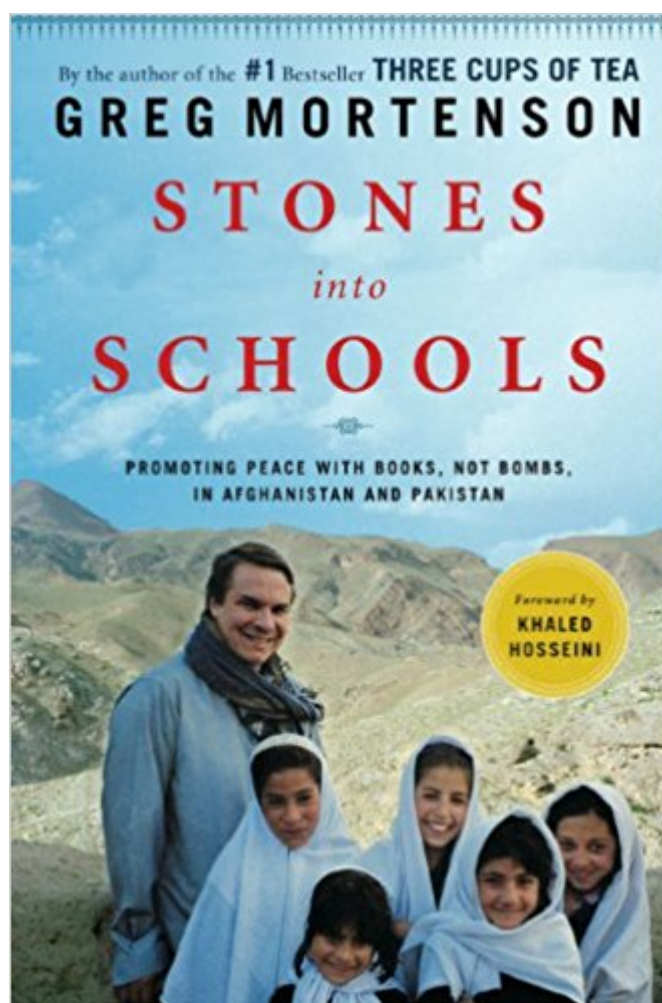


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# Stones Into Schools: Promoting Peace With Books, Not Bombs, In Afghanistan And Pakistan



## Synopsis

From the author of the #1 bestseller *Three Cups of Tea*, the continuing story of this determined humanitarian's efforts to promote peace through education. In this dramatic first-person narrative, Greg Mortenson picks up where *Three Cups of Tea* left off in 2003, recounting his relentless, ongoing efforts to establish schools for girls in Afghanistan; his extensive work in Azad Kashmir and Pakistan after a massive earthquake hit the region in 2005; and the unique ways he has built relationships with Islamic clerics, militia commanders, and tribal leaders. He shares for the first time his broader vision to promote peace through education and literacy, as well as touching on military matters, Islam, and women—all woven together with the many rich personal stories of the people who have been involved in this remarkable two-decade humanitarian effort. Since the 2006 publication of *Three Cups of Tea*, Mortenson has traveled across the U.S. and the world to share his vision with hundreds of thousands of people. He has met with heads of state, top military officials, and leading politicians who all seek his advice and insight. The continued phenomenal success of *Three Cups of Tea* proves that there is an eager and committed audience for Mortenson's work and message.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

From Viking Press In regards to the 60 Minutes episode that aired April 17, 2011: "Greg Mortenson's work as a humanitarian in Afghanistan and Pakistan has provided tens of thousands of children with an education. 60 Minutes is a serious news organization and in the wake

of their report, Viking plans to carefully review the materials with the author." --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

**\*Starred Review\*** Mortenson's best-seller, *Three Cups of Tea* (2009), introduced his commitment to peace through education and became a book-club phenomenon. He now continues the story of how the Central Asia Institute (CAI) built schools in northern Afghanistan. Descriptions of the harsh geography and more than one near-death experience impress readers as new faces join Mortenson's loyal "Dirty Dozen" as they carefully plot a course of school-building through the Badakshan province and Wakhan corridor. Mortenson also shares his friendships with U.S. military personnel, including Admiral Mike Mullen, and the warm reception his work has found among the officer corps. The careful line CAI threads between former mujahideen commanders, ex-Taliban and village elders, and the American soldiers stationed in their midst is poetic in its political complexity and compassionate consideration. Using schools not bombs to promote peace is a goal that even the most hard-hearted can admire, but to blandly call this book inspiring would be dismissive of all the hard work that has gone into the mission in Afghanistan as well as the efforts to fund it. Mortenson writes of nothing less than saving the future, and his adventure is light years beyond most attempts. Mortenson did not reach the summit of K2, but oh, the heights he has achieved. --Colleen Mondor

This was the second book by Greg Mortenson that I've read, the first being *Three Cups of Tea*. His first book was recommended by a friend and I'm so glad I read it. It is amazing how God can change the course of our lives and use us to make an impact on so many, for generations! I recommend both of these books, it is an adventure, it is moving and it is amazing how these schools started out as an idea and blossomed into reality. Thank you "Dr. Greg" for sharing this story with us.

