

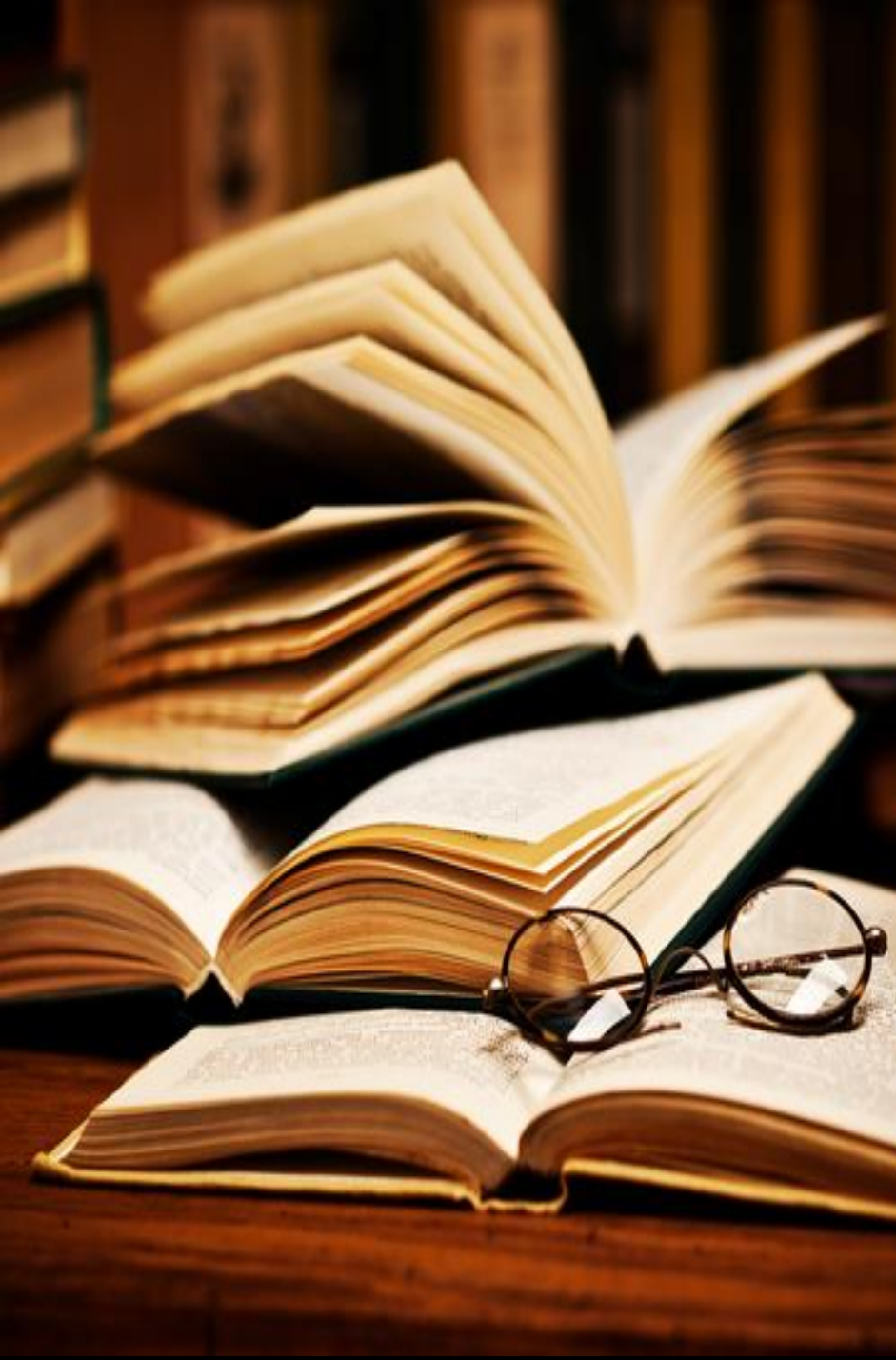
The background of the slide is a composite image. On the left, there is a piece of aged, yellowish paper with a textured, slightly wrinkled appearance. On the right, there is a stack of books. The top book has a dark red cover and a thick, yellowed page block. Below it, another book with a light-colored cover is visible. The books are resting on a wooden surface.

