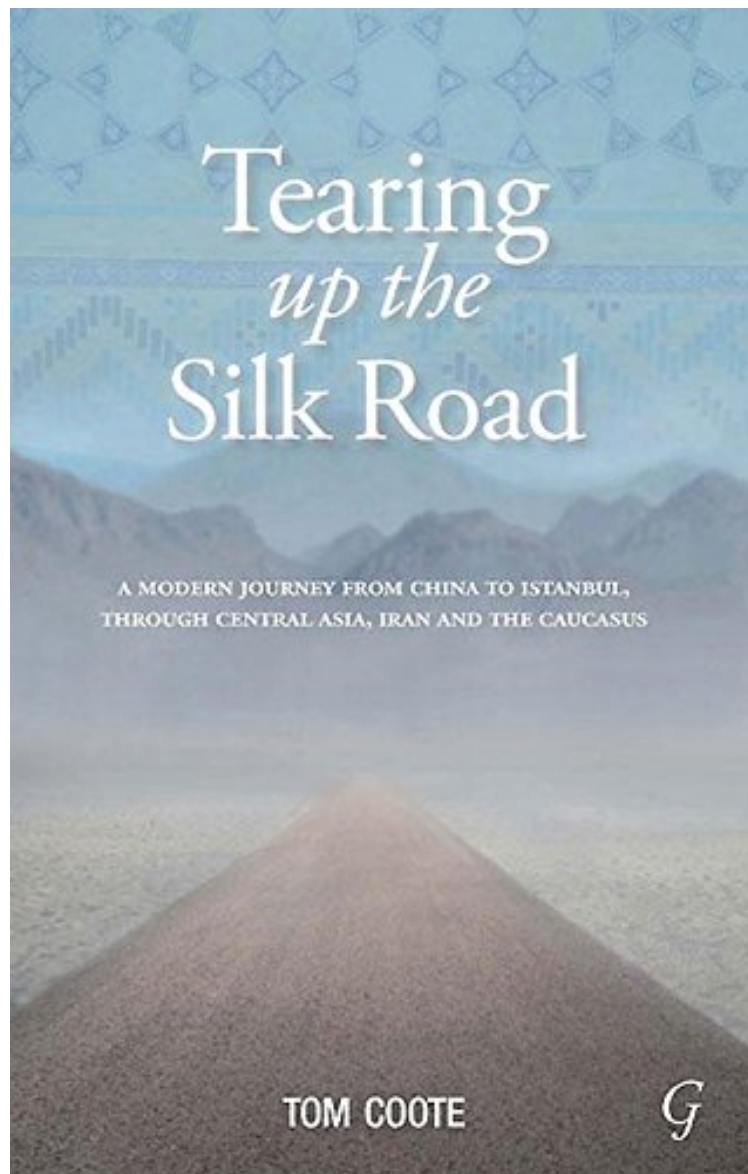


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## Tearing up the Silk Road: A Modern Journey from China to Istanbul, through Central Asia, Iran and the Caucasus

*Tom Coote*

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**Tom Coote : Tearing up the Silk Road: A Modern Journey from China to Istanbul, through Central Asia, Iran and the Caucasus** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Tearing up the Silk Road: A Modern Journey from China to Istanbul, through Central Asia, Iran and the Caucasus:

3 of 3 people found the following review helpful. Tearing up the Silk Road? Just tear it up!By Thomas DowlingA very poor account. Disappointing. There was kore about the author's personal and mundane journey rather than in-depth, insightful annotations on the history and culture, which was at times swiftly glossed over, and at other times inaccurate. Worse yet, was the attempted authority about vastly different subjects that the author tried to elaborate upon and failed for he is clearly not an expert. I also thought that some of the language was unnecessarily vulgar at points. The one positive was that the account did highlight the pitfalls of the Central Asian region. Overall, however, this was a weak account and should not be consulted for any meaningful use. It's fine as a written book for close friends, but not for many stream publication.0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. I love to learn about new thingsBy Lucy CorrellExtremely interesting and educational about a subject and territory about which I knew little. I love to learn about new things.0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. ... on the journey with him and part of it excellent read, a must buyBy robertMakes you feel you are on the journey with him and part of it excellent read, a must buy book

Tearing up the Silk Road is an irreverent travelogue that details a journey along the ancient trade routes from China to Istanbul, through Central Asia, Iran and the Caucasus. As Tom Coote struggles through the often arbitrary borders and bureaucracies of China, Kazakhstan, Uzbekistan, Turkmenistan, Iran, Armenia, Georgia and Turkey, it becomes increasingly apparent that the next generations to rise to power, will see themselves in a very different light to their predecessors: in an increasingly interconnected world, archaic conceptions of race, ethnicity and nationalism will come to be seen as increasingly irrelevant. Instead, new forms of identity are emerging, founded more upon shared cultural preferences and aspirations, than on the remnants of tribal allegiance. While rushing through from East to West, Tom Coote meets, befriends and argues with an epic range of characters: from soldiers and monks, to pilgrims, travellers and modern day silk road traders. All are striving for something more and most dream of being somewhere else. By bus, train and battered car - through deserts, open plains and mountain ranges - we find ourselves again and again at the front line of a desperate war for 'hearts and minds'. Through rapidly expanding megacities, to ancient ruins, and far more recently created wastelands, it is the West that is winning the souls while the East grows ever stronger. The real 'clash of civilisations', however, seems set to be not between the East and the West, but between the few who have so much, and the masses now uniting to demand so much more.

"Tearing up the Silk Road is a book that deftly avoids romanticising the Silk Road and instead gives a realistic, sometimes harsh, appraisal of the countries passed through. Travellers too, will appreciate the intense focus on the nuts and bolts of travelling through the region ... It's Coote's account of the ideological battle between the East and the West in the region that adds depth to the book. He notes that the real clash is between the few who have much and the masses demanding more."- Wanderlust Magazine" The author writes with a wonderful depth and precision so as to engross you in his journey, providing adventure with a unique and revealing perspective for life along the silk road."- Bare Essentials Magazine "If you've ever had the urge to chuck in your day job, step outside your comfort zone and strap yourself in for a rugged cultural journey, this is for you."- Get Lost Magazine "An entertaining read that will inspire greater interest in the region."- Central Asia Magazine About the AuthorTom Coote is currently working on his second book 'Voodoo, Slaves and White Man's Graves: West Africa and the End of Days'. He has traveled independently in well over a hundred countries and regularly updates his web site at [tomcoote.net](http://tomcoote.net).