping account of his role as a mediator among the 19 Nineties to facilitate the peace talks between the Indian Government and thus the NSCN(IM). He conjointly recollects the story of the Mizo insurrection through the figuration of its own personal experiences. The author isn't an exponent of the MNF leader Laldenga WHO comes off as self-seeking, cowardly, and unsure of himself and what he desires throughout. The author suggests that Laldenga wasn't at first serious regarding independence, and his absorbing arms have additional to try to to with subsiding scores with the Mizo Union, whose leaders had allegedly thrown him out of his clerk’s position among the district council for fudging accounts.

Tracing the transformation of the Northeast from a “migrant-receiving region” to a “migrant-producing area”, among the highest, the author argues that the Northeast individuals have return aged. Challenges stay. He sees hope in varied people-centric interventions, peace movements, and samples of individual spirit exhibited by the likes of immortal Iralu in Nagaland. He argues with the Indian government and tells to apologize for the deep wounds inflicted throughout the Kamarupan and Mizo insurgencies. He bemoans the justice and closure that conjointly elude the victims of the Nellie massacre and such alternative killings.

In the method, this book becomes a reflection of the region it thus determinedly tries to elucidate promising and beguiling, nevertheless puzzling and disjointed. however, as a cry of despair from one WHO may even be the foremost authoritative commentator on the Northeast, this book deserves our attention.