

Accompanying *Babel* is photographic journal of the same title. Like the film, *Babel* the book (Taschen) is a breath-taking pilgrimage across continents. From Tijuana to Tokyo, photographers Mary Ellen Mark, Patrick Bard, Graciela Iturbide and Miguel Rio Branco accompanied director Inarritu on his one-year vigil. Documenting the people and landscapes encountered, the monumental images that resulted are ones of separateness and isolation, exposing the cultural differences and misunderstandings that alienate mankind the world over. In Tijuana, an American/Mexican border is littered with wooden crosses, marking the deaths of those who didn't make it across. In Morocco, women wrapped in black burkhas trail a rubble-strewn wasteland as vast as the sky, while in Tokyo the sprawling fast-paced metropolis pulsates beneath its sea of alienated inhabitants. Alongside text from Inarritu himself is an essay by acclaimed Cuban novelist and poet Eliseo Alberto on the uniting power of photography. More than just a visual odyssey across continents, *Babel* is a weighty social commentary bridging cultures. Whether you've seen the film or not, meditate on its message. HS www.taschen.com