

Games without Rules

TAMIM ANSARY

Read by the Author

Today, most Westerners still see the war in Afghanistan as a contest between democracy and Islamist fanaticism. That war is real, but it sits atop an older struggle between Kabul and the countryside, between order and chaos, between a modernist impulse to join the world and the pull of an older Afghanistan—a tribal universe of village republics permeated by Islam.

Now, Tamim Ansary draws on his Afghan background, Muslim roots, and Western and Afghan sources to explain history from the inside out and to illuminate the long, internal struggle that the outside world has never fully understood. It is the story of a nation struggling to take form, a nation undermined by its own demons while every forty to sixty years a great power disrupts whatever progress has been made. Related in storytelling style, *Games without Rules* provides revelatory insight into a country at the center of political debate.

"Lively instruction on how Afghanistan has coped, and continues to cope, with being a strategic flash point."
—Kirkus Reviews

"This brilliant book should be required reading for anyone involved in the current war there—and anyone who wants to understand why Afghanistan will not be at peace anytime soon."
—Rajiv Chandrasekaran, author of *Little America: The War within the War for Afghanistan*

Tamim Ansary is the author of *Destiny Disrupted* and *West of Kabul, East of New York*, among other books. For ten years he wrote a monthly column for *Encarta* and has published essays and commentary in the *San Francisco Chronicle*, *Salon*, *Alternet*, *Parade*, *Los Angeles Times*, and elsewhere. Born in Afghanistan in 1948, he moved to the US in 1964. He lives in San Francisco, where he is director of the San Francisco Writers Workshop.

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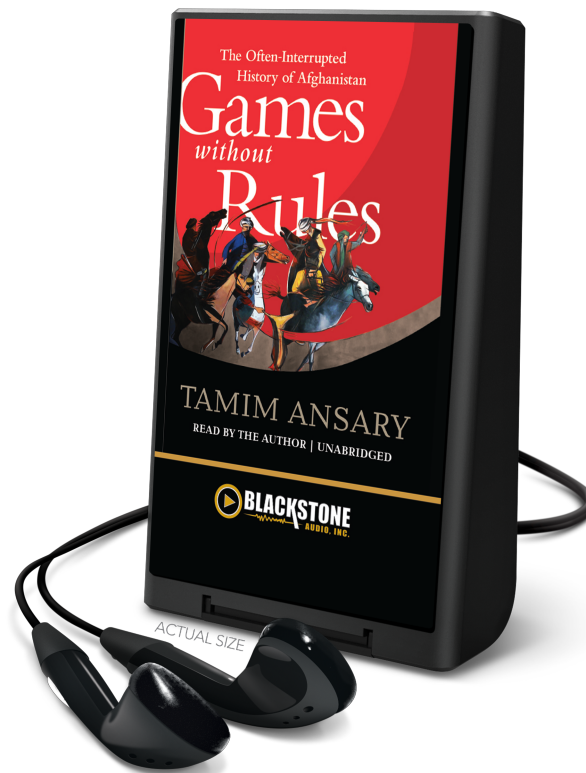
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