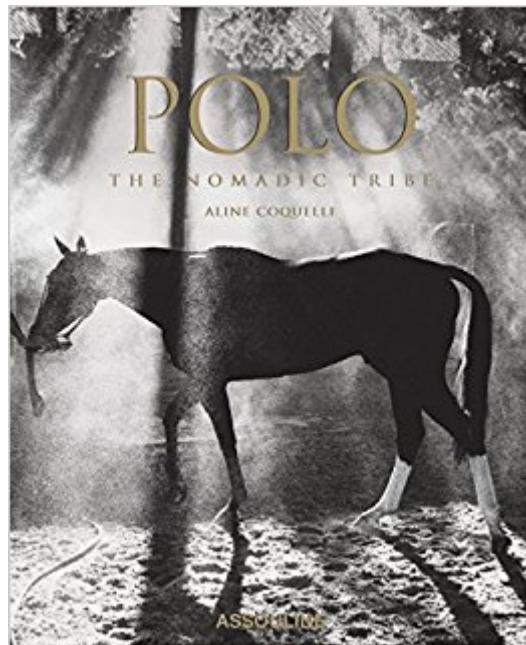


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# Polo: The Nomadic Tribe (Classics)



## **Synopsis**

This is the ultimate book on the sport of polo. Polo is not only a sport, it is a state of mind, a lifestyle, a value system, a philosophy of life. Polo is about courage, strength, and speed. Beauty, elegance, and allure. This stunning volume explores all. Players of polo, whether from India, England, Argentina, or Mongolia, are united by their love of the sport and the adventurous lifestyle that goes along with it. Photographing and writing about each important place along the polo route, Aline Coquelle, who traveled around the world for five years to celebrate the prestige, cosmopolitanism, and fun of polo, opens the door to this chic nomadic tribe.

## **Book Information**

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## **Customer Reviews**

Bought this for my boyfriend who plays polo - it is a beautiful book.

A perfect coffee table book that guarantees every guest will pick up and wonder why they are not playing polo. It widens your world!

Very good pictures and book!

Another large, coffee table book about polo, a bit chaotic, with too few and too small pictures. But the history of the sport around the world is fascinating. As is this newest finding described in the "New Historian" blog: Eight polo sticks and three leather balls discovered in the Yanghai Tombs in

northwestern China have been dated back between 2,400 and 2,800 years, potentially pushing back the origins of the game that is famed for being the sport of the elite around the world. The first mentions of Chinese polo in writing date from the period of the Han Dynasty, between 202 BCE and 221 CE. Although the balls found in the Yanghai Tombs have a design similar to others found in the tomb of a Han ruler in the Gansu province, also in northwestern China, they seem to be significantly older. So far, historians and archaeologists have been unable to accurately date the origin of the sport. The three balls are made of sheepskin and are stuffed with leather and wool. The sticks, with their long handles, resemble in shape and design the polo sticks featured in paintings from a much later Chinese dynasty, the Tang Dynasty from 618-907 CE. Similar polo sticks have been excavated from the Astana Tombs, located near the Yanghai Tombs, also in Turpan. The Yanghai Tombs are a major archaeological site in China, with some of the graves there dating back 3,000 years. It has been the object of research for almost fifty years now, yielding a wealth of artefacts and information about life in the region. The 54,000 sq. m site contains well preserved mummies, thanks to its dry climate, which have been identified as belonging to the Subeixi people. It is due to the same dry climate that the polo sticks and balls have been so well preserved over the millennia. The Subeixi, fair-haired, Caucasian in appearance, are considered to have been the first steppe people to quit the nomadic lifestyle characteristic of the time and region, and settle down permanently in the Turpan Basin. This started around 3,000 years ago and over the course of a millennium the Subeixi became pastoralists, taking part in the creation of the notorious trade path known over the centuries as the Silk Road, according to archaeologist K. Kris Hirst. The Subeixi civilisation fell to the Western Han Dynasty some time around 100 CE. It now seems, however, that part of their culture was playing polo, just like other ancient cultures in the region. Until now, Polo was believed to have originated about 2,600 years ago in Persia, but it was also known that the steppe peoples of Central Asia regularly played it, not just as a friendly sport but as part of military training, first of royal guards and the cavalry, and then, it seems, of a wider range of warriors, according to historical documents. Given that one of the most distinctive features of these peoples was their horse-riding prowess, it would only be natural that in the absence of war, the army would maintain their prowess by playing polo, sometimes with as many as a hundred people in each team. One can only marvel at the long way this game has come, from a military training discipline to a pastime for the aristocracy. Robert C. Ross May 2015

Many important and famous polo personalities have written a comment, but wait just a comment! 123 words preface my idol Adolfo Cambiaso, in which he says more or less just that in his life and

his career he is doing what he loves, polo, nice. An introduction by Patrick Guerrand-Hermes, which at this moment was the very controversial FIP president, now he resigned. It continues with a long history of polo in India, Jaipur, and elephant polo, polo in the UK by Mr Nicholas Colquhoun-Denvers, HPA president and chairman, Pakistan, USA Adam Snow, one of the few Not-Argentine's who ever reached + 10 handicap, at least in the USA. Marcos Uranga and Alberto Pedro Heguy try to describe the magic of the Argentine Polo. Then it goes to the roots and I think more to the title of the book polo in Mongolia; than Lionel Macaire, who in his time "best" and probably for all time at least, legendary French polo player, writes about polo in France. Already bored? Not to mention Morocco, Snow Polo in the Alps, Dubai and Mexico. The oversize makes it a bit difficult. Of course, interesting pictures from around the world to see, but there was no picture here of what I was impressed by the action or otherwise. Then it is also a matter of taste, but for my personal feelings in Yellow Pages-press-style are crammed with 19 small photos (page 21) and 48 photos on a double page (40/41) is an absolute sensory overload for my eyes. There are quite a few! Well at least I think I know a lot of people in the scene, but small picture comments would have made me even happier, and the book a bit more informative. Finally, I would observe, however, the "Nomadic Tribe" it describes it quite well. Basically, polo fanatics are somehow nomads. During the season they travel weekend getaway from tournament to tournament, and weather in the winter break always following the sun and the polo events afterwards, either to the Argentine Open or maybe slightly more exclusive Palm Beach, Florida, the family vacation is already booked for years but only after Polo options, that's really polo life! As expected from the FIP (Federation of International Polo), otherwise it is a colorful mix of old, partially almost historical images, when Queen Elizabeth was just so young? or when Juan Carlos Harriot and the Heguy sen. played together? and newer material. So you'll see faded black-and-white photographs and current photographs side by side. A little bit too big, a little big too much pics on a page, a little bit few words.

This is a fabulous coffee table book! It is actually informative. It condenses the history of polo; but it does so in an entertaining way. I am a polo lover and this was a great first book to add to my future collection.

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