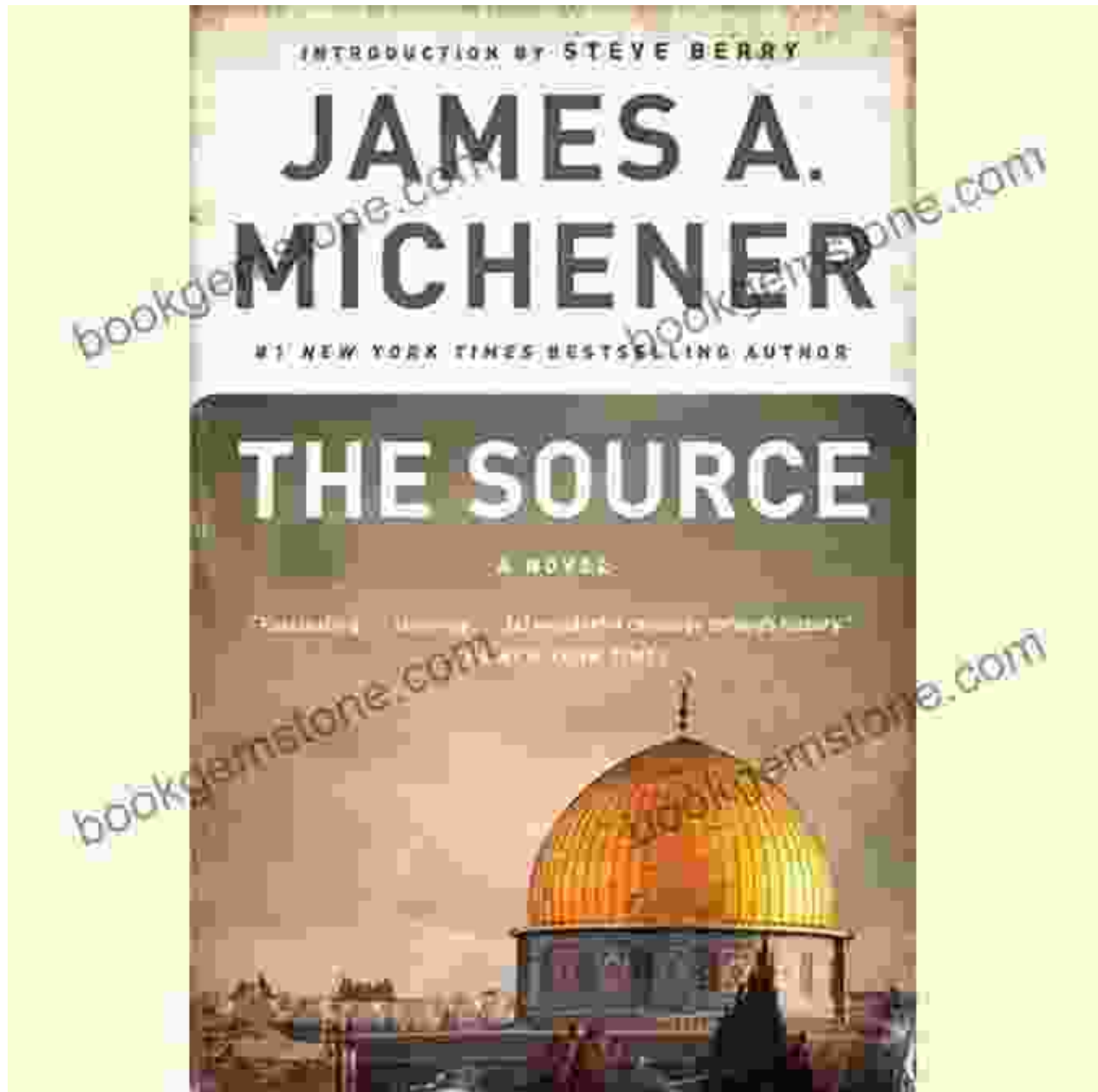
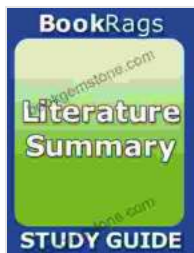


The Source: A Comprehensive Guide to James Michener's Magnum Opus



James Michener's "The Source" is an epic historical novel that spans thousands of years and explores the rich cultural tapestry of the Middle

East. Published in 1965, the novel was a critical and commercial success, selling over 10 million copies worldwide.



