

Pakistan: A Personal History by Imran Khan.
Bantam Press 2011.

Much may be gleaned about the contents of this book by its cover, a map of Pakistan, superimposed on to a photograph of domes and minarets, superimposed on all of which is Imran Khan himself, immaculately dressed, his eyes gazing at the far horizon, his expression strong and fathomless.

So the reader is tipped off that this may not be a book about a country from the perspective of one of its citizens as much as a book about the said citizen and the way the history of his country is reflected in the events of his life. Divided into ten chapters, the author tells his story and that of his family against the backdrop of what happened in the country, self-consciously reflecting as he goes on the way these events have shaped his character.

If Imran Khan had had no political ambitions this might have been a biography like many others, of a successful and charismatic sportsman who has diversified since his retirement; but in view of the fact that the author has his own vision of what his country should be like it reads less like an autobiography and more of a not so subtle political manifesto of one who would be a leader.

All that having been said this is an entertaining read by a great former cricketer, but, if it is serious analysis of the geo-politics of Pakistan that you want, not necessarily the place to find it.

Rabbi Dr Charles H Middleburgh