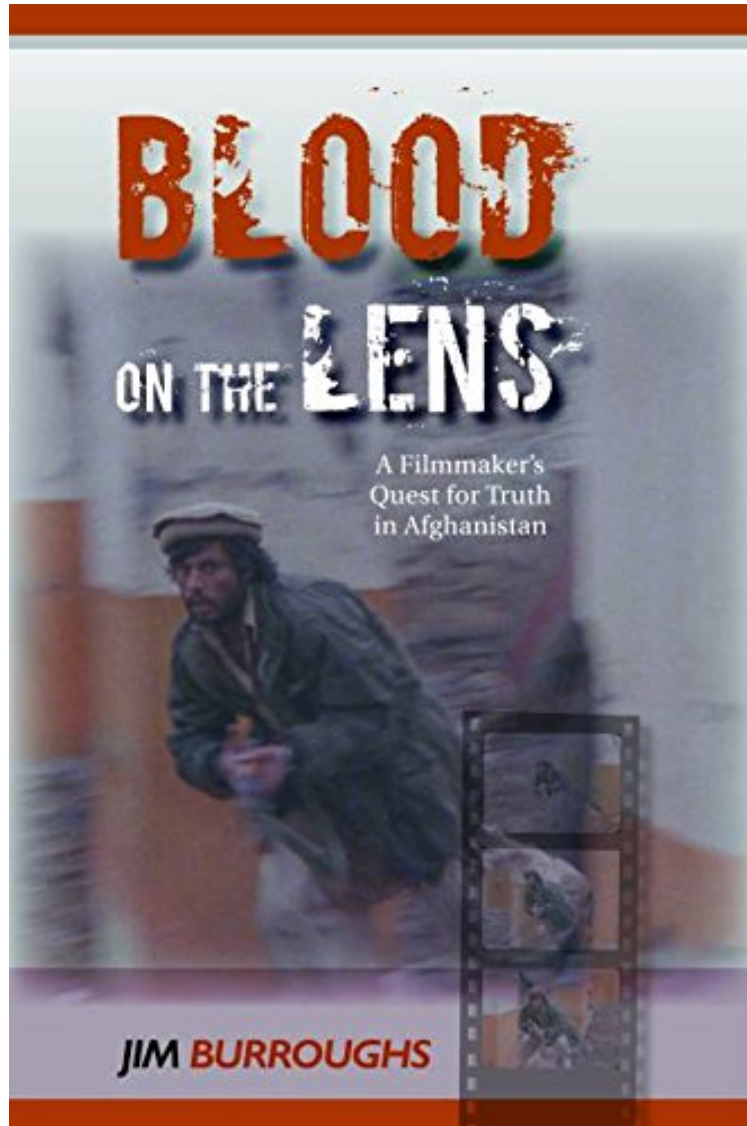


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Blood on the Lens: A Filmmaker's Quest for Truth in Afghanistan

Jim Burroughs

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Jim Burroughs : Blood on the Lens: A Filmmaker's Quest for Truth in Afghanistan before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Blood on the Lens: A Filmmaker's Quest for Truth in Afghanistan:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Outstanding book! By William K. Atkinson A truly remarkable book. The content is not only well written, but also a key history and current affairs text rolled into one fine work. The personal observations tie it all together in an unfiltered and meaningful way. Thanks for a wonderful book. 1 of 1

people found the following review helpful. Burroughs shared tea...By Tara07Blood on the Lens is a good read, full of interesting anecdotes from a US documentary filmmaker's travels to Pakistan and Afghanistan between 1986-2004. The title from a particularly grizzly encounter. The book satisfied my interest in learning more about the region. It's short-enough and written well-enough to read for interest. It's not a tome, not authoritative and referenced, but rather a first-person account of some of the adventures misadventures that Burroughs had in working the region over this time of political turmoil. There are stories that gave me better understanding of the US/global media, and stories that provided understanding of parts of life in villages along the Pakistan/Afghanistan border. The writing is at its best when describing specifics of the scenes that Burroughs encountered (a particular description of the physical roadway between Jalalabad and Kabul comes to mind). There's enough background of the recent history in the region for the anecdotes to have some context. I'd wished for better maps (two small ones included, but I got lost in trying to imagine some of the travels). An interesting Suggested Readings section at the end of the book provides an entree to learning more. There's a film coming out - Shadow of Afghanistan - which is the docu-counterpart to the book.

Murder is an effective way to gain power over others. Kill its leaders, and a country can be yours. Kill the people or ruthlessly intimidate them, and you can control their territory. Kill the journalists or the story and the truth of what is happening can be buried. Blood on the Lens chronicles filmmaker Jim Burroughs's eighteen trips to Afghanistan since 1986, the bloody and deceit-ridden period that saw the war against the Soviets, the cessation of American support, the civil war, the rise of the Taliban, the hijacking of the country by al Qaeda, the U.S.-led invasion, and the herculean effort to form a new country under the rule of law. Two casualties of these years of bloodshed were fellow documentary makers Lee Shapiro and Jim Lindelof, who disappeared on their way to interview legendary leader Ahmed Shah Massoud in 1987. Part of this illuminating book recounts an undercover sortie by Burroughs and a close friend of Shapiro into Taliban-controlled territory in 1998 to investigate their disappearance unaware that at that moment just a few miles away, bin Laden was declaring his war against all Jews and crusaders. Through such personal experiences, Blood on the Lens documents twenty years of treachery and betrayal, courage and hope in a country like no other. In conjunction with the release of Blood on the Lens, Burroughs and fellow filmmakers Suzanne Bauman and Dan Delvaney will release their documentary, Shadow of Afghanistan in select cities this fall. Filmed over twenty years, this is the untold story of Afghanistan, an epic tale of assassination, genocide and betrayal seen through the eyes of an Afghan Commander and independent journalists. For more information on the documentary, click on the companion site link above.

"So much foreign news is parachute puff. But this book lives and breathes the honorable tradition of the independent filmmaker who sticks obsessively with one war-torn country. Jim Burroughs had the adventurous misfortune to become addicted to Afghanistan; it takes immense courage and determination to keep returning to this often savage though paradoxically noble country." Paul Moorcraft, former senior instructor at the Royal Military Academy Sandhurst, war correspondent, and visiting professor at Cardiff University's School of Journalism, Media and Cultural Studies