Summary & Study Guide The Source; a Novel by James

A. Michener by BookRags.com

★★★★☆ 4.2 out of 5

Language : English
File size : 164 KB
Text-to-Speech : Enabled
Enhanced typesetting : Enabled
Lending : Enabled
Screen Reader : Supported
Print length : 75 pages



"The Source" is a complex and sprawling work, but its underlying theme is the search for identity. The novel follows the lives of multiple characters as they struggle to find their place in a tumultuous and ever-changing world.

Plot Summary

The novel is set in the fictional Arab town of Makor, which is located in the Negev Desert. The story begins with the arrival of Amir Kabiri, a young Arab who has come to Makor to escape the British authorities. Amir is a brilliant scholar and poet, and he quickly becomes a respected member of the community.

However, Amir's arrival in Makor also brings with it a wave of change. The British are beginning to exert their control over the region, and the traditional way of life in Makor is threatened. Amir and his fellow villagers are forced to confront the challenges of modernity and globalization.

The novel also explores the complex relationships between the different ethnic and religious groups in Makor. Arabs, Jews, and Christians have lived together in the town for centuries, but tensions between these groups are often high. Amir and his friends must find a way to bridge these divides and create a more harmonious community.

Characters

"The Source" features a large cast of characters, each with their own unique story to tell. Some of the most important characters in the novel include:

- **Amir Kabiri:** A young Arab scholar and poet who comes to Makor to escape the British authorities.
- **Dvora Baron:** A Jewish woman who is the granddaughter of one of the founders of Makor.
- **Father Elias:** A Christian priest who is the spiritual leader of the town.
- **Yussef el-Hajj:** A Muslim elder who is the keeper of the town's secrets.
- **Ibrahim el-Khalif:** A Bedouin chieftain who is both friend and foe to the people of Makor.

Themes

"The Source" explores a wide range of themes, including:

- **The search for identity:** The novel's characters are all struggling to find their place in a changing world.
- **The clash between tradition and modernity:** The British arrival in Makor brings with it a wave of change that threatens the traditional

way of life.

- **The importance of community:** The people of Makor must find a way to live together in harmony despite their differences.
- **The power of love:** Love is a powerful force that can overcome hatred and division.

Style

"The Source" is written in a rich and descriptive style. Michener uses vivid imagery and sensory details to bring the setting and characters to life. The novel is also notable for its use of multiple perspectives. Michener tells the story from the point of view of many different characters, which gives the reader a well-rounded understanding of the events.

Critical Reception

"The Source" was a critical and commercial success. The novel won the Pulitzer Prize for Fiction in 1966, and it has been translated into over 30 languages. However, the novel has also been criticized for its length and its sometimes over-simplified portrayal of history.

Legacy

"The Source" is considered to be one of the most important American novels of the 20th century. The novel has had a profound impact on readers around the world, and it has helped to increase awareness of the Middle East and its people.

"The Source" is a powerful and thought-provoking novel that explores the timeless themes of identity, community, and love. The novel's rich characters and vivid setting make it a truly unforgettable read.

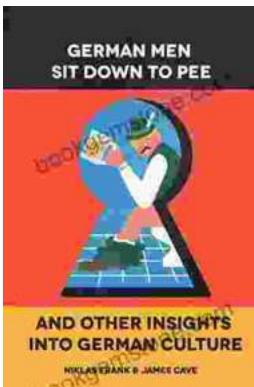


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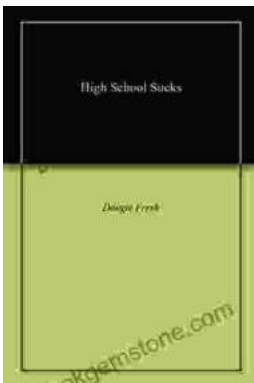
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