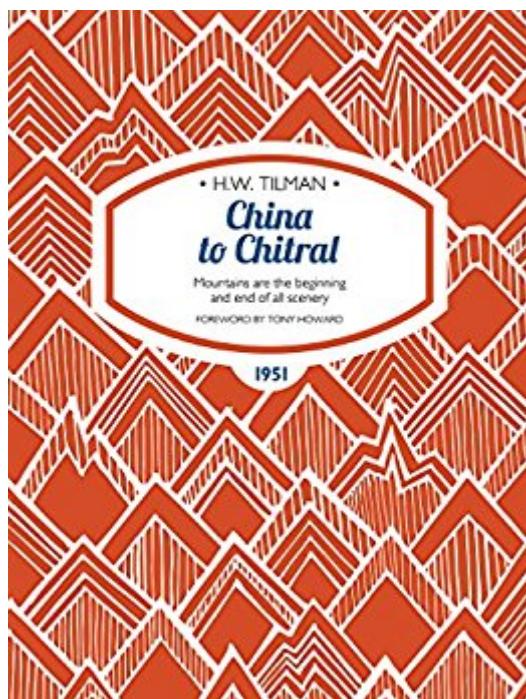


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# China To Chitral: Mountains Are The Beginning And End Of All Scenery (Tilman: The Collected Edition)



## Synopsis

Upon this trackless waste of snow, cut by a shrewd wind they sat down and wept. In China to Chitral H.W. Bill Tilman completes one of his great post-war journeys. He travels from Central China, crossing Sinkiang, the Gobi and Takla Makan Deserts, before escaping to a crumbling British Empire with a crossing of the Karakoram to the new nation of Pakistan. In 1951 there still persisted a legend that a vast mountain, higher than Everest, was to be found in the region, a good enough reason it seems for Tilman to traverse the land, a land shut in on three sides by vast snow ranges whose glacial streams nourish the oases and upon whose slopes the yaks and camels graze side by side; where in their felt yorts the Kirghiz and Kazak live much as they did in the days of Genghis Khan, except now they no longer take a hand in the devastation of Europe. Widely regarded as some of Tilman's finest travel writing, *China to Chitral* is full of understatement and laconic humour, with descriptions of disastrous attempts on unclimbed mountains with Shipton, including Bogdo Ola – an extension of the mighty Tien Shan mountains – and the Chakar Aghil group near Kashgar on the old silk road. His command of the Chinese language – five words, all referring to food – proves less than helpful in his quest to find a decent meal: unfortunately, in China there are no ridiculous hygienic regulations on the sale of food. Tilman also has several unnerving encounters with less-than-friendly tribesmen. Tilman starts proper in Lanchow where he describes with some regret that he is less a traveller and more a passenger on this great traverse of the central basin and rim of mountain ranges at Asia's heart. But Tilman is one of our greatest ever travel writers, and we become a passenger to his adventurers.

## Book Information

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