



The book was found

The Ethiopian Borderlands: Essays In Regional History From Ancient Times To The End Of The 18th Century



Synopsis

Historical studies of Ethiopia, like those of other countries often tend to concentrate on events at or near the centre of political power, and devote far too little attention to other areas. Concentration on the interior is intensified in the Ethiopian case by the imbalance of archaeological and literary sources, which are infinitely richer for the centre of the country than for the borderlands, particularly those to the south and west. The present very tentative account attempts at least in part to redress the balance by shifting attention to the "peripheral" regions, which, though of central importance to their own inhabitants, tend to receive relatively little attention in studies of the Ethiopian region as a whole. The coverage of such areas in these pages is, however, also unbalanced, for it reflects the geographically very unequal availability of sources. The attention accorded to different places at different times is thus based less on their actual importance than on the historical records at our disposal. It seemed more useful to present such data as is available for each area more or less as it stands rather than to compress or expand it in accordance with any imposed schema which would doubtless also be fairly arbitrary. The nature of the sources has also greatly influenced the subject matter covered. Most Ethiopian chronicles and other historical documents, both Christian and Muslim, are largely preoccupied with war. The story they tell, and which thus finds its way into these pages, thus often focuses on bloodshed and rapine rather than on the more significant events of everyday life for which data is often sadly lacking. Where information on such matters is available it has, however, been presented in detail. There can, however, be no denying the importance, and destructiveness, of war in the period under discussion, which extends to the end of the eighteenth century. The battles of this time, irrespective of their rights and wrongs as seen by their protagonists, were often most debilitating. Religious conflicts, though ostensibly fought for the highest motives, were no exception. The great migrations, though later a source of pride or nostalgia for the survivors' descendants, were often accompanied by much fighting and numerous casualties. The picture of warfare here presented is inevitably often one-sided, for we have been obliged to rely on the historical records available from one side or another. Seldom are sources available simultaneously from both sides. A one-sided account, we may argue, is, nevertheless, better than no account at all. Traditional Ethiopian armies in the period under review differed from those of modern times, in that they had neither pay nor rations, let alone any commissariat system of supply. Such armies, irrespective of their origin, and whether composed of highlanders or lowlanders, Christians, Muslims, or animists, lived in large measure on the lands through which they passed. This resulted willy nilly in extensive looting, which took place in the soldiers' own homeland and the lands through which they passed, no less than in those with which they were at war. Some

of the fiercest fighting of this period was between territories of the borderlands and those in the central highlands, but no less violent conflicts were waged among the states on the periphery themselves, as well as by rival contenders for control of the interior. This unsatisfactory, and often tragic, situation was brought to an end only by military reforms, based on the principle of a paid army, first conceived in the second half of the nineteenth century by Emperor Tewodros II, and haltingly introduced a generation later by Emperor Menilek. Peace in the last analysis was made possible only by the eventual unification of the whole area. The movement, and above all the quartering, of troops throughout much of the country over the centuries was, on the other hand, also an integrating factor. It led in various areas, perhaps most noticeably in Ifat in the east as well as in the Oromo-occupied territories of the south, to considerable ethnic intermarriage, and hence to the extensive cultural assimilation of peoples. Fighting in the period under review was almost invariably accompanied not only by killing and destruction, but also by the extensive capture of slaves, which led to no small loss of lives and property. Slaves, if not exported, were for the most part assimilated by the victors, and thus led to a great further inter-blending of peoples and cultures.

Book Information

Hardcover: 489 pages

Publisher: Red Sea Pr (June 1997)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0932415180

ISBN-13: 978-0932415189

Product Dimensions: 1.5 x 5.8 x 8.8 inches

Shipping Weight: 1.8 pounds (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 3.7 out of 5 stars 3 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #1,234,845 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #90 in Books > History > Africa > Ethiopia

Customer Reviews

Historically, studies of Ethiopia, like those of other countries, tend to concentrate on events at or near the center of political power, and devote far too little attention to other areas. The present account attempts, at least in part, to redress the balance by shifting attention to the "peripheral" regions, which, while of central importance to their own inhabitants, tend to receive relatively little focus in studies of the Ethiopian region as a whole. This book is an historical investigative account of the history of the expanding and often nebulous borders of Ethiopia, beginning from ancient times

to 1800. it deals with areas that have for years been contentious and problematic for the adjacent peoples in the region: Land of Bahr Nagash, Ifat, Adal, Fatagar, Dawaro, Bali, Damot, Gurage, Waj, gamo, ganz, Gafat, Kafa, etc. It contains numerous illustrations of antiquities, from old European maps to Ethiopian historical drawings.

Richard Pankhurst, one of the most prolific writers on Ethiopian social history, is the author of *An Introduction to the Medical History of Ethiopia* (RSP 1991) and *A Social History of Ethiopia* (RSP 1992). He is a former director of the Institute of Ethiopian Studies, Addis Ababa University, Ethiopia.

This book is definitive. It covers the region and the timeframe in excellent detail. When I'm looking to find something about the region in the timeframe, this is the first book I grab. Doctor Pankhurst certainly does not disappoint and, in fact, exceeds expectations. It was worth every penny.

the book shed light the human rights abuses in that prison and nobody in the world is talking about it

Purchased for reference purposes only.

[Download to continue reading...](#)

The Ethiopian Borderlands: Essays in Regional History from Ancient Times to the End of the 18th Century Happy 18th Birthday A Memory Book: Letters From The People Who Love You Most: 18th Birthday Book;18th Birthday Gifts for Boys or Girls; 18th Birthday ... Scrapbook (Birthday Memory Books) (Volume 7) Amazing Ethiopian Foods - The Best Ethiopian Cookbook: Have Fun Cooking Ethiopian Food Lonely Planet Ethiopian Amharic Phrasebook & Dictionary (Lonley Planet. Ethiopian Amharic Phrasebook) Alexander: The Great Leader and Hero of Macedonia and Ancient Greece (European History, Ancient History, Ancient Rome, Ancient Greece, Egyptian History, Roman Empire, Roman History) The Windsor Style in America: A Pictorial Study of the History and Regional Characteristics of the Most Popular Furniture Form of 18th Century Ameri The Daily Life of a Roman Family in the Ancient Times - Ancient History Books for Kids | Children's Ancient History World History, Ancient History, Asian History, United States History, European History, Russian History, Indian History, African History. (world history) History: Human History in 50 Events: From Ancient Civilizations to Modern Times (World History, History Books, People History) (History in 50 Events Series Book 1) Life on the North Korea Borderlands: A Collection of Essays by NK News Contributors From South Texas to the Nation: The Exploitation of Mexican Labor in the Twentieth Century (The David J. Weber Series in the New Borderlands History) Fashion: A History from the

18th to the 20th Century American Furniture of the 18th Century: History, Technique & Structure
Ontario House Styles: The distinctive architecture of the province's 18th and 19th century homes
(Lorimer Illustrated History) Architecture and Interior Design Through the 18th Century: An
Integrated History Fashion: A History from the 18th to the 20th Century (2 Volume Set) The 25 Most
Famous People of Ancient Greece - Ancient Greece History | Children's Ancient History The 7
Great Cities of Ancient Mesopotamia - Ancient History Books for Kids | Children's Ancient History
Ancient Egypt: A History From Beginning to End (Ancient Civilizations Book 2) Ancient Rome: A
History From Beginning to End (Ancient Civilizations Book 1)

[Contact Us](#)

[DMCA](#)

[Privacy](#)

[FAQ & Help](#)