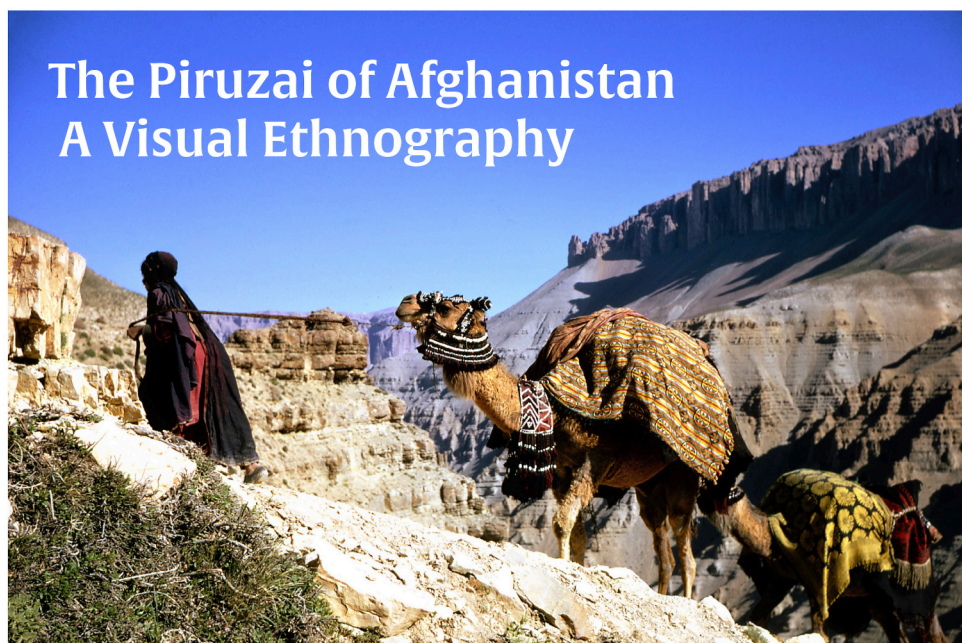


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The Piruzai of Afghanistan. A Visual Ethnography

Nancy Lindisfarne Tapper and Richard Tapper



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'This book is a priceless treasure! It makes you see Afghans and Afghanistan in vivid colours with their humanity and generosity of spirit shining brightly, rather than the monochrome news coverage of their sad predicament today.'

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'This deeply moving book and its beautiful photographs will be widely read and result in much-needed reflection on the injustices inflicted on Afghanistan's people and environments over the past half century and more.'

Magnus Marsden, Author of Beyond the Silk Roads. Professor of Social Anthropology, University of Sussex.

In the early 1970s, the Tappers spent a year living with the Piruzai, pastoralists and farmers in northern Afghanistan. They joined the Piruzai in the spring pastures, trekked to the high mountains of the Hazarajat in the summer, and returned with them to their farmlands in the autumn. And they took hundreds of photographs.

This large and lavishly produced book reproduces 380 of those photos, most in colour. It is an evocation of a time of peace before the country was engulfed in nearly fifty years of war. The book is also a work of art. The landscapes are simply spectacular. But equally striking are the pictures of family groups, of people working and the intimate portraits of women, men and children. All too often Afghans have been stereotyped for other people's political purposes, but here you meet warm, clear-sighted individuals who can laugh at themselves and are kind, curious and wise about others.

Nancy Lindisfarne-Tapper studied and taught anthropology at the School of Oriental and African Studies, London. Her book *Bartered Brides* is a classic ethnography of the Piruzai.

Richard Tapper is emeritus Professor of Anthropology at SOAS. This book is a companion volume to his *Afghan Village Voices*, a remarkable compilation of stories in which the Piruzai speak for themselves.