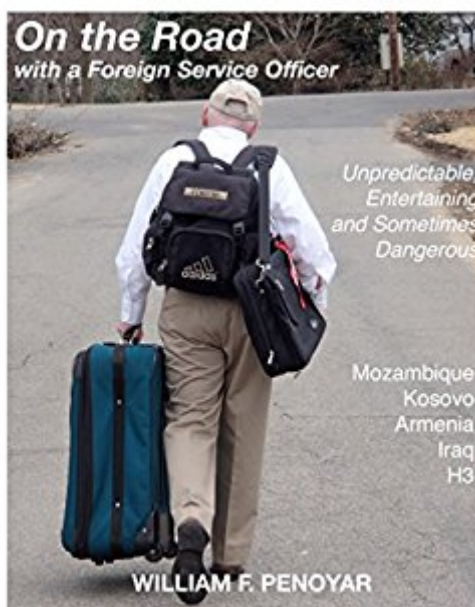


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On The Road With A Foreign Service Officer Entertaining, Unpredictable And Sometimes Dangerous: Mozambique, Kosovo, Armenia, Iraq, And The Hash House Harriers



Synopsis

This is a journal of experiences and observations written by a retired U.S. Agency for International Development Foreign Service Officer about his entertaining, unpredictable, and sometimes dangerous adventures in Mozambique, Kosovo, Armenia, Iraq, and with the Hash House Harriers from 2009 to 2013. Much has been written about U.S. Diplomacy, the operation of U.S. Embassies, the challenges and dangers faced by Foreign Service Officers and their families. However, there has been little attention given to the adventurous and fun side of the Foreign Service life. Despite all the work and hardship which the Foreign Service Officer career entails, many people are still attracted to this life. Why? Every FSO has his or her own unique explanation. Adventure was my most motivating consideration. Also, the portfolio of USAID projects in most countries: health, economic development, agriculture and food security, democracy building, and environment ensured that I would not be bored. Although the world is a big place, I discovered there is much that people, terrain, and environment have in common. The enjoyable experiences that were shared with the Hash House Harriers (H3) running-walking-social clubs in Mozambique, Kosovo, and Armenia were particularly memorable. I hope you enjoy this lighter side of the Foreign Service life.

Book Information

File Size: 3254 KB

Print Length: 143 pages

Simultaneous Device Usage: Unlimited

Publisher: William F. Penoyar (July 6, 2014)

Publication Date: July 6, 2014

Sold by: Digital Services LLC

Language: English

ASIN: B00LKBYBPU

Text-to-Speech: Enabled

X-Ray: Not Enabled

Word Wise: Enabled

Lending: Enabled

Screen Reader: Supported

Enhanced Typesetting: Enabled

Best Sellers Rank: #925,488 Paid in Kindle Store (See Top 100 Paid in Kindle Store) #20

in Books > Travel > Africa > Mozambique #21 in Books > Travel > Middle East > Iraq #36

Customer Reviews

This is a good first-hand account from a foreign service professional particularly for those interested in foreign culture and travel to obscure places. The author included a number of photographs which greatly augment the narrative of his travels. I particularly found his descriptions of the various sections of Iraq of special interest now that the region is under a state of tremendous turmoil again. It's truly disheartening after so many lives were lost and permanently injured not to mention the billions of dollars that were sunk during the conflict and in the reconstruction efforts that followed. While the author was on assignments in Iraq to assist with the reconstruction effort, he does not allocate much "print" to his specific contributions in that regard, which is somewhat disappointing. There are a few extraneous words (e.g. mostly articles) that failed to get edited out, but they did not interfere with conveying the intended context. Several snarky political comments appear which I believe were unnecessary, particularly since both major parties have had key roles in inflicting damage upon our Republic and to world opinion of the U.S. While the organizational structure of the book is sort of in reverse order, the ending section of the book is particularly interesting and will leave the reader with a "feel good" reaction and an overall positive conclusion the book was well worth his/her time.

On the Road with Bill Penoyar offers an engaging story that enables a reader to view upsides, downsides, joys and struggles experienced by Foreign Service Officers and those seeking uncommon and thought-provoking travel adventures. With keen insight into human behavior Bill takes us with him on his trips and our senses are alive. We see, hear, smell, and taste his days and nights in developing nations. If you are asking "what is life like while working under the umbrella of the U.S. Embassy community?" If you are seeking an extraordinary perspective about an international development career and if you want to venture "beyond the wire" (that is, peek over the wall) and learn about American foreign and military policy strategic disasters in Iraq, then On the Road provides a vantage point seldom discovered elsewhere. Buy it, read it and enjoy it. You will be pleasantly surprised. Yes, you will.

Entertaining and well-written, this book focuses on 4 country settings where the author has worked. I liked that each of the vignettes could be read at one sitting. The first country was Mozambique and that was my favorite section because the experiences were interesting, sometimes ironic and ones

to which most of us who have lived overseas can relate. The weakest section for me was on Iraq since parts were somewhat repetitive. This genre of books is my favorite and I would recommend it to anyone who likes travel adventures and especially to those who have lived and worked overseas because the book will evoke memories of similar experiences.

It isn't often that one can read about a topic like this through the eyes of someone who has first hand knowledge. Thanks to Bill we can have a deeper understanding of the inner workings of foreign service officers. Thanks for your service.

This is a refreshing and easy read to anyone interested in the life and adventures of a FSO. Great and heartwarming stories, especially the one towards the end of the book. I definitely recommend it.

Interesting.

Reading this, I felt as if I was on the journey with Bill. He clearly enjoys his what he does and loves people. What more can we ask of our foreign service. Thank you Bill

If you have worked in Iraq, worth reading

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