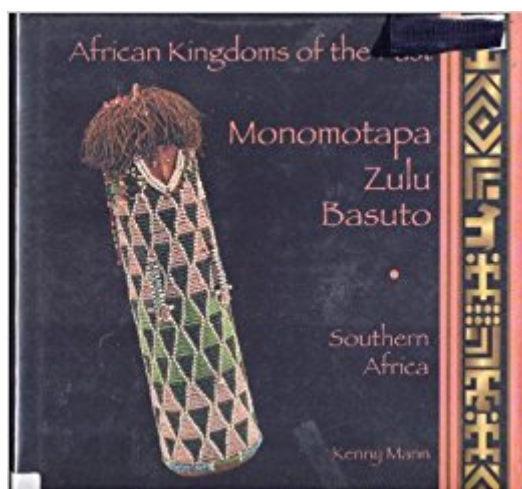


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Monomotapa, Zulu, Basuto: Southern Africa (African Kingdoms Of The Past)



Synopsis

Tracing the history of four African kingdoms which once occupied the region south of the Zambezi River, this study offers insights into the distinctive customs of the indigenous peoples of southern Africa and examines how the European powers changed life in the area forever through colonization and conflict.

Book Information

Series: African Kingdoms of the Past

Hardcover: 105 pages

Publisher: Dillon Pr; 1st edition (June 1996)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0875186599

ISBN-13: 978-0875186597

Product Dimensions: 0.2 x 9.2 x 9.2 inches

Shipping Weight: 2.8 pounds (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 5.0 out of 5 stars 1 customer review

Best Sellers Rank: #3,223,706 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #70 in [Books > Teens > Education & Reference > History > Africa](#) #10495 in [Books > History > Africa](#) #110703 in [Books > History > World](#)

Customer Reviews

Grade 8 Up. Border designs, pastel pages, and striking layouts that include art objects, full-color photographs, and contemporary engravings give these series entries immense visual vitality. Each book opens with an introduction, followed by a historical account of each kingdom. Epilogues bring the areas into the 20th century. Mann's writing is interesting and generally clear, though aspects of organization are confusing, e.g., chapters on single kingdoms are not gathered into units. A few puzzling inaccuracies crop up, such as naming Milton Obote as Zimbabwe's first prime minister (Monomotapa). Multicolored maps, while easy to read, do not include some features considered important enough to be mentioned in the text, and many terms in the fascinating sidebars are not found in the indexes. Partly because they draw on a wealth of good secondary sources, the chapters on Kongo may provide the best treatment of an African kingdom for young people, for they are unique in their detail and in the way that they deal with the variety of sources used by historians in finding out about Africa's past. Archaeological and linguistic evidence are discussed in the introduction. Monomotapa is weaker, in part because it covers so much ground but also because,

for Zulu, Shaka, and the Mfecane, Mann relies uncritically on common South African sources that reflect history written in a white-dominated society. ?Loretta Kreider Andrews, Enoch Pratt Free Library, Baltimore, MD Copyright 1997 Reed Business Information, Inc.

I am a homeschooler who is constantly looking for books to teach about African History. This is the best reference I have found to date on Ancient to old kingdoms in Africa. This is part of a six part series on the past kingdoms of Africa. It is geared for an upper elementary to middle school student. The author is from Kenya and I appreciated the time and justice the author gave to each part of Africa in the 6 total books. You will not be disappointed. I have purchased many books on African History for young people and this is the most thorough I have found. The books are in color and the book is arranged more like a textbook with inlays and little pop outs within the text. There is excellent art work throughout the book. I like this book because it covers less known kingdoms, and the information is in depth. I have found that many books on African History just repeat the very basic facts and offer no culture or richness, this book does. I highly recommend. I will be incorporating this series of books into our African studies curriculum.

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