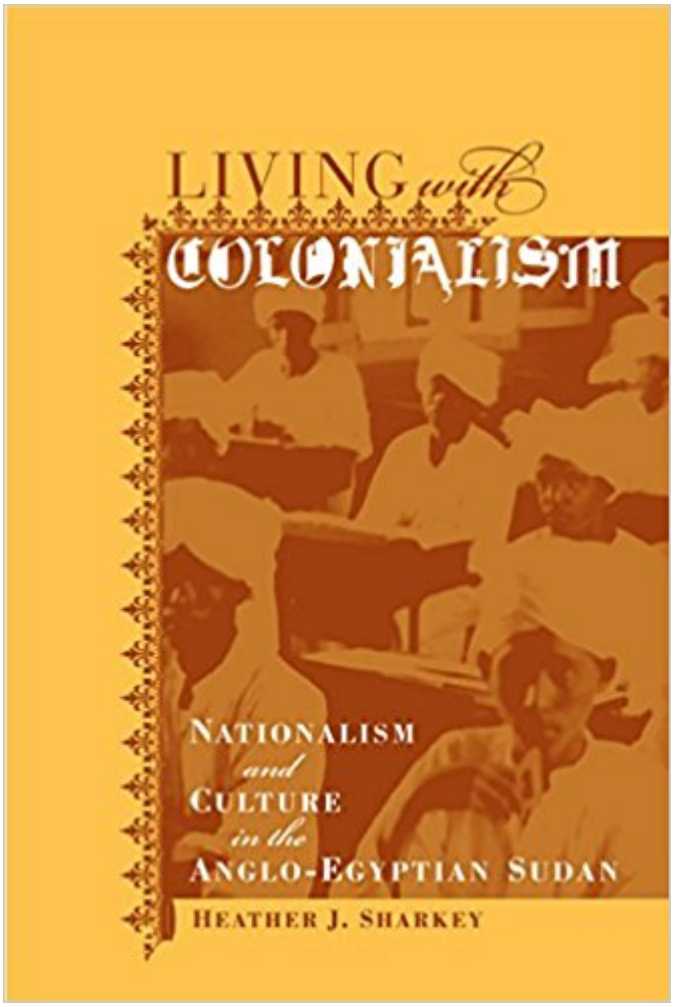
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Living With Colonialism: Nationalism And Culture In The Anglo-Egyptian Sudan



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Synopsis

Histories written in the aftermath of empire have often featured conquerors and peasant rebels but have said little about the vast staffs of locally recruited clerks, technicians, teachers, and medics who made colonialism work day-to-day. Even as these workers maintained the colonial state, they dreamed of displacing imperial power. This book examines the history of the Anglo-Egyptian Sudan (1898-1956) and the Republic of Sudan that followed in order to understand how colonialism worked on the ground, affected local cultures, influenced the rise of nationalism, and shaped the postcolonial nation-state.Relying on a rich cache of Sudanese Arabic literary sources, including poetry, essays, and memoirs, as well as on colonial documents and photographs, this perceptive study examines colonialism from the viewpoint of those who lived and worked in its midst. By integrating the case of Sudan with material on other countries, particularly India, Sharkey gives her book broad comparative appeal. She shows that colonial legacies—such as inflexible borders, atomized multi-ethnic populations, and autocratic governing structures—have persisted, hobbling postcolonial nation-states. Thus countries like Sudan are still living with colonialism, struggling to achieve consensus and stability within borders that a fallen empire has left behind.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Ã¢â ¬Å“Breaks profound new scholarly ground by focusing on the . . . interaction between colonialism and nationalism. . . . Sublime.Ã¢â ¬Â• (Intl Journal Of Middle East Stds (Ijmes) 2010-07-15)

"Heather Sharkey demonstrates that the indigenous functionaries trained and mobilized by the colonial state to implement its rule were the key cohort that gave shape to the nationalist movement and eventually to the contested character of the nation-state in Sudan. . . . This excellent case study parallels renewed interest in similar indigenous elites in India, West Africa, and elsewhere, and speaks to a common concern to trace the roots of the postcolonical predicament confronting so many ex-colonial states."—Dane Kennedy, author of The Magic Mountains: Hill Stations and the British Raj

Not exactly what I wanted but it is a good book.

An eye opening book. Details how the British ruled the colonial Sudan by helping create and educated, at the Gordon Memorial College (present day University of Khartoum), a technocratic class of lower level clerks and minor civil servants. This literate class collaborated with the Empire in ways that allowed a handful of British bureaucrats to rule the vast area of Sudan. But in many ways there was ambivalence and suspicion of each others motives, and feelings of frustrated ambition on the side of the Sudanese. The British used their own racial and imperial prejudices in selecting Arabic speaking groups and families to draw into this class and excluded Southerners and others they termed "detribalized blacks". In doing so they influencing the class's ideas of itself and their environment, and shaped their very narrow vision of the future post colonial nation. A national vision that proved to be as elitist, statist and unable to incorporate the reality of a diverse and complex Sudan. It is this central lack of vision that lies at the heart of the Sudan's failure to build an inclusive nation. It is a sad commentary that the same elite still sees itself as a conduit for propagating western civilization, in the form of such alien ideologies as "secularism", to an essentially savage nation.As a product of this class I am amazed to realize just how narrow this class has remained. Again and again I recognized the actors in this book as being the grandparents of my colleges and friends. In the mid-eighties my educated parents convinced me to withdraw from an English university and return to matriculate at The University of Khartoum. It has been one of the most profound decisions I have ever made.

It's been a while since I read this book, but I remember it being insightful and well argued. Contributes to our understanding about conflicts in this region.

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