Book Review

Presented by:
GROUP -1

- *Abhishek Anand*
- *Abu Huzaiifa*
- *Ankita Lahoty*
(Co-ordinator)
- *Anindya Saha*
- *Anitha Panthampalli*
- *Chintan Bhai Patel*
- *Dinesh Bishnoi*
- *Gunjan Verma*
- *Kirti Gaikwad*
- *Manoj Murthy*

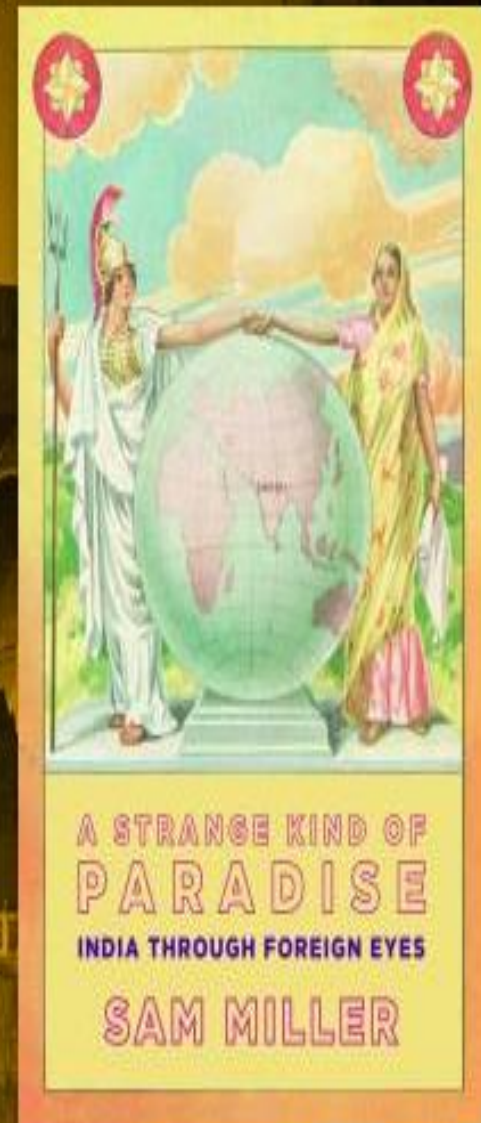
GROUP MEMBERS



A STRANGE
KIND OF PARADISE
INDIA THROUGH FOREIGN EYES
SAM MILLER



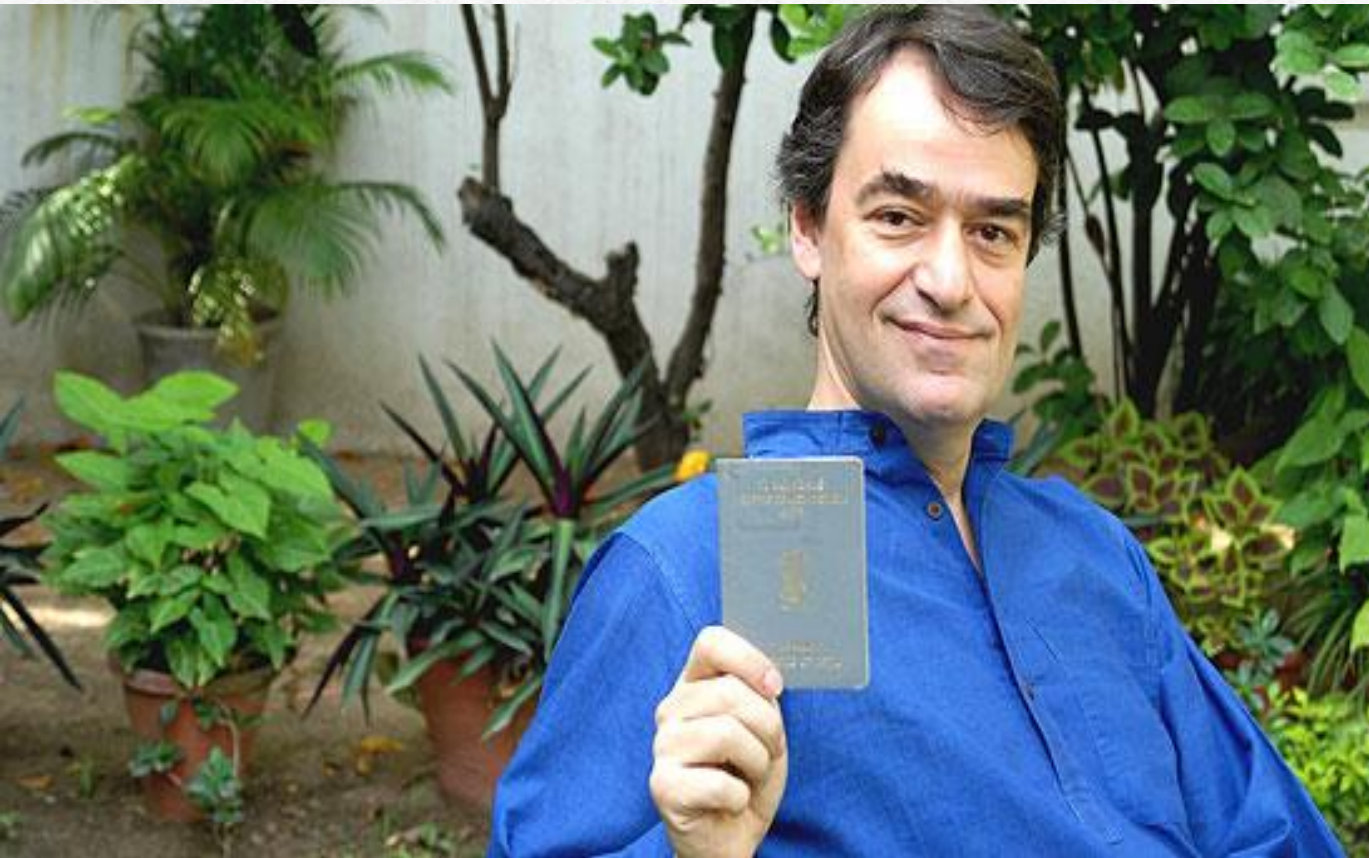
Sam Miller's account of engagement between foreigners and India spans the centuries from Alexander the Great to Slumdog Millionaire.



