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besides her natural beauty the scenery and the climate and her abundant wildlife and natural resources africa is probably best known as the homeland of hundreds of millions of people who live in abject poverty millions are wracked by disease and blinded by ignorance and just as many go hungry every day but there is something else which also distinguishes africa lack of unity among her people that is one of the main reasons why they were conquered by foreigners and why africa is still weak and poor today there is no other continent which is endowed with so much in terms of natural resources but there is also no other continent where it has been so easy for foreigners to take what does not belong to them this book began as a self examination of the african personality in an attempt to understand africa s place in the world especially in relation to the west

described as the new york review of books for history historically speaking has emerged as one of the most distinctive historical publications in recent years actively seeking out contributions from a pantheon of leading voices in historical discourse this collection of articles and forums by prominent historians explores the relationship of africa to world history maps the current state of the burgeoning field of atlantic history and debates the accuracy of olaudah equiano s seminal narrative the standard approach of world historians often compresses the african past into interpretive frameworks that leave africans without a history of their own joseph c miller makes the case here for an alternative approach a multicentric world history that gives voice to the various ways africans experienced the past and an impressive array of africanist and world historians respond the volume also assesses the state of the field of atlantic history and includes a spirited forum on vincent carretta s provocative thesis that olaudah equiano author of the most important account available of the horrific middle passage was actually born in south carolina and not africa

an exploration of the rapid development of african christianity offering an analysis and interpretation of its movements and issues

a magisterial and sweeping history of modern africa the end of the second world war signalled the rapid end of the european african empires in 1945 only four african countries were independent by 1963 thirty african states created the organization of african unity despite formidable problems the 1960s were a time of optimism as africans enjoyed their new independence witnessed increases in prosperity and prepared to tackle their political and economic problems in their own way by the 1990s however the high hopes of the 1960s had been dashed dictatorship by strongmen corruption civil wars and genocide widespread poverty and the interventions and manipulations of the major powers had all relegated africa to the position of an aid basket case with some of the world's poorest and least developed nations by exploring developments over the last fifteen years including the impact of china new it technology and the arab spring the rise of nigeria as africa's leading country and the recent refugee crisis guy arnold brings his landmark history of modern africa up to date and provides a fresh and

insightful perspective on this troubled and misunderstood continent

over the last decade there has been a shift toward a strategic view of africa china and the us import much of their oil from africa which is clearly emerging on the world stage as a strategic player africa and the new world era probes the importance and significance of this shift and its implications for africa s international relations

through an in depth examination of the interactions between the south african government and the international aids control regime jeremy youde examines not only the emergence of an epistemic community but also the development of a counter epistemic community offering fundamentally different understandings of aids and radically different policy prescriptions in addition individuals have become influential in the crafting of the south african government s aids policies despite universal condemnation from the international scientific community this study highlights the relevance and importance of africa to international affairs the actions of african states call into question many of our basic assumptions and challenge us to refine our analytical framework it is ideally suited to scholars interested in african studies international organizations global governance and infectious diseases

looks at african and european viewpoints on africa and the west

this book is a call on africans and non africans to once more believe in the possibility of a better future for africa in these pages stan chu ilo writes of his experience and the experiences of many young africans like himself who are disturbed by the present condition of africa he writes about the challenges facing most africans who are growing up in the african continent without any hope of quality education without any quarantee of adequate food water housing and clothing without any hope of getting a job and without any prospect of living in peace with their neighbors he writes of the sad situation of millions of young africans who are dying of malaria and hiv aids and the african women whose fate and fortune have been shackled by a male dominated society he questions the bases of the existence of the failed states of africa who are caught up in a cycle of violence and disorder and who are not asking the right questions about the future of their nations he argues that corruption excessive authoritarianism a stubborn hold on power and lack of openness to consensus building among some african leaders insult the cultural value of africans with regard to a sense of community love and solidarity he also writes of the pain of globalization the debt burden immigration and trade restrictions on africans and african countries exploitation of ordinary africans by fellow africans and western governments and business conglomerates he wonders why many western nations should turn their backs on africa when they all share some responsibility in bringing africa to her knees

however even though many africans have become exhausted in the battle for national survival and fora living space to pursue their ordered ends this book proposes that africans should not claim perpetual victimhood rather they should stand up once more and work for a better tomorrow which is possible and within their reach ilo insists that the imposing mountains of economic and social ruin the rising moans and groans of numberless africans should not weaken the inner energy and ardent hopes of millions of africans struggling against the untested assumption that the cracking social political and economic foundations of present day africa are incapable of supporting the structures of a new africa the face of africa today is ugly but behind the ugly face is the beauty that has been distorted by historical and cultural factors the present condition of africa is only the sign of the urgent need for the peoples of africa to brace up for the long and hard journey to reclaim their future ilo outlines how non africans who are interested in the african condition can be involved with the peoples of africa a proper understanding of the african continent and her peoples her history and cultural evolution is a necessary first step for those who wish to be engaged with the africans his total picture approach model as the key to interpreting the african condition and in comprehensively addressing the challenges facing africa offers a helpful and original tool in understanding africa it helps to overcome the stereotypes prejudices and paternalism which non africans apply in their reading of african history and their relation with the african reality with masterly skills a keen sense of history a balanced perspective and objectivity ilo identifies the constraints to growth and innovation in a frica in terms of the low stocks in the human capital and cultural development he introduces a new concept in the interpretation of the african condition homelessness in terms of cultural and existential crises that confront africans today his conclusion is that cultural and human development is the irreducible decimal in any proposal for the transformation of the continent that grassroots village based action should be preferred over bogus and unworkable national approaches to african development