Greg Mortensen should have stopped at "Tea." Nothing like riding the wave of a first book. While SOME of his work is worthwhile he elaborated on his extensive building which is not accurate.

~In *THREE CUPS OF TEA*, Greg Mortenson builds his first school in a feral part of Pakistan. In, *STONES INTO SCHOOLS*, Greg shows us what truly amazing things even the simplest, weakest, least valued, and the most neglected among us are capable of achieving. Greg believes that the conflict in Afghanistan can be won with books, pencils, and other tools of socioeconomic well-being. After reading these two books, I'm convinced that this is true. He says, "to deprive Afghan children

of education, is to bankrupt the future of the country, and doom any prospects of Afghanistan becoming someday a more prosperous and productive state."Greg and his incredible team are especially great at advocating for girls' education. He explains the 'Girl Effect' by showing us how young women have the biggest potential for creating change in a developing world. This is an exceptionally inspiring book; I strongly recommend both, THREE CUPS OF TEA, and, STONES INTO SCHOOLS. This (STONES INTO SCHOOLS) was also the book that I choose to be the first that I purchased and read through my new Kindle. Neither one let me down in even the slightest way.[...]

This book is a follow on to Three Cups of Tea, which is a riveting saga of building elementary schools particularly for Afghani girls. In this book much has been already accomplished and we see some fill in data that was glossed over in the first book along with much new follow on story. Both books taken together are a very uplifting story of what can be accomplished against impossible odds with steady perseverance and a very good attitude towards other cultures. I think these two books are a "must read" for anyone, but especially Americans.

After reading Three Cups of Tea, I couldn't wait to dive into this book. Since was offering 7% of the book's purchase price to CAI, it made sense to purchase this book online. Written in first person, Stones into Schools is even more dynamic than Three Cups of Tea. Over the last 16 years, Greg Mortenson, the CAI and the many people who have contributed to building schools in remote regions have accomplished some amazing achievements. Contributions to this NGO aren't wasted in administrative red tape and 'pork barrel' projects. The money goes where it does the most good. I especially hope our military commanders continue to learn from the CAI's successes in these regions. The most effective and long-lasting way to fight (and end) terrorism is to empower and educate local populations. May God (Allah) continue to bless this effort!

After stumbling into the small village of Korphe upon his descent from K2 in Pakistan, Greg Mortenson set out on a mission to build schools and bring hope to children (girls in particular) across Pakistan and eventually into Afghanistan. The wildly acclaimed bestseller Three Cups of Tea invited us on this journey, imbuing us with a sense of frustration at the preexisting conditions and excitement surrounding the hope and opportunity brought by these schools. Stones into Schools picks up where Three Cups of Tea left us, and focuses largely on the Central Asia Institute's efforts in Afghanistan. Stones into Schools definitely does not suffer from "sequel syndrome", in fact it was

arguably even more captivating than Three Cups of Tea! Written in the first-person, Mortenson really builds a story-arc around what has happened since the last book. The success of Three Cups has drawn massive support for CAI, but also bares the burden of speaking engagements and book signings that take Mortenson away from his family and work. When he isn't traveling across the country promoting and fundraising (a job he despises), Mortenson is being rushed across Pakistan and Afghanistan by a quirky and enthusiastic staff of locals who you get to know and love throughout the book. As Afghanistan returns to the forefront of the "War on Terrorism", Mortenson's experiences in the country show a whole other war brewing. A war being fought with books rather than bombs. A war by the Afghani population to close the chapter that has been 3 decades of conflict, and to reclaim their hopes and aspirations for a prosperous tomorrow. Fighting to bring education and literacy to girls in their communities include ex-mujahadeen and ex-Taliban. It's really amazing the strong yearning for education that exists even in the farthest corners of the country, and the barriers that are being broken to achieve it. This is the war that does not capture the media headlines, but in many ways is more important to the success and future sustainability of Afghanistan than anything else.

A much better way of working with the Middleeast than using military action.

Inspirational as well as entertaining. Can be enjoyed and appreciated by adults as well as children.

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