INTRO

- 🌐 3rd book of the writer
 - 🌐 Publisher: Penguins India
 - 🌐 Publishing Date: 24th Feb 2014
 - 🌐 An eclectic historical travelogue
-
- 🌐 Portrayal of India by foreigners through the millennia

ABOUT THE AUTHOR



*Sam
Miller*

AUTHOR- SAM MILLER

London Born (1962)
Graduated @ Cambridge
University

A journalist , TV
commentator and Writer

Best-seller : “Delhi: Adventures in
a Megacity” 2009
Acclaimed: Blue Guide
India (2012)

- Joined BBC World Service
he was the BBC's TV and radio correspondent in New Delhi and has been there since
now runs media training projects in the subcontinent for the BBC World Service Trust
-

COVER PAGE

- Toga clad Greek woman extending her hand to a saree-clad Indian woman
- Symbolizes curious west meeting the mystical East



Content



Chapter 1- The Greek connection

Chapter 2 - Jesus of Nazareth and Doubting Thomas

Chapter 3 - Story of Tripitaka (aka Xuanzang)

Chapter 4 - Legacy of Arab travellers

Chapter 5- India as a metaphor for the edge of the world

Content



Chapter 6 - Vasco da Gama and Babri Masjid

Chapter 7- The mysterious Elephant and Englishmen

Chapter 8-Taj Mahal and Sati

Chapter 9 -Secret of Ozone therapy and Missionaries

Chapter 10 – Early British Settlers

Content



Chapter 11- British perception of India pre and post-1857

Chapter 12- Kipling as Mowgli in India

Chapter 13- Gandhi in West and Tagore in East

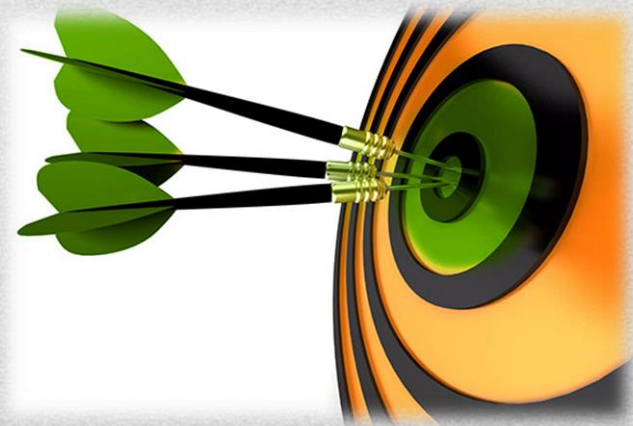
Chapter 14- Indian Cinema

Chapter 15- Chicken Tikka Masala

Purpose



- To understand how the foreigners came to construct their ideas of India
- An attempt to explain how those ancient and recent imaginings still help to define how the world sees india that has become author's home.



