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Facing Mount Kenya



Synopsis

With an Introduction by Bronislaw Malinkowski, Facing Mount Kenya is a central document of the highest distinction in anthropological literature, an invaluable key to the structure of African society and the nature of the African mind. Facing Mount Kenya is not only a formal study of life and death, work and play, sex and the family in one of the greatest tribes of contemporary Africa, but a work of considerable literary merit. The very sight and sound of Kikuyu tribal life presented here are at once comprehensive and intimate, and as precise as they are compassionate.

Book Information

Paperback: 352 pages

Publisher: Vintage; Vintge Books ed. edition (February 12, 1962)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0394702107

ISBN-13: 978-0394702100

Product Dimensions: 4.4 x 0.7 x 7.2 inches

Shipping Weight: 8 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.3 out of 5 stars 36 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #123,871 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #4 in Books > History > Africa > Kenya #24 in Books > History > Africa > East Africa #81 in Books > Textbooks > Humanities > History > Africa

Customer Reviews

'Facing Mount Kenya' is a central document of the highest distinction in anthropological literature, an invaluable key to the structure of African society and the nature of the African mind. 'Facing Mount Kenya' is not only a formal study of life and death, work and play, sex and the family in one of the greatest tribes of contemporary Africa, but a work of considerable literary merit. The very sight and sound of Kikuyu tribal life presented here are at once comprehensive and intimate, and as precise as they are compassionate.

Jomo Kenyatta, the grandson of a Kikuyu medicine man, was among the foremost leaders of African nationalism. In the 1930s he studied at the London School of Economics and took his degree in anthropology under Bronislaw Malinowski.

This study of the Kikuyu people by Kenya's first president is remarkable. It helped to establish a

genre of localist writings on literature, history and philosophy that strive to outline the social landscapes of colonial communities. Facing Mount Kenya is an excellent anthropological study that defined the Kenyan national narrative. This short book gives valuable insight into the Kikuyu traditions and customs and denounces the arrogant and racist attitude of some colonial administrators. Although not easy to follow, Jomo Kenyatta's monograph is an important study for those interested in the country and Africa as a whole. Instead of being a "tribal" continent, Africa is more diverse and developed than many people assumed.

Terrific book!

An insightful look at African legal and social structures through the eyes of the founder of Kenya. A must read for understanding the problems which face the continent today in its attempt to "Westernize."

Its a good resource for studying Afrika in general, and Kenya in particular, during the ending years of colonialism.

This book gives a detailed look at how kenyans in general and the kikuyu in particular lived before the coming of the white man. The disruption of this way of life by the British. The sequence of events and the mindsets of the people that eventual led to the revolution war and eventual independence. Should be a must read for anybody who wants to understand the kenyans in general and kikuyus in particular.

Authentic, surprisingly objective and well written in English by a first generation college educated Kenyan. It's no surprise that he went on to become Kenya's first president following the end of colonial rule. I recommended it as a "must read" to anyone ready for a basic understanding of Kenyan "roots".

Good condition and great book.

Good book to read if traveling to Kenya, also a great read for social anthropology.

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