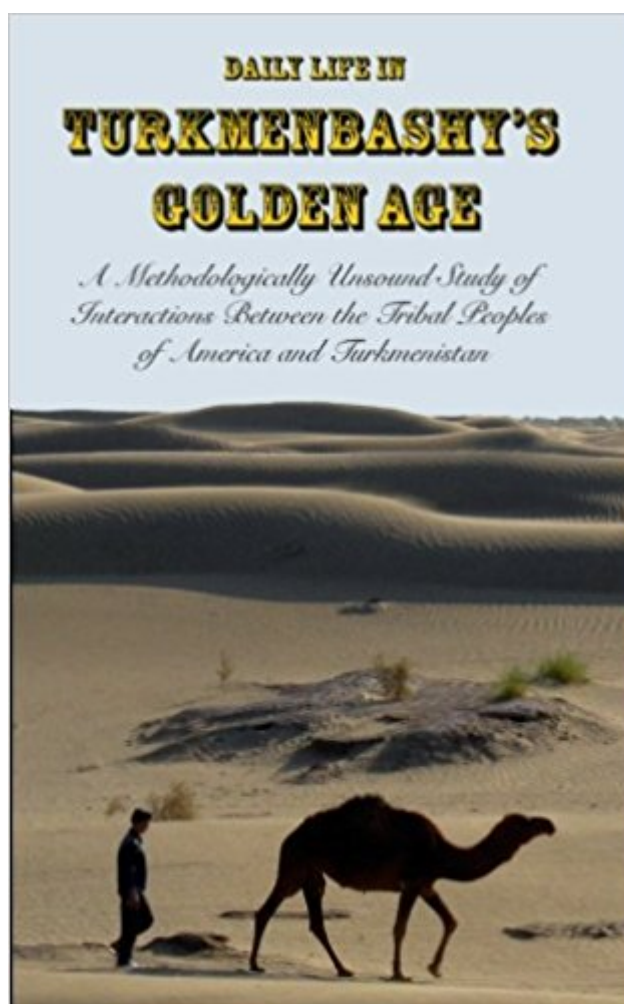


The book was found

# Daily Life In Turkmenbashy's Golden Age: A Methodologically Unsound Study Of Interactions Between The Tribal Peoples Of America And Turkmenistan





## Synopsis

In 2004, Sam Trantum moved to Turkmenistan, an isolated, totalitarian petrostate bordering Iran and Afghanistan, to serve as a Peace Corps Volunteer. That same year, the Economist magazine predicted his new home would be the worst place in the world to live, despite the fact that its leader, known as Turkmenbashi, insisted that his country was experiencing a Golden Age. This is the story of Trantum's nearly two years in Turkmenistan, dodging secret police, exploring ancient Silk Road cities, covertly teaching classes on democracy and human rights, and learning to appreciate fermented camel's milk.

## Book Information

Paperback: 256 pages

Publisher: CreateSpace Independent Publishing Platform (October 3, 2010)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 1453855165

ISBN-13: 978-1453855164

Product Dimensions: 5 x 0.6 x 8 inches

Shipping Weight: 12.2 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.4 out of 5 stars 25 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #1,765,420 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #5 in [Books > Travel > Asia > Turkmenistan](#)

## Customer Reviews

"Beautifully written, and with plenty of anecdotes from his time in the country, Trantum merges recent history with that of daily Turkmen life and traditions." --Open Central Asia magazine (Spring/Summer 2011)"Visits to ancient Silk Road cities and run-ins with secret police along with covert operations to spread his views on human rights and democracy all make for a fascinating read." --Open Central Asia magazine (Spring/Summer 2011)"For two years, Trantum lived [in Turkmenistan] with host families, outside of the capital, Ashgabat, deeper than most foreigners go in one of the most closed societies in the world." --Transitions Online (April 22, 2011)"Further reading" -- US Defense Language Institute Foreign Language Center's "Turkmen Cultural Orientation" publication, 2012"Engaging and perceptive account of two years' work and travel in Turkmenistan from a then Peace Corps volunteer. The best of a crop of volunteer memoirs of Central Asia." --Lonely Planet guide to Central Asia

Although 's publish-on-demand service has been great, I am looking for a regular publisher for this book. Feel free to contact me at samtranum (at) gmail.com.

This book was incredible and an excellent read. I decided to check out this book on the Kindle because there are not many books about Turkmenistan, and I wanted to find out more about what life is like there. Sam Trantum does an excellent job of describing his experience, what life was like for him, admitting his mistakes, and trying to do his best to navigate corruption. His account of his time there is vivid, honest, humorous, and very frustrating. Even with all the obstacles placed by the Turkmen government and the Red Crescent officials, he still tried his best and admitted his faults during his experience. What I enjoyed most was his sense of getting what the Turkmen people go through and realizing his complaints about being punished by being sent back to the United States was nothing in comparison to what Geldy might face for trying to help him complete a internet center no one in the Red Crescent or Turkmen government really wanted. I also appreciated how he was not afraid to speak out, even at the end of his experience. As a former Peace Corps volunteer in Bulgaria from 2000-2003 who resides there today, I overall enjoyed his honest account into life as a Peace Corps Volunteer. I would highly recommend this book to anyone wanting to understand what the Turkmen people have to endure under their government. When I get a chance to read another book, I plan to check out his book on oral histories in Soviet Kyrgyzstan.

