

Visits to High Tartary,  
Yarkand and Kashgar

Robert Shaw

With an Introduction by Peter Hopkirk

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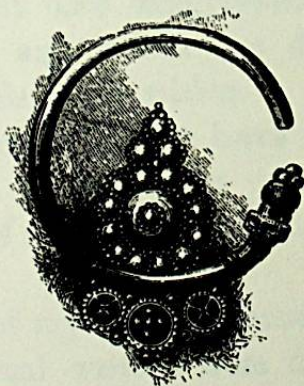


VISITS  
TO  
HIGH TARTARY, YÂRKAND, AND  
KÂSHGHAR

(FORMERLY CHINESE TARTARY),

AND RETURN JOURNEY OVER THE KARAKORAM PASS.

By ROBERT SHAW,  
BRITISH COMMISSIONER IN LADÂK.



WITH MAP AND ILLUSTRATIONS.

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1871.

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*Visits to High Tartary, Yarkand and Kashgar*, written over a century ago, tells the story of a British tea-planter, Robert Shaw, who found himself caught up in the Great Game. So christened by one of its earliest players, the Great Game grew out of intense Anglo-Russian rivalry in Asia during the nineteenth century. The shadowy contest began in earnest in the 1830s when the two powers sought to extend their frontiers and influence into Central Asia. By the 1860s and 1870s Britain and Russia found themselves all but facing each other across the unmapped deserts and unexplored passes of the region.

According to Shaw's own account, it was the prospect of 'opening up' Central Asia as a market for Indian tea, spiced with the possibility of being the first Englishman to visit the almost legendary towns of Chinese Turkistan, that decided him, in 1868, to make his now celebrated journey to Yarkand and Kashgar. Whatever his original intentions, his foray northwards through the Karakoram was to have far wider implications than simply trade.

In addition to the report submitted to his government, Shaw wrote this lively and detailed account, describing the course and events of his journey as well as the bloody warfare conducted by the autocrats of the Turkic kingdoms and the elaborate social rituals of their élites.

First published in 1871, *Visits to High Tartary* is now reprinted with the addition of an Introduction by Peter Hopkirk, author of *Foreign Devils on the Silk Road*, *Trespassers on the Roof of the World*, and *Setting the East Ablaze*.

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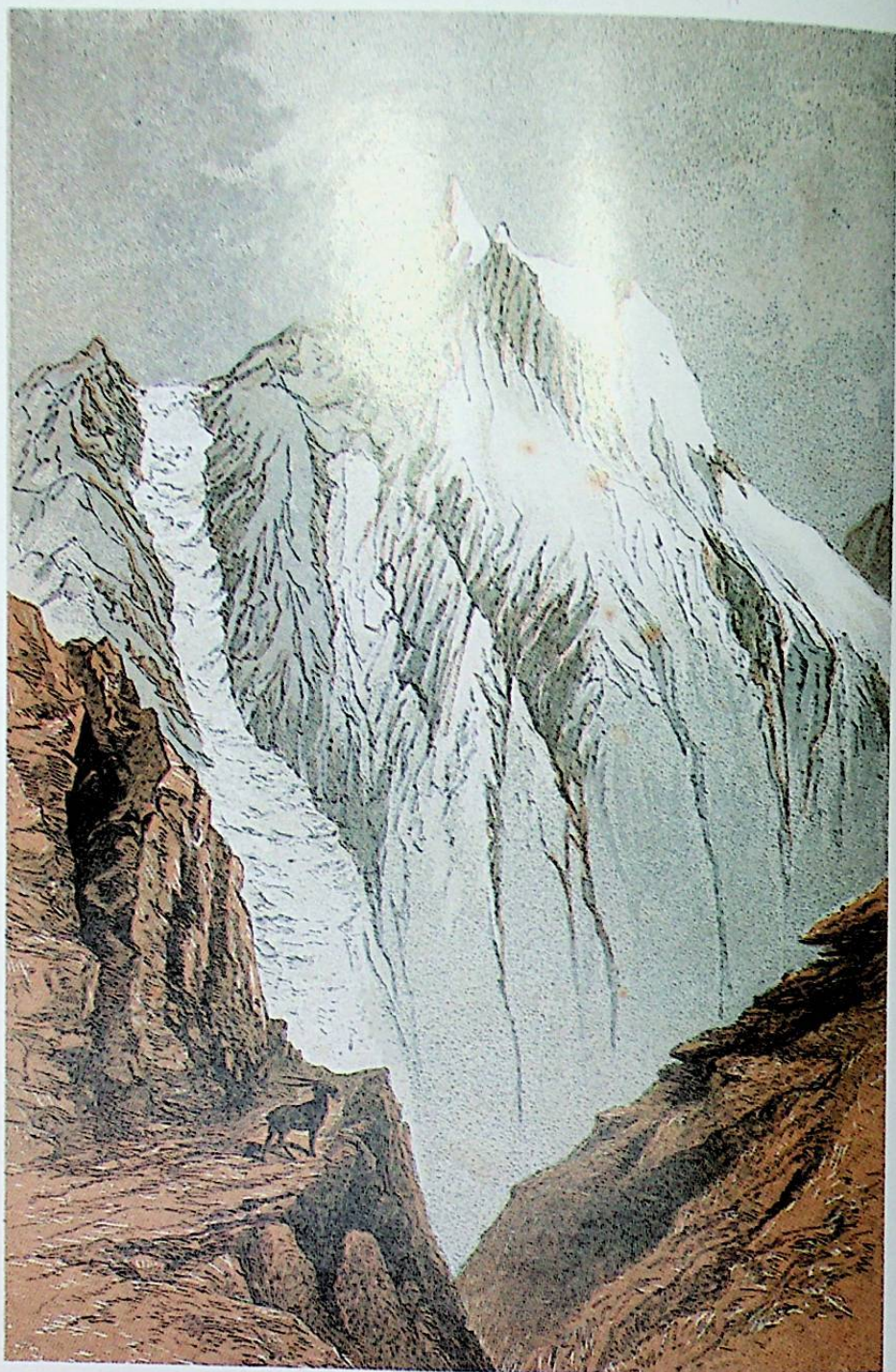
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