Book Review

2020

2020 explores 2500 years of Middle Eastern history with the intention of demonstrating the dominant civilizing influence of Persia in the region. Author Sohrab Chamanara asserts that if people examine this history, they are more likely to be "open to the possibility that an era of reconciliation is possible."

Chamanara uses the title *2020* as a nod to a hypothetical time in the near future when the people of Iran, Armenia, and Israel could potentially be united. In his "perfect vision" (another play on 2020), these countries will become aligned on political, economic, and cultural fronts as they have been at various times throughout history.

From the time of Cyrus the Great to the Islamic Revolution of 1979, evidence is gathered and artfully connected to support this grand vision of unity. Battles are dissected, genocides are analyzed, motivations are probed. Chamanara even goes so far as to map out exactly what he thinks should/will happen in the world in the coming years, which is fairly bold theorization.

While *2020* is full to overflowing with historical information, many of the sources, when not direct quotes, are not cited in the format customary for this type of work. While the information does not appear falsified in any way, citing the original source material would strengthen the overall impact of the point Chamanara is trying to make.

2020 is written in a way that is fairly easy to follow, though some previous knowledge of Middle Eastern history would be helpful in understanding some of the more complex political strategies.

Overall, *2020* is thought-provoking and hopeful while not ignoring the difficult times we live in. Those interested in international relations will likely find a great deal to sink their teeth into, though a definitive ending that brings it all together is noticeably absent.

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