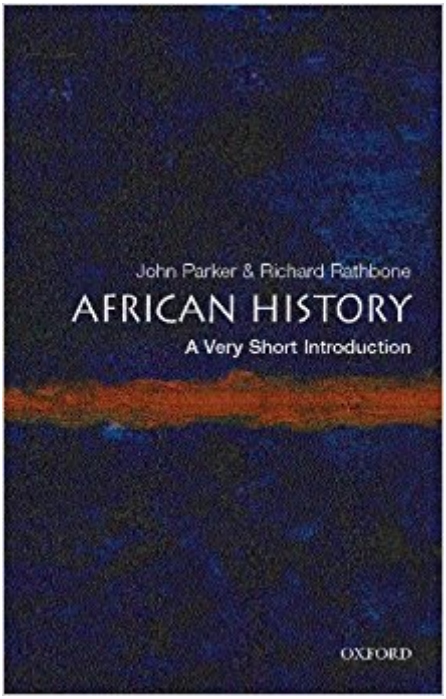
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African History: A Very Short Introduction (Very Short Introductions)



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Synopsis

Essential reading for anyone interested in the African continent and the diversity of human history, this Very Short Introduction looks at Africa's past and reflects on the changing ways it has been imagined and represented. Key themes in current thinking about Africa's history are illustrated with a range of fascinating historical examples, drawn from over 5 millennia across this vast continent.ABOUT THE SERIES: The Very Short Introductions series from Oxford University Press contains hundreds of titles in almost every subject area. These pocket-sized books are the perfect way to get ahead in a new subject quickly. Our expert authors combine facts, analysis, perspective, new ideas, and enthusiasm to make interesting and challenging topics highly readable.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Appearance: True to its name, this is a small pocket sized book from Oxford with a good and sturdy thick cover.Content: If you want a standard, linear progression of the African continent, you must walk away. This book is an small academic companion to african historical studies. Not intending to ACTUALLY speak on African history, the authors rather discuss the many problems, theories and experiences of scholars studying African history. It is an AMAZING read and it lifted the proverbial

veil from my eyes. I have since gone on to deepen my knowledge of the academic study of history and its many quandries. A good read for any budding academic, geek, African Studies minor, major, student or interested persons.Categories: African Studies, History.I fully recommend this.

Buy this book because it accomplishes the two prime goals of the state of African history at present anyway: information and agency. The ÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã Å“whatÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã Â• and the ÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã Å“who saysÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã Â• of the discipline which has emerged in our life time (as in ÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã Å“Who high jacked our Africa?ÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã Â•). For example, chapter one is titled ÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã Å“The idea of AfricaÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã Â• and has several subheadings such as ÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã Å“The invention of AfricaÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã Â• before going into more traditional headings such as ÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã Å“The lie of the land.ÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã Â• The last chapter is ÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã Å“Memory and Forgetting.ÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã Â• The usual information is related, and the bibliography is fantastic. All in 160 pages. Remembering how hard it is to write a good 500-word paper, the briefness of the book puts premium on content and deft phrasing. This volume is one of over 200 titles in the series, http://www.veryshortintroductions.com/. Did I say ÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã Å“Buy this bookÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã Â•?

Eternal blessings, good customer service, not what I expected

Africa is large and complex and African history is that multiplied many times. There was nothing easy or obvious in the topics covered by author, it all involved great scholarship and mastery of the subject. History and historiography were discussed with just enough background so the person with a casual backround could understand but also with enough depth that provided serious learning for the reader. The book dealt with a variety of topics some which I had little background or interest in, but I found them all well worth reading about.

Again a handy refeence

This slim volume presents an extremely broad brush of the major points of African history, Details pop up to illustrate a point, but the mail thrust is the overall influence (if any) of climate, geography, tribal custom, colonialization, religion, and mineral wealth on history, and how we got to modern Aftrica. If you are interested in a particular region, people, or event, you'll need to check other works, but this is the big picture well presented and well written.

As the title suggests, this is not an in depth study of the entire continent's history, but an interesting look at how historians and others have thought about and used the history of African nations and peoples for a variety of purposes over time.

I agree with previous reviewers. It helped me teach my Advanced Placement World History students about the themes and opportunities of African History.

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