Chances are, if you've heard of Turkmenistan, you've heard of Turkmenbasy (aka: Saparmurat Niyazov), the eccentric former president of Turkmenistan, and his absolutely off the wall laws. But what would it be like to live in those conditions? Sam Trantum answers this question for us. The only flaw is that Turkmenistan comes across as any other corrupt, despotic country. I've been living in Russia for two years now, so I can certainly sympathize with a lot of his experiences from bureaucracy, unreliable transport and being ripped off. But Turkmenistan is definitely a stranger country, with a lot of absolutely fascinating sites like a massive irrigation canal built through the heart of the desert, crumbling prehistoric ruins of early Indo-European civilization, a burning crater, and of course, self-flattering monuments of Turkmenbasy himself. The reason that this book gets a five star rating is that Sam Trantum has excellently woven enough history into the narrative of his two year Turkemenistan experience. I came away feeling like I had actually been there, and plowed through the book in just a matter of days (while riding around on unreliable Russian transport, I may add). Though the subject matter will hit home best with other expats who have lived or are living in similar countries, even those who don't travel much would walk away with a good understanding of

Turkmenistan, as experienced by a Westerner.

Sam Trnum writes in a way that captures you and then catapults you into a life few Americans have seen. His style with words are artistic at times, causing you to see the terrain, feel the heat, and see the faces at the Red Crescent. I felt privileged to see from the inside, a daily stroll in Turkmenistan Trnum shows the hardships that the people there have dealt with for centuries. He weaves in a vast amount of history that brought me back to Sunday School teachings where I sat as a young boy wide eyed listening to stories of the Silk Road. It is a delightful read, full of intrigue & adventure, history & day to day life, and vignettes of the people that want & desire the same as you & I. Daily Life in Turkmenbasy's Golden Age by Sam Trnum TRH

I found this clip of life in Turkmenistan extremely absorbing. Written from an outsider's point of view, but Sam is so incredible at becoming part of the culture and family to the people he is describing. If you want to feel what it's like to be there and live there and if you are in awe of people and life you must read this.

Sam gives excellent descriptions of his life in Turkmenistan - the uncertainty, the danger, and the delights. He conveys his feelings of despair and then pleasure well, so the reader can experience his emotion. He also describes the scenery and smells that bring his story alive. The book could have used a little more proofreading though. I noticed missing words in a couple of sentences. .

Trnum's account of his Peace Corps experience in Turkmenistan is an enjoyable read providing a unique perspective on life in this Central Asian nation. Intertwining the historical context of Turkmenistan with his present day experiences, the author allows the reader deeper access to the place beyond superficial observations of the nation and its peoples. Trnum's work is a well written and honest, a worthwhile read for anyone seeking to broaden their understanding of present-day Turkmenistan.

Slightly dated now, but does give a terrific overview of TM life. I also think of it as a "coming of life" story.

I liked this book very much. It is written with sarcasm and cynicism that in my opinion was warranted. This book gives a clear picture of how frustrating it is to make change in country that is

determined NOT to change. I'm very happy I read this book before my first visit to Turkmenistan.

[Download to continue reading...](#)

Daily Life in Turkmenbashy's Golden Age: A Methodologically Unsound Study of Interactions  
Between the Tribal Peoples of America and Turkmenistan How to Draw Tribal Tattoos: How to Draw  
Tribal Designs (Beginner's Guide to Drawing Tribal Tattoos) While in Turkmenistan: Basic etiquettes  
and manners while visiting Turkmenistan Central Asia Fantasia: Transitions in Turkmenistan, A  
Spiritual Journey 1989-1999 (Travels in Turkmenistan) 100 Day Vocabulary Word Devotional: Daily  
Bible Study & Guide: Learn a New Word, Read a Bible Verse or Passage, Study a Devotion and  
Apply The Lesson To ... Life: Daily Bible Study & Devotional Guide Decolonizing Museums:  
Representing Native America in National and Tribal Museums (First Peoples: New Directions in  
Indigenous Studies (University of North Carolina Press Paperback)) Daily Routine: Amazing  
Morning Routine for Being More Happy, Productive and Healthy (Daily Routine, Daily Rituals, Daily  
Routine Makeover, Productivity Book 1) Turkmenistan Country Study Guide (World Country Study  
The Moundbuilders: Ancient Peoples of Eastern North America (Ancient Peoples and Places)  
Matter and Interactions, Volume II: Electric and Magnetic Interactions Stockley's Drug Interactions:  
A Source Book of Interactions, Their Mechanisms, Clinical Importance and Management Parasitism:  
The Ecology and Evolution of Intimate Interactions (Interspecific Interactions) Stockley's Herbal  
Medicines Interactions: A Guide to the Interactions of Herbal Medicines The Arabs In The Golden  
Age (Peoples of the Past) Peoples and Cultures of East Africa (Peoples and Cultures of Africa)  
Peoples and Cultures of Southern Africa (Peoples and Cultures of Africa) Daily Mail Big Book of  
Cryptic Crosswords Volume 5 (The Daily Mail Puzzle Books) by Daily Mail (2-Jun-2014) Paperback  
Golden Legacy: The Story of Golden Books (Deluxe Golden Book) Interactions Between  
Electromagnetic Fields and Cells (Applications of Communications Theory) First Peoples in a New  
World: Colonizing Ice Age America

[Contact Us](#)

[DMCA](#)

[Privacy](#)

[FAQ & Help](#)