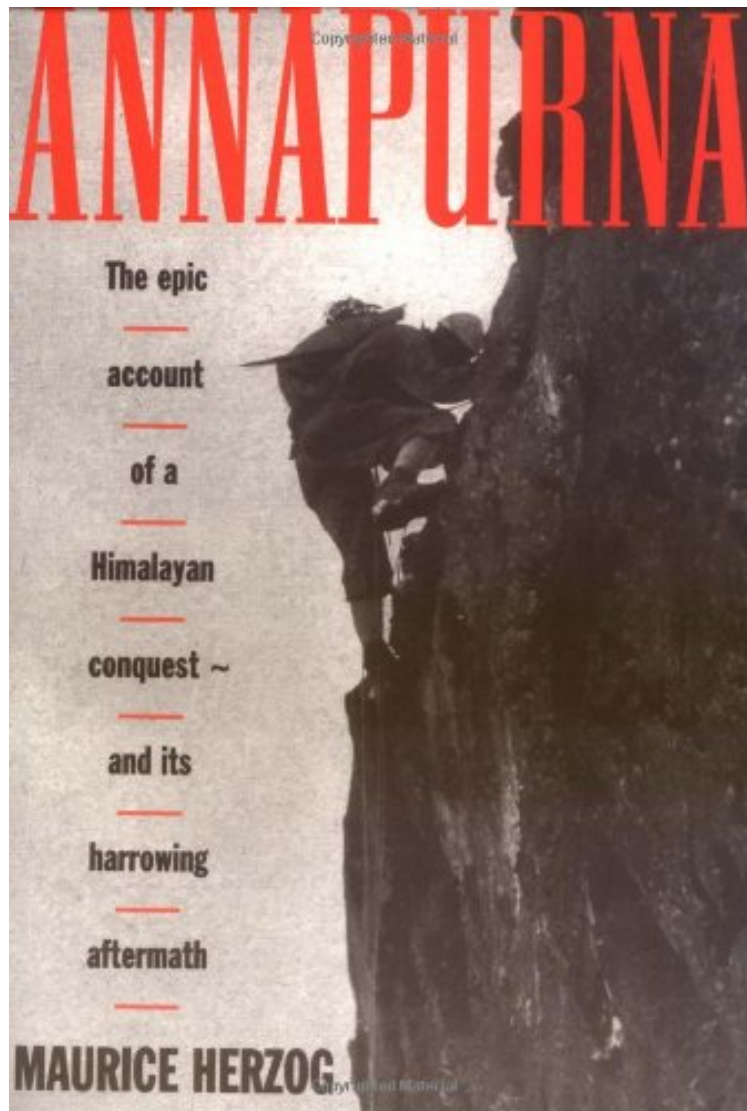


Annapurna

Maurice Herzog

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Maurice Herzog : Annapurna before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Annapurna:

6 of 6 people found the following review helpful. Laconic account of an entire expedition, not just climbing action By Peter Monks While considered a mountaineering classic, "Annapurna", or Maurice Herzog's account of the first expedition to successfully climb a 8000 m mountain is more a story of the expedition as a whole rather than a detailed account of technical climbing - the reader expecting a few hundred pages of which pitons were used, etc, may be a bit disappointed. I enjoyed the wider account of the expedition and the challenges associated with actually finding

Annapurna (or the original objective, Dhaulagiri) and identifying a viable route up in poorly mapped country while racing the clock against the monsoon season - although Herzog's account has the relatively dry detachment I normally associate with the British upper-class explorer of the past and does not always succeed in conveying the immediacy or drama of the expedition. His account of the final stages of the climb and the near-disastrous aftermath is more compelling, although it is only through reading other works that I have been fully able to grasp the risks involved or the challenges imposed by the clothing and equipment of the day. The reader should be aware that there are other accounts of this expedition that dispute Herzog's version of events, and like the other reviewers of the kindle edition I find the lack of maps a considerable weakness. Overall, an interesting account of an undoubtedly demanding and heroic expedition, although the reader who is looking for a more vivid picture of mountaineering of the era will almost certainly get more out of *The White Spider*. Probably a 3 1/2 star book, and an edition with the maps restored would almost nudge it up to 4 stars.

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Climbing history, done pretty well
By Mentalfloss
1 Good for the history and quite a bit of adventure. It's amazing that they set out to climb a different peak and when that fell through it took them a long while to find Annapurna. This is back before satellite imaging, GPS or even decent maps. Their gear was state of the art for 1950 but much of it would not be considered as gear today. Their treatments for frostbite were appalling. Their "attack and conquer" attitude was of the time but has always left me a little amazed. The book became long and wordy in places but these were no doubt hardy, tough and smart men, with courage to spare. It's not my favorite climbing book but it's worth reading.

2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. Had to read to the end
By Kindle Customer
This book was fascinating. Nepal is so remote. This book was published in 1950. One hopes the land is still as mysterious and beautiful. Maurice Herzog sacrificed a lot to realize his dream of climbing Annapurna. He and his team were the first. Their equipment was in no way sufficient to protect them from the cold. They advanced on sheer willpower. And crazy.

Z99 grit and courage members of the French Alpine Club face frostbite snow blindness and near death to reach the summit of the uncharted 26493-foot Himalayan peak Annapurna

.com Before Everest, there was Annapurna. Maurice Herzog led an expedition of French climbers to the summit of this 26,000-foot Himalayan peak in 1950. At the time of the assault, it was the highest mountain ever climbed, a remarkable feat in itself made all the more remarkable by the fact that it had never previously been charted. Herzog and his team not only had to climb the darn thing, they had to find the route. As riveting as the tale of the ascent remains nearly half a century later, the story of the descent through virtually unsurvivable--think avalanche and frostbite, for starters--conditions is unforgettable. Herzog's masterful account, finally back in print, is a monument of courage and spirit, an epic adventure excitingly told. "Those who have never seen the Himalayas...will know that they have been a companion of greatness." --New York Times Book