

Upper Nile Province Handbook

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This account of one of the Sudan's remotest provinces, at the end of 1930, provides the historical context for the early classics of British social anthropology. It contains descriptions of local life by some of the first British officials to become conversant in the languages of the Dinka, Nuer and Shilluk - at a time when Evans-Pritchard's field-work had only just begun. This report on the Upper Nile Province was compiled by its governor, Charles Willis, midway through the Anglo-Egyptian Condominium. It includes documentation on the origins of the Jonglei Canal, one of the most controversial environmental engineering projects in modern Africa. With almost all traces of previous governmental structures now obliterated by war, this record of the beginnings of civil administration will be of immense value.

THE UPPER NILE PROVINCE HANDBOOKA Report on Peoples and Government in the Southern Sudan, 1931 compiled by C.A. Willis edited byDouglas H. JohnsonThis account of what used to be one of Sudan's remotest provinces provides the historical context forthe early classics of British social anthropology. It contains descriptions of local life by some of thefirst British officials to become conversant in the languages of the Dinka, Nuer, Shilluk and Anuak 7 ata time when the anthropologist, E. F. Evans-Pritchard's fieldwork in the province had only just begun.It also includes documentation on the origins of the Jonglei Canal, one of the most controversialenvironmental engineering projects in modern Africa. With many of the region's previousgovernmental structures now obliterated by war, this record of the beginnings of civil administrationwill be of immense value to South Sudanese and the new nation of South Sudan.'While some of the detail of the Handbook'will appeal only to very dedicated Sudan experts, the textas a whole has a much wider colonial significance. It replicates, on a grand scale, many of the featuresof the (unpublished) District Books and handing-over notes of other colonial territories. Reading theHandbook reminds one of just how much British administration depended on the collection, collationand even the manufacture of information about the peoples over which it ruled'.The key documentswhich contain the ethnography of administrators and on which historians rely for their analyses aretoo rarely available outside the archives. We all owe a debt to Johnson and the British Academy formaking the handbook available, not merely as a source but also as a memorial to a world whosecontradictions remain even while its substance is fast being overlaid or destroyed by forces moreruthless than amateur ethnographers and ex-military administrators.' Journal of African History Cover illustration: Captain Romilly (Gawair March 1928) with 7daughter of sword of honourbloke (Chief Guer Wu)? (Romilly). Sudan Archive Durham University 788/1/28.AFRICA WORLD BOOKSISBN 978-0-9943631-0-7

Book Haul

A study of Nuer expansionism with implications for research into the relationship between social and material causes of change

Book Haul

This is the first major study of the Nuer based on primary research since Evans-Pritchard's classic Nuer Religion. It is also the first full-length historical study of indigenous African prophets operating outside the context of the world's main religions, and as such builds onEvans-Pritchard's pioneering work in promoting collaboration and dialogue between the disciplines of anthropology and history. Prophets first emerged as significant figures among the Nuer in the nineteenth century. They fashioned the religious idiom of prophecy from a range of spiritual ideas, and enunciated the social principles which broadened and sustained a moral community across political and ethnic boundaries.Douglas Johnson argues that, contrary to the standard anthropological interpretation, the major prophets' lasting contribution was their vision of peace, not their role in war. This vision is particularly relevant today, and the book concludes with a detailed discussion of events in the Sudan sinceindependence in 1956, describing how modern Nuer, and many other southern Sudanese, still find the message of the nineteenth-century prophets relevant to their experiences in the current civil war. From the reviews: 'Douglas H. Johnson's new primary study of Nuer prophets brings freshness to a huge second-order literature: what had become a seemingly secure reference point for a discipline in search of coherence, becomes again a challenge to disciplinary habit--and to habitual readings of an ancestralauthority. With almost two decades of archival and oral-historical research under his belt, Johnson is uniquely positioned to interpret Nuer prophecy. . . . [He] shows repeatedly [that] prophecy remains a potent ingredient of inspiration and leadership in contemporary Nuer efforts to resistKhartoum. . . . Johnson has been careful in presenting readers with a wealth of information, and leeway to reformulate the problem as they go.' Sharon Hutchinson, Times Literary Supplement 'This important work illuminates both the history of the Nuer and Nilotic Sudan . . . and the history of prophecy. It represents a decisive break with previous studies of the region which have portrayed a 'static' model of southern Sudanese societies. The quality of maps and photographs isexcellent. In short, Nuer Prophets is a milestone in the historiography of the Upper Nile and a work which, because of its conceptual clarity and wealth of material, lends itself to comparative studies.' Institute of Ethiopian Studies 'This is not merely a collection of Johnson's old articles but an entirely new work, comprehensive in its scope, coherent in its argument, and massive in its implications for African history and the history of African religion ... It is not possible to do justice to a book as rich as this one inthe space of a short review ... The richness of Nuer Prophets is largely due to the exceptional quality of Johnson's fieldwork.' Journal of African History 'It will certainly secure a permanent and respected place among great books on the so-called primitive societies.' SPLM/SPLA Update (Sudan)

Book Haul

South Sudan is the world's youngest independent country. This book is the first general history of the new country. This book combines important and often historic photographs with text to illustrate the value of photographs for the study of modern African history in general and of the Sudan, Africa's largest country and one of its most varied. Numerous research projects have studied the Nubian cultures of Sudan and Egypt over the last thirty years, leading to significant new insights. The contributions to this handbook illuminate our current understanding of the cultural history of this fascinating region, including its interconnections to the natural world.

For twenty years, southern Sudan has been the site of a tragic and brutal civil war, pitting the northern-based Arab and Islamic government against rebels in African marginalised areas, especially the south. More than two million people have died and four million have been displaced as a result. In 1999, anew element radically changed the war: Sudanese oil, located in the south, was first exported by the central government. The human price of this bonanza is immeasurable. The government, using oil revenues and aided by co-opted southerners, rained a scorched earth campaign of mass displacement, bombing, and terror on the agro-pastoral southern civilians living in and near the oil zones. The displaced number in the hundreds of thousands.

This book explores the emergent character of social orders in Sudan and South Sudan. It provides vivid insights into multitudes of ordering practices and their complex negotiation. Recurring patterns of exclusion and ongoing struggles to reconfigure disadvantaged positions are investigated as are shifting borders, changing alliances and relationships with land and language. The book takes a careful and close look at institutional arrangements that shape everyday life in the Sudans, probing how social forms have persisted or changed. It proposes reading the post-colonial history of the Sudans as a continuous struggle to find institutional orders valid for all citizens. The separation of Sudan and South Sudan in 2011 has not solved this dilemma. Exclusionary and exploitative practices endure and inhibit the rule of law, distributive justice, political participation and functioning infrastructure. Analyses of historical records and recent ethnographic data assembled here show that orders do not result directly from intended courses of action, planning and orchestration but from contingently emerging patterns. The studies included look beyond dominant elites caught in violent fights for powers, cycles of civil war and fragile peace agreements to explore a broad range of social formations, some of which may have the potential to glue people and things together in peaceful co-existence, while others give way to new violence.

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