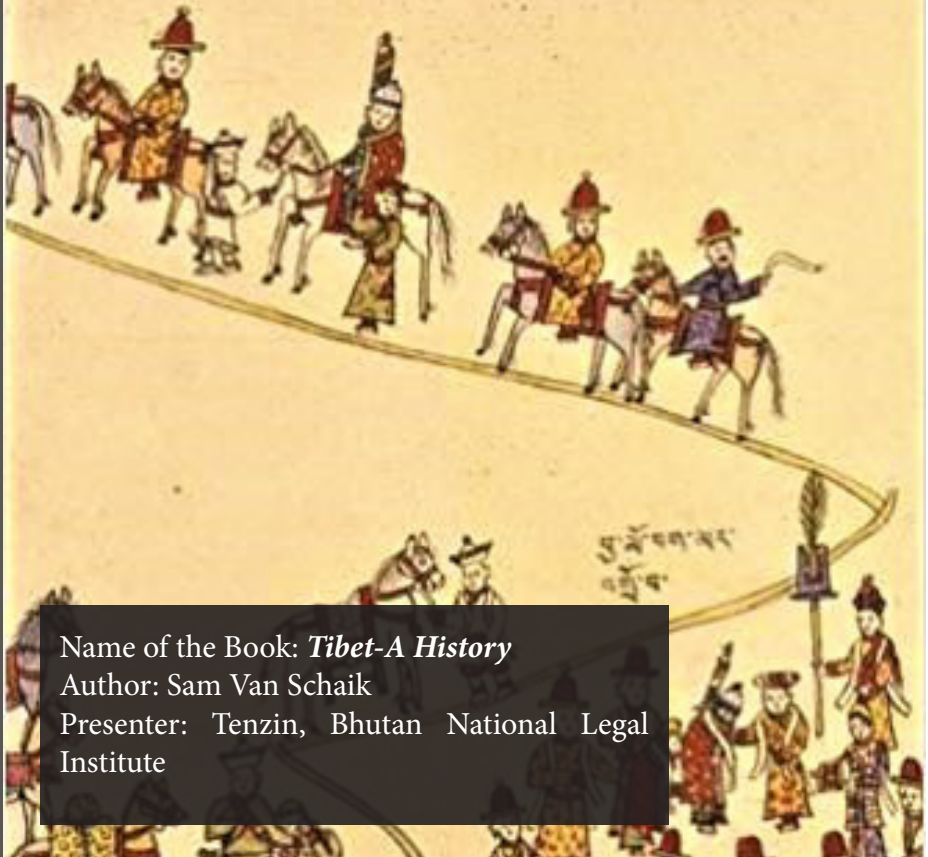


49th Session (25 May 2018)

SAM VAN SCHAİK

TIBET

A HISTORY



Name of the Book: *Tibet-A History*

Author: Sam Van Schaik

Presenter: Tenzin, Bhutan National Legal
Institute

Synopsis of the Book

The book brings the history of Tibet to life by telling the stories of the people in the seventeenth century. It explores the emergence of Tibetan Buddhism and the rise of the Dalai Lamas, and the loss of independence of Tibet in the twentieth century. The book also sheds light on Tibet's complex relationship with China and explains the often-misunderstood aspects of its culture of Tibet. The book struts the history of Tibet to create a compelling narrative, one that offers readers a greater understanding of this important and controversial corner of the world. Her Majesty recommended the Gyalyum Ashi Dorji Wangmo Wangchuck the book.



Profile of the Author

Sam Julius Van Schaik is an English Tibetologist. He obtained a Ph.D. in Tibetan Buddhist literature at the University of Manchester in 2000, with a dissertation on the translations of Dzogchen texts by Jigme Lingpa. Since 1999 he has worked at the British Library in London, and is currently a project manager for

the International Dunhuang Project, specialising in the study of Tibetan Buddhist manuscripts from Dunhuang. He has also taught occasional courses at SOAS, University of London. From 2003 to 2005 van Schaik worked on a project to catalogue Tibetan Tantric manuscripts in the Stein Collection of the British Library, and from 2005 to 2008 he worked on a project to study the paleography of Tibetan manuscripts from Dunhuang, in an attempt to identify individual scribes.



Profile of the Presenter

Drangpon Rabjam Tenzin studied Law at the NALSAR University of Law in Hyderabad and pursued Masters from George Washington University in the United States.

Discourse

The Book was reviewed and presented by Drangpon Rabjam Tenzin. He gave the overview of Tibet from 7th Century A.D. to the present day. It began with the first appearance of Tibet at the world stage in the 7th century. They described individuals who made Tibet and the impact it brought to consolidating it as a nation. The cultural identities of Tibet were shaped with distinct culture and history. The role of great Dharma Kings like King Tsongtsen Gampo, Trisong Detsen and Thri Ralpachen and other Buddhist Saints such as Shantarakshita, Guru Padhmasambhava, Dipamkara Shirjana, Panchen Lama, Dalai Lama, and Karmapas had shaped Tibet and its cultural identity through the influence of Buddhism. However, with degeneration of religious beliefs and with the coming of different sects of religion, conflicts among religion arose. These religious differences thinned national identity.

He also talked about the dynamics of power and politics in Central Asia. It talks about the rise and fall of Chinese Empire under different dynasties. He also discussed the references to Bhutan significantly the settlement of a dispute between the British India and Tibet by Trongsa Penlop Ugyen Wangchuck.



