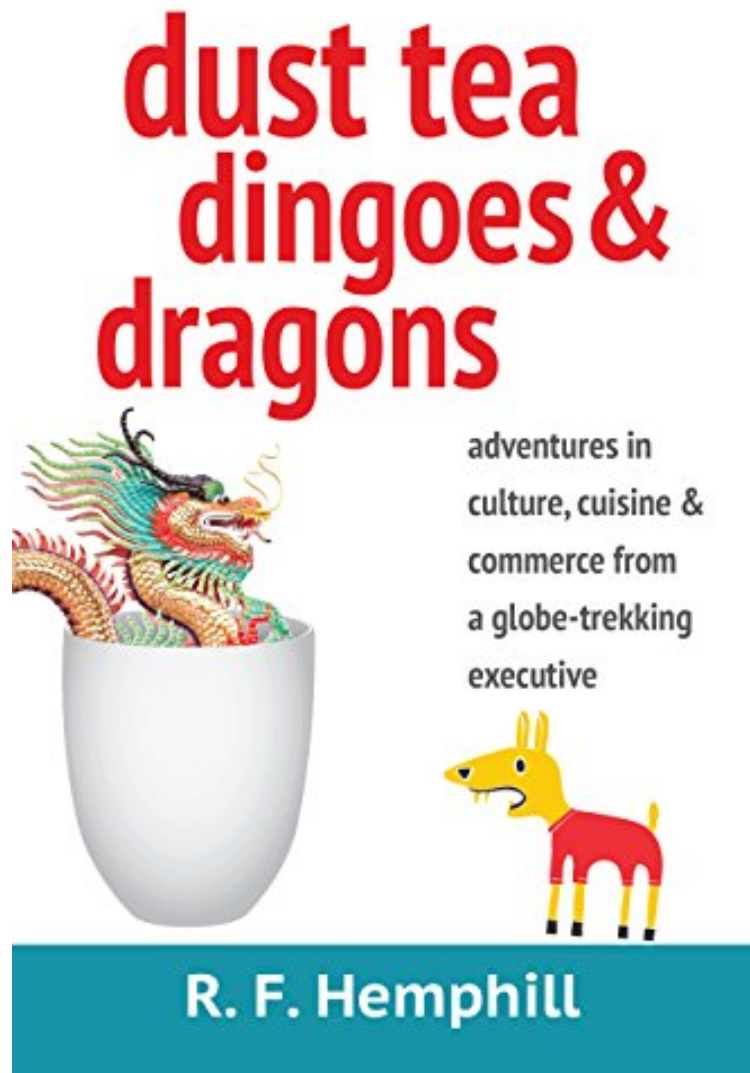


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# Dust Tea, Dingoes and Dragons: Adventures in Culture, Cuisine and Commerce from a globe-trekking executive

*R.F. Hemphill*

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**R.F. Hemphill : Dust Tea, Dingoes and Dragons: Adventures in Culture, Cuisine and Commerce from a globe-trekking executive** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Dust Tea, Dingoes and Dragons: Adventures in Culture, Cuisine and Commerce from a globe-trekking executive:

