

Contact: Umbrage Books
515 Canal Street #4
New York, NY 10013
(212) 965-0197 ext. 3#, f(212) 965-0276
press@umbragebooks.com

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

FIRST TIME IN PAPERBACK

Umbrage Editions Presents

THE TIBETANS: A STRUGGLE TO SURVIVE

By Steve Lehman

Introduction By Robert Coles

Essay by Robbie Barnett

Paperback Release of an award winning title presents fresh perspectives on Mysterious Tibet

BOOK SPECS:

Paperback

ISBN: 1-884167-36-5

9.8" x 9"

200 pages

125 four-color & b/w photographs

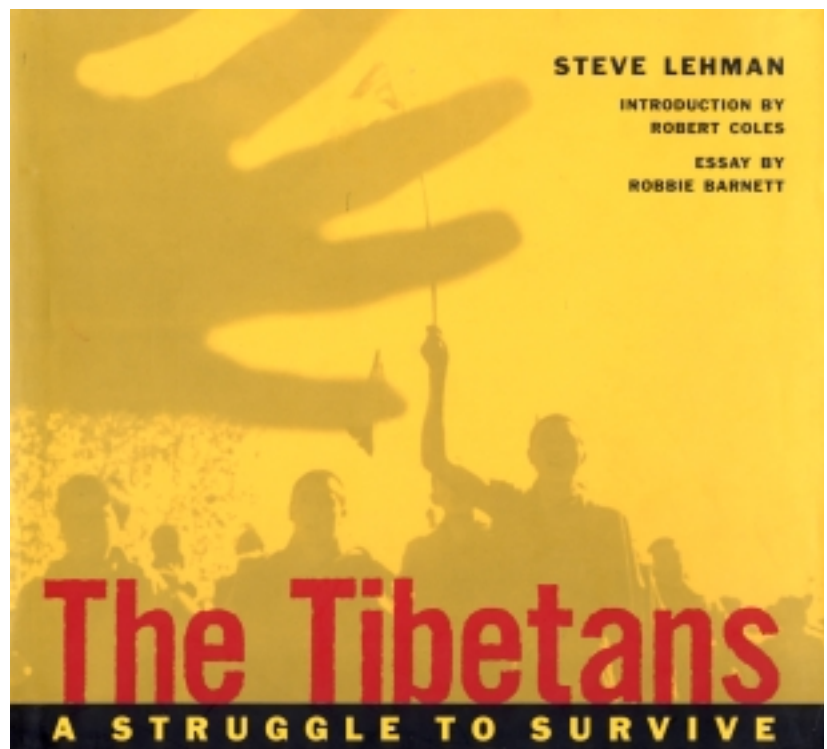
\$29.95 USD

October 2003

New York, New York - Umbrage Editions is pleased to announce the paperback release of ***The Tibetans: A Struggle to Survive***, a beautiful but disquieting photo documentation of both the splendor and ruin that mark contemporary Tibet. Documented during a ten-year period, it is the first photography book to report the social, economic, political, environmental, and human rights conditions in this ravaged country. Award-winning photojournalist Steve Lehman traveled beyond the mountain vistas and timeless temples to uncover a different Tibet—a land of lumberyards and uranium mines, of brothels and discos, of demolished temples and burned-out police stations. ***The Tibetans*** won the National Press Photographers Association Book of the Year Award and the Cri de Coeur Award in Paris, France for Best Book. This new, updated edition accompanies a major photography exhibit that launched at the Newseum and travels internationally to 2005.

As provocative as Lehman's images are the words of those with an intimate understanding of this mysterious land, which are conveyed as essays, comments, and quotes. In a moving introduction,

renowned Harvard professor and Pulitzer Prize-winning author Dr. Robert Coles speaks to the importance of photojournalism and its role in effecting social change. An authoritative essay by Robbie Barnett, executive director of the Tibetan Information Network (TIN) since 1987 and a leading authority on contemporary politics in Tibet, provides an insightful historical and political perspective on recent events there and exposes many of the stereotypes that have clouded Western perceptions of the situation. Jampel Tsering, one of the foremost grassroots political leaders to escape from Tibet, offers a firsthand account of key events in the Tibetan pro-independence movement and provides a rare look at the



(more)

human cost of their struggle and the hope that sustains it. Extensive quotations and oral histories culled from hundreds of interviews with Tibetans as well as Tibetan ephemera, maps, propaganda, and religious iconography augment the evocative full color images and add texture to this finely crafted monograph.