SCOPE OF THE BOOK



- 2500 years of foreign perspectives on India
 - Look at how visitors from the time of Alexander to Steve Jobs have experienced India
 - Touches various aspects of indian life such as Yoga, Cinema, Art, Cuisine, etc
 - Ideas for future- Sanitation (Naipaul's book)
-

Genre

- Non-fiction
 - Part-History
 - Part- Travelogue
 - Part-Memoir



Style of Writing

- Informal/ Conversational language
 - Wide ranging historical research with amusing personal anecdotes
 - Intermissions between chapters where miller gives account of his own relationship with India
 - Rich Footnotes with precise information
 - Hilarious in various parts reflecting his innate sense of humour
 - Basic maps in each chapter to demystify geography
-

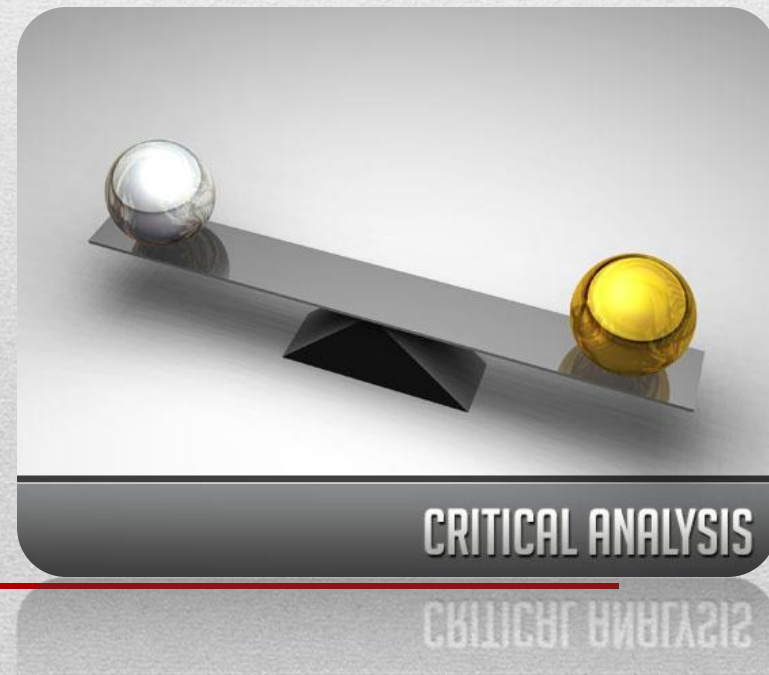




Critical Analysis

STRENGTHS

- Impressively researched
- Objectivity
- Footnotes- to understand the events
- Humour engrosses reader
- Extensive coverage spanning centuries
- Chronologically organized



SHORTCOMINGS

- Chapters are disjointed
- Superficial coverage – Chinese travelers
- Target audience not all-inclusive



Sources

- **‘The best treatment for an elephant’**: Megasthenes, *Indika*, Strab. XV. 1. 41-43
 - **‘Patna, meanwhile, is described as’**: *ibid*, Plin. Hist. Nat. VI. 1. 8-23. 11.
 - **‘The Roman naturalist Aelian’**: Aelian, *De Natura Animalium*, 13.18
 - **‘the city which every foreigner has to visit’**: see Edensor, *Tourists*
 - **‘them as has seen the Taj Mahal, and them as hasn’t’**: Tillotson, *Taj Mahal*,
 - **‘Hindu women as chaste’**: de Thevenot, *Travels*, vol 3, p47
 - **‘little young girles’** Head, *The English Rogue*, p441
 - **“infatuated creature” sitting at the feet of her dead husband**: Bernier, *op cit*, p307
 - **‘wise, ingenious people’**: Ziegenbalg, *Thirty-four Conferences*, p122
 - **(10)‘curry and rice’**: Thackeray, *Newcomes*, p95
-

