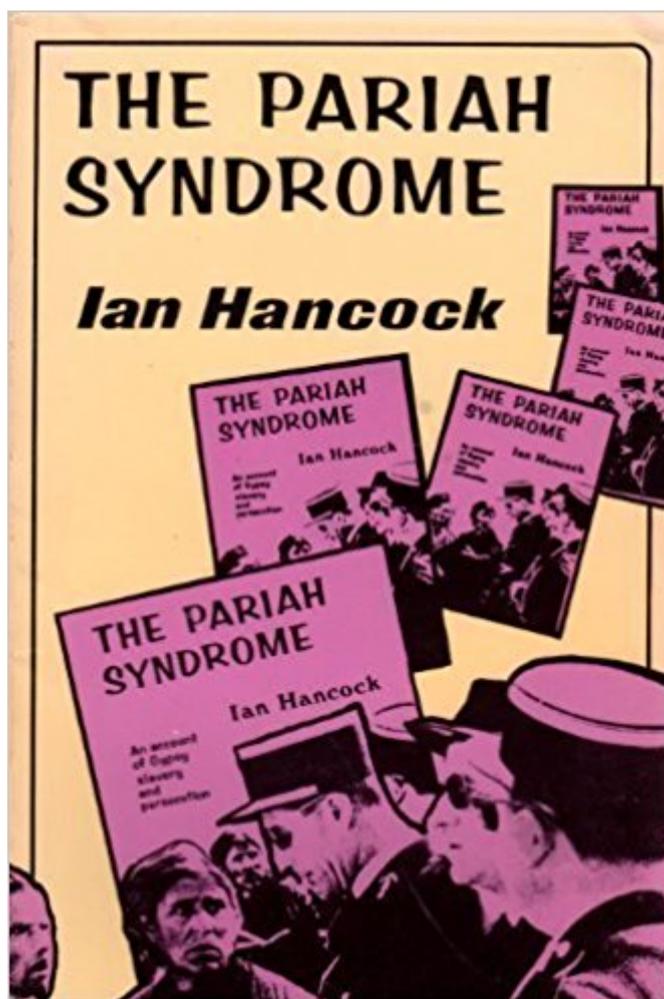


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The Pariah Syndrome: An Account Of Gypsy Slavery And Persecution



Synopsis

Book by Hancock, Ian F.

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Customer Reviews

I looked for this book for years before recently finding an excellent copy of the second, paperback edition. Alas, it proves every bit as heart-rending as I'd expected. Dr. Hancock has written an important and necessary account of the largely untold story of oppression against the Romani people, which deserves much wider distribution. The book touches on the genocide committed against the Rom in the Holocaust, when an estimated 500,000 Romani people were murdered. But my chief interest concerned the derivation of the Rom arrival as slaves in Europe. I had known for many years that the Rom originated in India, had been enslaved for 500 years in Europe and were emancipated only in the first half of the 19th century. But what was the genesis of this massive oppression, first documented in Moldavia in 1333 under Rudolph IV and Stephan Dusan, and relieved only following the 1826 Russian invasion of Moldavia and Wallachia? This was a mystery prior readings did not address. In truth, the source of Rom enslavement was not so hard to determine. Therefore it seems surprising that, as best I can tell, only the late K.S. Lal ever examined or even touched on the obvious source of the Roma presence in Europe: the Islamic jihad conquests that swept all the way to India beginning in the 8th century. But indeed, as Lal notes in *Legacy of Muslim Rule in India* (pp. 112-113), it was the invaders' practice during their 500 year reign of devastation to "capture defenseless [Hindu] people and make them slaves for service and sale.

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