arranged chronologically the essays in this book each brilliantly introduced by the editor deal with the way art and culture interact in modern times each author focuses on one aspect of modern art and its relation to culture by analyzing questioning or refuting the ideas about art that people just assume are true the essays are also grouped into one of four different models used by art theorists today the formalist in which the works of art describe the processes of making art the avant garde art that threatens the status quo the contextualist in which art can exist only in a specific situation or context and the post modernist stating that art is not completely detached from popular culture instructors considering this book for use in a course may request an examination copy here

paying for the state

africa and the west presents a fascinating array of primary sources to engage readers in the history of africa s long and troubled relationship with the west many of the sources have not previously appeared in print or in books readily available to students volume 1 covers two major topics the atlantic slave trade and the european conquest it details the beginnings of the slave trade slavery as a business the experiences of slaves and the effect of abolitionism on the trade using such documents as a letter from a sixteenth century african king to the king of portugal calling for a more regulated slave trade and the nineteenth century testimony of a south african slave accused of treason the volume also covers the early nineteenth century considerations of the costs and benefits of colonization the development of conquest as the century progressed with special attention to technology legislation empire religion racism and violence through such unusual documents as cecil rhodes s will and a chart of the costs of african animals exported to western zoos

most histories seek to understand modern africa as a troubled outcome of nineteenth century european colonialism but that is only a small part of the story in this celebrated book beautifully translated from the french edition the history of africa in the nineteenth century unfolds from the perspective of africans themselves rather than the european powers it was above all a time of tremendous internal change on the african continent great jihads of muslim conquest and conversion swept over west africa in the interior warlords competed to control the internal slave trade in the east the sultanate of zanzibar extended its reach via coastal and interior trade routes in the north egypt began to modernize while algeria was colonized in the south a series of forced migrations accelerated spurred by the progression of white settlement through much of the century african societies assimilated and adapted to the changes generated by these diverse forces in the end the west s technological advantage prevailed and most of africa fell under european control and lost its independence yet only by taking into account the rich complexity of this tumultuous past can we fully understand modern africa from the colonial period to independence and the difficulties of today

we all originated in africa and no matter what our race our most ancient relationship is with that continent reader tells the story of our earliest ancestors adaptation to africa s ferocious obstacles of jungle river and desert and of how its unique array of animals plants viruses and parasites has over millions of years helped and hindered human progress to a degree unknown anywhere else on earth illustrated with many of the author s own photographs which capture the staggering diversity of human experience in every part of the continent from the inland estuaries of the niger and the rain forests of the equator to the deserts of the north and the high veld of the south this book weaves together into a

narrative the rise and fall of ancient civilizations the changing patterns of indigenous life over the millennia the complex history of slavery the devastating impact of european settlers and the fragile reemergence of independent nations

what wove the african continent into the rich fabric of cultures and peoples that it is today where did ancient culture trade and civilization begin how did the african people survive and thrive despite european colonization and apartheid these are just some of the questions you ll find answers to in africa african history from ancient egypt to modern south africa africa is a vast continent whose waters fertile lands minerals and diverse wildlife nurtured humankind since ancient times until european colonization and exploitation caused immeasurable suffering and loss to understand how africa developed thrived suffered and emerged into the rich tapestry of peoples that it is today take a trip back to the ancient river nile and the east african coast witness the development of small settlements into three distinct cultures the carthaginian empire grow and flourish as an economic and commercial power the settlement of the zimbabwe plateau and the construction of enormous stone cities the emergence of the kingdom of kongo and its expansion through peaceful trade and alliances the upheaval atrocities wars and eventual stability created by european colonization the founding of the congo free state and the growth of forced labor to extract valuable resources from the land the decolonization of africa and the return of territorial sovereignty and independence the forced racial segregation under apartheid and the birth of a new constitution that ended it the founding of the african union to establish norms across the continent

meredith has given a spectacularly clear view of the african political jungle spectator this book is hard to beat elegantly written as well as unerringly accurate financial times the fortunes of africa have changed dramatically since the independence era began in 1957 as europe s colonial powers withdrew dozens of new states were born africa was a continent rich in mineral resources and its economic potential was immense yet it soon struggled with corruption violence and warfare with few states managing to escape the downward spiral so what went wrong in this riveting and authoritative account martin meredith examines the myriad problems that africa has faced focusing upon key personalities events and themes of the independence era he brings his compelling analysis into the modern day exploring africa s enduring struggles for democracy and the rising influence of china it is essential reading for anyone seeking to understand the continent s plight and its hopes for a brighter future

this year s african economic outlook reviews recent economic social and political developments and the short term likely evolution of africa the focus is on africa s emerging economic partnerships

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