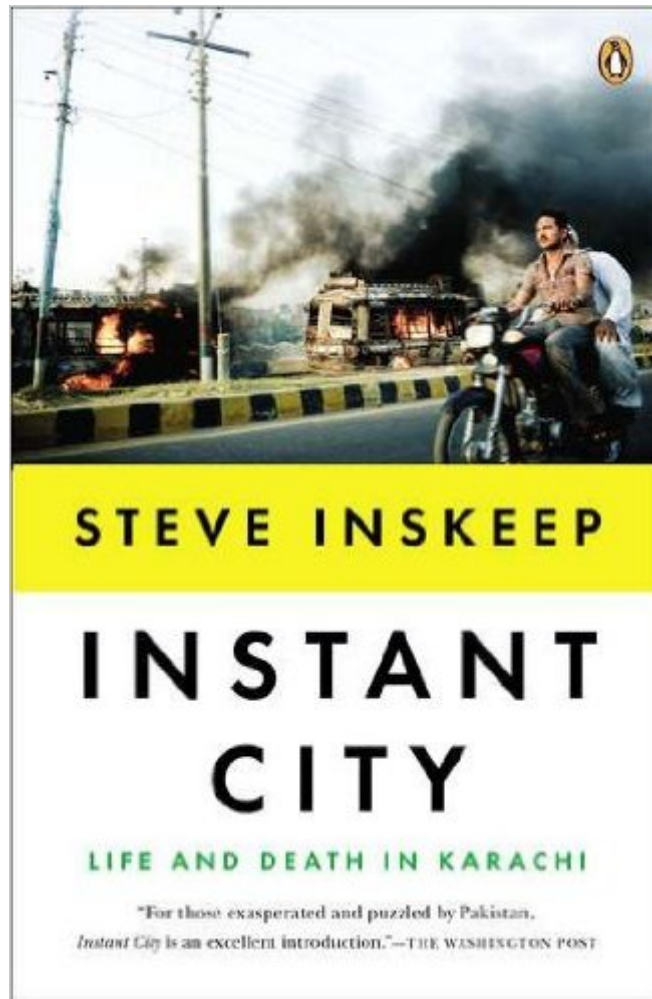


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Instant City: Life And Death In Karachi



Synopsis

Morning Edition cohost Steve Inskeep presents a riveting account of a single harrowing day in December 2009 that sheds light on the constant tensions in Karachi, Pakistan—when a bomb blast ripped through a Shia religious procession, followed by the torching of hundreds of businesses in Karachi's commercial district. Through interviews with a broad cross section of Karachi residents, Inskeep peels back the layers of that terrible day. It is the beginning, and a constant touchstone, in a journey across the city's epic history and its troubled present. Thrilling and deeply researched, *Instant City* tells the story of one of the world's fastest-growing metropolises and the forces competing to shape its future.

Book Information

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Average Customer Review: 4.5 out of 5 stars— See all reviews— (33 customer reviews)

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Customer Reviews

First time author, Steve Inskeep, NPR radio announcer and reporter takes on Karachi. Readers may already know (and if they read "Instant City") they will for certain, Karachi is at "the other end" of Pakistan. Karachi is a port mega-city on the Arabian Sea. Most terrorism incidents that have occurred in Pakistan in the last decade have been in the northern part of the country, near or along the Afghanistan border. The terrorism incident that occurred in downtown Karachi is a central theme that Inskeep will keep returning to. Inskeep provides historical background on the partitioning of Anglo-India, "the jewel in the crown" of former British colonies, into Pakistan, East Pakistan and India, which occurred in 1947. India was to become the predominant home to Hindus and the two Pakistans, to Muslims. Later, East Pakistan left the fold in rebellion to become the independent

nation of Bangladesh. The mass movement of people following the partitioning of Anglo-India involved the migration of literally hundreds of millions of people in both directions. The rise of Karachi as an "Instant City" is a direct consequence of this mass movement. The process continues, driven now primarily by internal migration, rural agrarian-to-city. Inskip's background as a reporter is both a strength and a weakness of "Instant City." Inskip meets and interviews scores of people whose stories he tells. It's a journalistic style of writing that while providing highly personal narrative often results in redundancy. The overall flow is often choppy and disjointed. A good fifty pages could have been cut from "Instant City" to make for a more concise read with a tight focus.

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