From his story-breaking coverage of the 1987 pro-independence demonstrations to *Newsweek's* 1997 cover story, Steve Lehman's photographs helped create the wave of international attention now focused on Tibet. His unflinching images explore the critical issues there: cultural assimilation, human rights abuses, political demonstrations, environmental degradation, and religious persecution.

With the success of the book's first hardcover printing, publisher Nan Richardson believes the paperback version will shed further light on, and allow for intellectual exploration of, this tragic and beautiful land. She said, "We were so proud of the critical success of the hardcover, we felt we had an obligation to make the book more accessible and expose a wider audience to the opportunity to learn about this incredible place, rich in culture and history, steeped in conflict, and breathtakingly captured by its contributors." Tibet's most revered spiritual leader, the Dalai Lama stated of the book, "**The Tibetans** vividly reveals how much has changed in Tibet under Chinese rule. And yet, the unbroken Tibetan spirit also shines through."

The Tibetans: A Struggle to Survive is an integral component of **The Tibetans** project which also includes a traveling exhibition and multimedia lecture series concerning the sociopolitical situation in Tibet. The project aims to influence public policy toward Tibet through further educating the public about the current circumstances and introducing policy strategies that will help bring a resolution to the conflict. The high visibility of **The Tibetans** will hopefully spur meaningful international debate and work toward eliciting social change through peaceful means.

STEVE LEHMAN has covered Tibet for *Newsweek*, *National Geographic*, *Time*, and a host of other international magazines. He broke the story of Tibetan unrest in both 1987 and 1989 with images that appeared on the front page of nearly every major newspaper in the world, including *The New York Times* and *The Washington Post*. Lehman has won awards for his work in Rwanda and Burma and, in 1998, received First Place in the National Press Photographer's Association "Pictures of the Year" for his coverage in China. Lehman's photographs have been widely exhibited in such venues as the United States Capitol Building, Visa Pour L'Image in Perpignan, France, the Houston Center of Photography, and the Freedom Forum's Newseum.

ROBERT COLES is the James Agee Professor of Social Ethics at Harvard University and a child psychiatrist. An essayist and poet, his books include the multivolume works, *The Inner Lives of Children* and *The Children of Crisis* series (for which Coles won the Pulitzer Prize). He is a founding member of the Center for Documentary Studies at Duke University and the coeditor of the documentary magazine *DoubleTake*. Coles was awarded the Medal of Freedom, the nation's highest civilian honor in 1998.

ROBBIE BARNETT is a London-based journalist and researcher specializing in the contemporary situation in Tibet. In 1987, he founded the Tibet Information Network (TIN), an independent news and research organization. He has written for the *Guardian*, the *Independent*, the *Observer*, the *South China Morning Post* and various other publications. In addition to his numerous magazine and newspaper articles, Barnett is the author of a groundbreaking study of Tibet, *Cutting Off the Serpent's Head: Tightening Control in Tibet 1994-1995*, copublished with Human Rights Watch in 1996. He is frequently a commentator on Tibetan affairs for the BBC World Service, Deutsche Welle, and Radio Netherlands.

JAMPEL TSERING is one of the foremost grassroots political leaders to have escaped from Tibet. A twenty-eight-year-old Drepung Monastery monk, he led the September 27, 1987 demonstration that revived the Tibetan movement for self-determination. Tsering was a member of the Volunteers for Tibet, an underground political organization dedicated to the struggle for Tibetan Independence. He spent five years in Drapchi Prison, accused of "participating in the criminal activities of a counter-revolutionary clique." In 1996, Tsering escaped across the Himalayas to India, where he has since lived in exile. Five other members of the Volunteers for Tibet are currently serving prison sentences that range from ten to nineteen years.

UMBRAGE EDITIONS is a New York-based award-winning publisher and packager of provocative visual books and multimedia projects including high-quality visual books, traveling exhibitions, and multimedia projects. Umbrage Editions creates content-rich products, bringing them from their initial conception to development and final production. Umbrage projects vary in subject matter from classic photojournalism to cutting-edge art, from pop culture to global human rights. For more information, contact www.umbragebooks.com.

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The cover plus two images are available without charge for press promotion of *The Tibetans: A Struggle to Survive*.

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