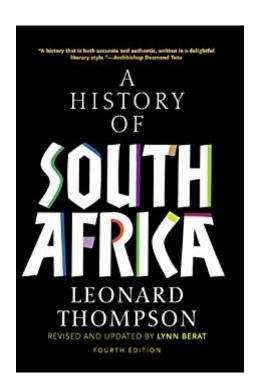
# The book was found

# A History Of South Africa, Fourth Edition





## Synopsis

A magisterial history of South Africa, from the earliest known human inhabitation of the region to the present. Lynn Berat updates this classic text with a new chapter chronicling the first presidential term of Mbeki and ending with the celebrations of the centenary of South Africaâ TMs ruling African National Congress in January 2012. "A history that is both accurate and authentic, written in a delightful literary style.â \*—Archbishop Desmond Tutu "Should become the standard general text for South African history. . . . Recommended for college classes and anyone interested in obtaining a historical framework in which to place events occurring in South Africa today.â \*—Roger B. Beck, History: Reviews of New Books

## **Book Information**

File Size: 11039 KB

Print Length: 512 pages

Publisher: Yale University Press; 4 Rev Upd edition (April 29, 2014)

Publication Date: April 29, 2014

Sold by:Â Digital Services LLC

Language: English

ASIN: B00K5R8D2K

Text-to-Speech: Enabled

X-Ray: Not Enabled

Word Wise: Enabled

Lending: Not Enabled

Enhanced Typesetting: Enabled

Best Sellers Rank: #71,851 Paid in Kindle Store (See Top 100 Paid in Kindle Store) #10 in Kindle Store > Kindle eBooks > History > Africa > Southern Africa #15 in Books > History > Africa > South Africa #24 in Books > Politics & Social Sciences > Politics & Government > Specific Topics > Colonialism & Post-Colonialism

### Customer Reviews

We used this and Nelson Mandela's Autobiography as our textbooks in my South African History class over at UCSD, and I say it's a great overview of the subject. I have to say the portrait Thompson paints of the area's conquest by Europeans, which took place over several centuries and involved a lot of population displacement and forcing the survivors into segregated reservations or impoverished industrialized servitude, reminded me more of my own USA than the typical late

Victorian "Scramble for Africa" invasion. And even though I had originally pictured the British as the most troublesome imperialists in South Africa, the recurring theme in this history is they were commonly the LESSER evil compared to the earlier Dutch colonists (though mind you, this is more of an indictment against the Dutch's extremely vicious inhumanity towards the native Africans than praise for the British). Unfortunately the paucity of written records and recovered archaeological data for South Africa prior to the European invasions has restricted how much information Thompson can present in his opening chapter, but it was my favorite since I admired his objective and respectful presentation of the various African groups (San, Khoikhoi, and Bantu-speakers). It's a valuable corrective to many of the racist "ooga-booga" stereotypes affecting their image without being opaquely rose-tinted. For example, while Shaka of the Zulu does come across as a brutal conquering warlord, Thompson emphasizes that his extreme genocidal tactics were innovations of his imperialistic agenda rather than perfectly continuous and representative of southern Bantu military traditions. In this light Shaka wasn't so much a stereotypical "savage African despot" but more like an evil military genius in the vein of Alexander the Great, Julius Caesar, or Genghis Khan.

This is a first-rate survey of South African history. This is the latest edition of a very successful text written by the late Leonard Thompson which has been updated by his collaborator Lynn Berat. Thompson-Berat attempt a comprehensive survey by opening with the basic ecology and prehistory of what is now South Africa, followed by a nice narrative of the early European contacts & colonization. Excellent chapters on the period of Dutch domination, the major changes that occurred with British conquest and the emergence of more powerful native polities such as the Zulu state, the transforming impact of major involvement in the global economy that followed the discovery of diamond and gold deposits, and on through the development of the modern South African state, the apartheid era, and the subsequent transition to the contemporary South Africa dominated by the ANC. Recurrent themes are the aggressive and destructive nature of European colonialism, the major changes brought about by the peneration of the global economy, and the interesting responses of native African societies. Written well and documented very nicely. My only complaints are the relatively poor quality of the maps and while the bibliography is excellent, an annotated bibliography is always a nice feature in a survey.