2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. and I am not an easy audience. I really enjoyed how he displayed the ...By Mark BoyadjianThe book's structure and the author's sense of humor kept me engaged the entire time. I laughed out loud at least two dozen times, and I am not an easy audience. I really enjoyed how he displayed the silliness of his potential VC deals. My favorite, in particular, was the story about the Nobel Prize Applicant/Luke Skywalker and the aluminum beanies that followed.The nice thing about this book is that it sounds like a bunch of stories the author is retelling to his father, but every now and then he sprinkles in a lesson to be learned.I would have liked to hear more stories about the early days at AES and some more business related content such as how they negotiated their deals, but that is my selfish MBA side talking. And it also would have been interesting if there were responses from this dad.Overall, I thought this was a great book and will be recommending it to my buddies. I hope he writes his follow up book on his more recent times at AES Solar.0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Entertaining, Instructive...and Endearing?By Neil E.Both of Hemphill's books will appeal to readers of different genres including business, social studies, travel, gonzo journalism, satire, politics, international studies, and philosophy. Yes, even philosophy, as this man's journey should incite existential questions...This is a hard book to pigeon hole because it serves many purposes. A compilation of short essays written in a very personal (and darkly funny) way provides invaluable insight into the entrepreneurial mindset that turned a million dollars into forty billion and the roller coaster ride that went with it. But that's not the point of the book. I haven't decided if it's more endearing that he's trying to explain the hijinks of international corporate venturing to his decidedly middle class family or instructive in a way that an academic study could never be about political, economic, and social realities. There are lessons for everybody here, but ultimately, it's entertaining, and modular. Sure, there is some chronology, but you can pretty much pick up any essay, read it in a couple of minutes, and go away entertained, until the next time. Required reading for anybody new to the electric industry post-Enron, and anybody working at AES to understand their ancestry.3 of 3 people found the following review helpful. Highly recommendBy Roger W. SantThis is a wonderful romp through the world of international power. Being the co-founder of the subject Company obviously made it more fun for me but I would think anyone picking it up for the first time would find it funny, instructive, and insightful. Because Bob wrote these letters in real time I got to read them first time around but never in their totality. So again it was especially enjoyable for me.Bob was a wonderful partner in all that we did yet as far as I know this is the only account of it's kind.

Jet lag, boardrooms, and high-pressure deals. That's what international business brings to mind. But R.F. Hemphill makes us think again. Sharing a series of letters sent to his father during his decade of traveling the world building a billion-dollar company, Hemphill illuminates the always practical, sometimes poignant, and often funny ways we must connect if business is to be done. "If they served you camel hooves for dinner, and you didn't know it until you asked, what part of the camel did you have for breakfast?" "In Islamabad hotels, you must sign a form certifying that you are an infidel and will assuredly go to hell, in order to get room service to bring you a drink. Is this form binding if you die outside of Pakistan?" "Can you really claim to be in the movie industry if you don't dress all in black, have a small pony tail, wear an earring, have an idea for a screen play, and harbor a desire to meet Meryl Streep?" "Cinemas in the Czech Republic serve bacon-flavored popcorn. Why can't we get that in the US? It's even better than cheese-flavored popcorn. The whole movie theater smells like breakfast." Millions of people around the world travel for business. But how many of us take the time to truly appreciate what we observe and experience? dust tea, dingoes, dragons is a lesson in the meshing of cultures, the diplomacy of building business relationships, and, ultimately, of living life to the fullest.

About the AuthorMr. Hemphill for much of his career was employed at AES, a global electric power generating and distribution company, where he served as Executive Vice President and Chief of Staff to the CEO. Hemphill was one of the three executives who began the company in 1981, growing it from a million dollar six person start up. AES owns and operates 38,000 MW of power plants in 21 countries around the globe, is publicly listed on the NYSE, and had approximately \$18 billion of revenues in 2013. Recently, Hemphill was the founder and CEO of AES Solar Power Ltd from its inception until his retirement in December 2013. The company, formed in March 2008, is a joint venture of the AES Corporation and Riverstone LLC, an energy focused private equity fund. AES Solar is a leading developer, owner and operator of utility-scale photovoltaic solar plants connected to the electric power grid. These installations, ranging in size from less than 2 MW to more than 250 MW, consist of large arrays of land-based solar photovoltaic panels that directly convert sunlight to electricity. Under his leadership, the company designed, permitted and constructed fifty-one solar plants (526 MW) in seven countries: Spain, France, Italy, Bulgaria, Greece, India and the US. He has also been a senior policy official at the Department of Energy and Deputy Manager of Power at the Tennessee Valley Authority. Mr. Hemphill graduated Magna Cum Laude from Yale University and earned an MA from UCLA and an MBA from George Washington University. He served as an airborne infantry officer in the US Army in Vietnam, and in the Special Forces. His interests include geraniums, unsuccessful participation in Final Four pools, sporadic exercise, competitive duck cooking and tribal art.