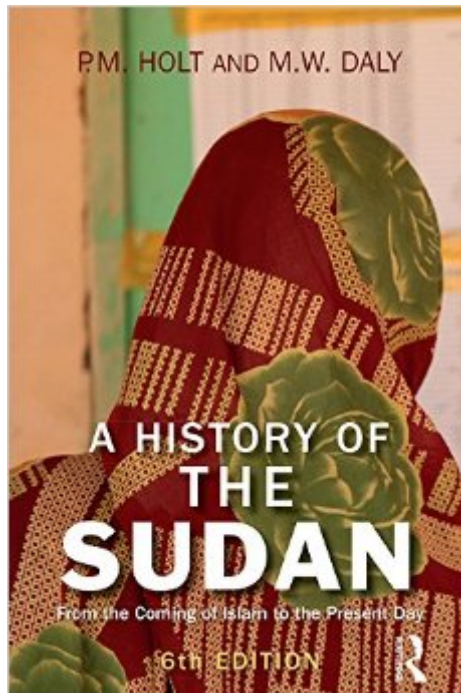


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A History Of The Sudan: From The Coming Of Islam To The Present Day



Synopsis

A History of the Sudan by Martin Daly and PM Holt, sixth edition, has been fully revised and updated and covers the most recent developments that have occurred in Sudan over the last nine years, including the crisis in Darfur. The most notable developments that this text covers includes the decades-long civil war in the South (with the signing of the Comprehensive Peace Agreement in January 2005); the emergence of the Sudan as an oil-producer and exporter, and its resulting higher profile in global economic affairs, notably as a partner of China; the emergence of al-Qaeda, the relations of Sudanese authorities with Osama bin Laden (whose headquarters were in the Sudan in the 1990s), and the Sudanese government's complicated relations with the West. This text is key introductory reading for any student of North Africa.

Book Information

File Size: 2759 KB

Print Length: 212 pages

Page Numbers Source ISBN: 1405874457

Simultaneous Device Usage: Up to 4 simultaneous devices, per publisher limits

Publisher: Routledge; 6 edition (September 11, 2014)

Publication Date: September 11, 2014

Sold by: Digital Services LLC

Language: English

ASIN: B00NHS17C

Text-to-Speech: Enabled

X-Ray: Not Enabled

Word Wise: Enabled

Lending: Not Enabled

Enhanced Typesetting: Not Enabled

Best Sellers Rank: #1,320,289 Paid in Kindle Store (See Top 100 Paid in Kindle Store) #177

in Books > History > Africa > Sudan #220 in Kindle Store > Kindle eBooks > History > Africa >

East Africa #225 in Kindle Store > Kindle eBooks > History > Middle East > Egypt

Customer Reviews

Unless you already know a good deal about the history of the Sudan, this is probably not the book for you. While the text is less than 200 pages (not counting maps, bibliography, and index), the stunning number of names, organizations, and regions in it makes this a slow read, requiring the

kind of careful attention one would use for a textbook. It is not a general history for the general reader. But even with careful reading, this text can be confusing at times. I'm interested in the relationship between Libya and the Sudan through the Nimeiri era, and this book refers to that relationship several times. But it does so in a haphazard and seemingly contradictory way. On pages 168 and 169, Libya appears to support Nimeiri. But on page 172, Libya is cited as supporting the SPLA and, on page 174, the north African country supports a coup attempt against Nimeiri by a rival. No explanation is given for the change of policy. I happen to know the reason for the change, but that is not the point. Any general history should be clear as to why the major actors in its drama have changed their positions. There are other instances of this kind of lack of clarity in the book.

As the title stated, the book is about the history of the Sudan. Here are some observations from the Introduction "The Land and the People" The Native Christians of Sudan are Coptic, traditionally, they live in north Sudan as well as South Egypt. Catholic and other churches came to Sudan in the late 19th and Early 20 century. The writer failed to note that Sudan was a Christian state until the establishment of the Funj "Kingdom" Sultanate in the early 16th Century; instead, it shows the reader as if Christianity came recently with Lebanese and Egyptian immigrants to the Sudan. The writer missed the chronological fact when he wrote how the Shulluk raided the Arab settlement down the White Nile, and how one of these raid led to the foundation of the Funj Kingdom. Last note from the preview is the misnaming or spelling of city of Khartoum as "Khartown". This is very confusing to the first time learner of Sudan history. In the introduction which constitute the abstract of the book, I expected citation of historical facts based on in depth research. However, I m struck by the miss-information and distortion of historical facts.

Noted scholar, P.M. Holt has written a fine history of this region touching on all of the salient points in the development of Islam and its' metamorphosis throughout the 19th century. In particular, he shows how the force of Islam directly affected the Western Powers in Egypt and Sudan from the mid 19th century to the end of that millennium. In my new book, JIHAD: The Mahdi Rebellion in the Sudan (2003) I break down these historical forces and try to show how Islamic Radicalism is not a new force but a historical and cyclical one. We are, in my opinion, in the radical phase of Islamic history. Fundamentalism has reared its' head in many other Moslem nations today in answer to perceived Western intrusion into the sovereign affairs of these countries. Then too, there is the matter of economics- that is- oil! Whereas, the 19th century witnessed the building and opening of the Suez Canal for the purpose of commerce, the 21st has become the "Age of Energy." The Old

Imperialism of the 19th century has given rise to a New Imperialism based on the economics of fossil fuels- most of it lying in Moslem lands. Sudan became a threat to Britain's ambitions in the region in the late 19th century when Fundamentalism among its' people fueled a vast uprising in the 1880's. Professor Holt writes of the entire picture while I try to encapsulate only those factors that impact on the United States today in the War on Terror. I found the book, A HISTORY OF THE SUDAN: FROM THE COMING OF ISLAM TO THE PRESENT DAY a good read but felt that he could have focused more on the factors within Islam that impact the West and the U.S. today in terms of stopping terrorism.

detailed book, the author being lived in the Sudan, gave his views, vision and analysis that reflected the real life and facts.

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