Our Recommendation

- It presents history with a wonderful blend of humour, fun and engaging stories
 - Must read to understand our history devoid of any biases
 - **TARGET AUDIENCE:**
 - ✓ Students interested in unprejudiced history
 - ✓ Civil servants esp. Indian Foreign Service officers
 - ✓ Budding Political representatives
 - ✓ Research Scholars of History
 - ✓ Future travellers to India
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$MRI \geq 3.5$

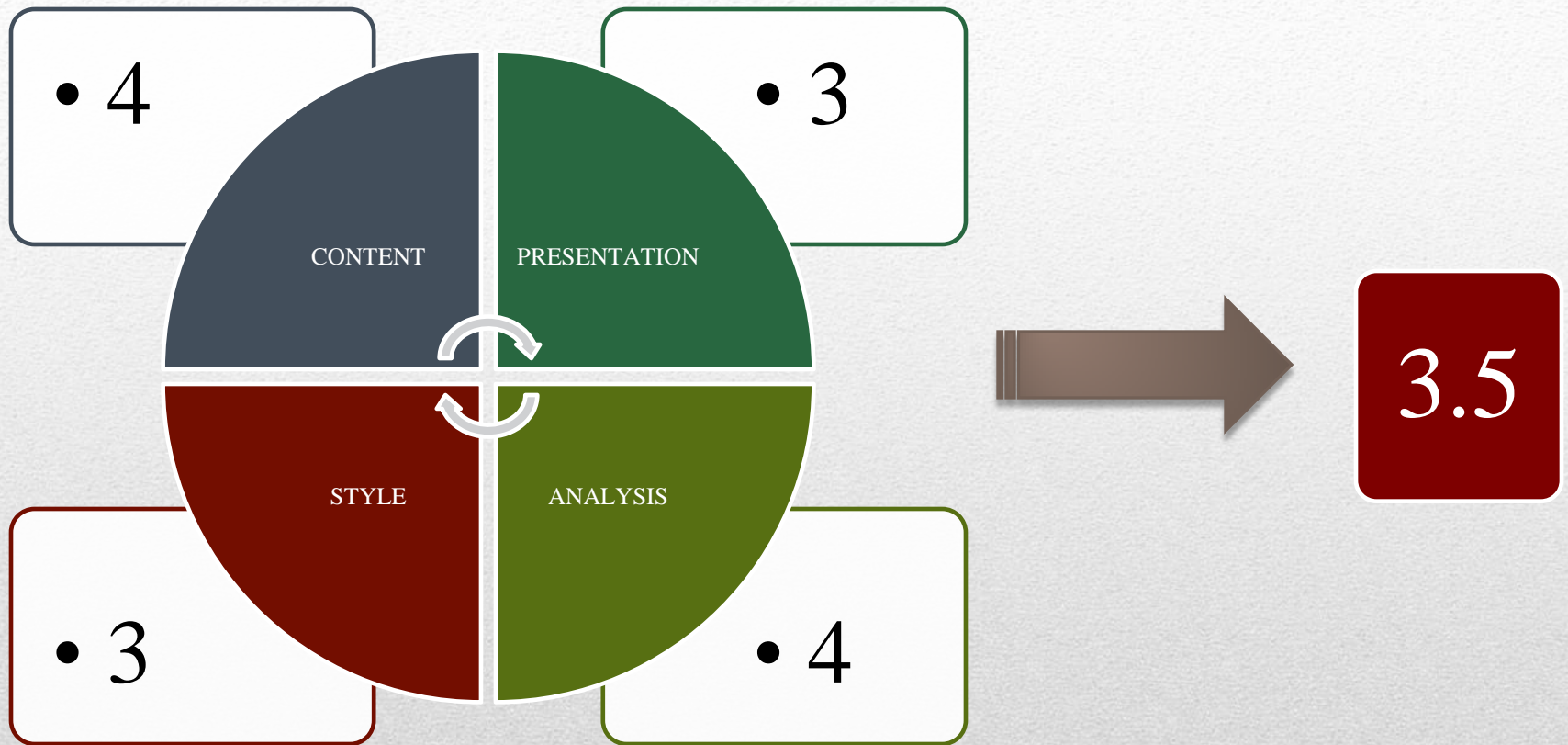
BOOK IS FUN
READ !!!



$MRI < 3.5$

BEWARE !
IT TESTS YOUR
PATIENCE!!

MUST READ INDEX



OUR RATING

CONCLUSION

Beauty lies in the eyes of beholder!!!