Even in its earlier edition, this was the best history of South Africa. Integrates the history and perspective of non-Whites (Africans, Coloureds and Asians) more completely than any other work. Since Leonard Thomson's death, an update was sorely needed. The updated version, which brings

it forward o recent years fills a real gap.

I read this before and after a visit to SA on the way to safari in Botswana. I wish I had finished it before I left, as it would have provided the basis for good conversations the the people I metIt is a very complete history, up through 2014, clearly describing all the country's many, many problems, yet at the end holding out hope. My only criticism is that much too much attention is given to the pre-colonial history. It's a slow slog until you get to the late 19th century. But then it's riveting.

It gave me what I wanted to know but I could have used more maps as I am unfamiliar with the area. A slow read for me as I tried to keep track of the names and places. I would be interested to read a history from an Afrikaner's or a African's point of view.

Planning a future visit to South Africa, I wanted a sense of the history of the country. This book answered the need and did it well, although with perhaps more detail than I personally needed. It did not gloss over the unpleasant facts of any of the area's many eras, particularly the present one. The presentation style is factual, unemotional and seems delivered without political slant. I found myself, at the book's end, wishing to read about the country's promising emergence from troubled times -- but history has yet to write that chapter!

#### Download to continue reading...

IS THIS WHY AFRICA IS? (Why Africa is poor, Why Africa is not developing, What Africa needs, What Africa needs to develop): Africa, Africa, Africa, Africa, Africa, Africa, Ebola, Ebola, Ebola, Ebola South Beach Diet: South Beach Diet Recipe Book: 50 Delicious & Easy South Beach Diet Recipes (south beach diet, south beach diet recipes, south beach diet beginners guide, south beach diet cookbook) South Beach Diet: The SOUTH BEACH DIET Beginners Guide - How To Lose Weight And Feel Awesome With The South Beach Diet!: (south beach diet, south ... diet recipes, south beach diet cookbook) South Beach Diet: The South Beach Diet Beginners Guide to Losing Weight and Feeling Great! (south beach diet, south beach diet beginners guide, south beach diet recipes) South Beach Diet: A Beginners Guide For Using The South Beach Diet For Quick, Easy and Healthy Weight Loss (Dieting, Weight Loss, South Beach Diet, South ... Diet Cookbook, South Beach Diet Kindle) South Africa (The Cape Colony, Natal, Orange Free State, South African Republic, Rhodesia, and all other territories south of the Zambesi) The South Beach Diet: A Guide for Faster Weight Loss and Healthy Lifestyle with Easy Meal Plan Recipes (South Beach Diet Meal Plan, South Beach Diet Gluten Solution, South Beach Diet Recipes) A History of South Africa,

Fourth Edition South Beach Diet: South Beach Diet Book for Beginners - South Beach Diet Cookbook with Easy Recipes (Low carbohydrate Living - Low Carbohydrate Diet - Modified Atkins Diet 1) South Beach Diet: The South Beach Diet Guide For Beginners: How To Feel Great And Healthy With The South Beach Diet South Beach Diet: The Beginner's Guide on How to Quickly and Effectively Lose Weight with the South Beach Diet Cookbook, Recipes, and Meal Plan! (South ... Low Carbohydrate Diet, Gluten-Free) July Fourth Cheer: A Rhyming Picture Book for Children about the Fourth of July, July 4th Cheer and Family Fun on the Fourth of July Burying SM: The Politics of Knowledge and the Sociology of Power in Africa (Social History of Africa (Paperback)) The Founding of New Societies: Studies in the History of the United States, Latin America, South Africa, Canada, and Australia Verdes colinas de Africa / Green Hills of Africa (Palabra En El Tiempo / Word at the Time) (Spanish Edition) Cuadernos de Africa/ Notebooks of Africa (Spanish Edition) Political Ascent: Contemporary Islamic Movements In North Africa (State, Culture, and Society in Arab North Africa) Africa South of the Sahara, Third Edition: A Geographical Interpretation (Texts in Regional Geography) 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) History: British History in 50 Events: From First Immigration to Modern Empire (English History, History Books, British History Textbook) (History in 50 Events Series Book 11)

**Dmca**