

The Origin Of The Zimbabwean Civilisation

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the first single volume history of zimbabwe with detailed coverage from pre colonial times to the present this book examines zimbabwe s pre colonial colonial and postcolonial social economic and political history and relates historical factors and trends to recent developments in the country zimbabwe is a country with a rich history dating from the early san hunter gatherer societies the arrival of british imperial rule in 1890 impacted the country tremendously as the european rulers exploited zimbabwe s resources giving rise to a movement of african nationalism and demands for independence this culminated in the armed conflict of the 1960s and 1970s and independence in 1980 the 1990s were marked by economic decline and the rise of opposition politics in 1999 mugabe embarked on a violent land reform program that plunged the nation s economy into a downward spiral with political violence and human rights violations making zimbabwe an international pariah state this book will be useful to those studying

zimbabwean history and those unfamiliar with the country's past

offering a unique and original perspective on the rise and fall of indigenous states of southern zimbabwe the zimbabwe culture analyzes the long contentious history of the remains of the remarkable cyclopean masonry ranging from mighty capitals of traditional kings to humble farmsteads forming a cornerstone of the geographical lore of africa in the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries debate on the origins development and collapse of the zimbabwe culture has never ceased and with increasing archaeological research over the twentieth century has become more complex thoroughly examining the growth and decline of pre colonial states on the entire zimbabwean plateau and southern zimbabwe dr pikirayi has contributed tremendously towards the archaeological understanding of this extraordinary culture the zimbabwe culture is essential reading for all students and avocationalists of african archaeology history and culture

this book constructs a theory of ruins that celebrates their vitality and unity in aesthetic experience its argument draws upon over 100 illustrations prepared in 40 countries ruins flourish as matter form function incongruity site and symbol ruin underlies cultural values in cinema literature and philosophy finally ruin guides meditations upon our mortality and endangered world

this book examines the politics of landscape and heritage by focusing on the example of great zimbabwe national monument in southern zimbabwe the controversy that surrounded the site in the early part of the 20th century between colonial antiquarians and professional archaeologists is well reported in the published literature based on long term ethnographic field work around great zimbabwe as well as archival research in nmmz in the national archives of zimbabwe and several months of research at the world heritage centre in paris this new book represents an important step beyond that controversy over origins to focus on the site's position in local contests between and among individuals within the nemanwa charumbira and mugabe clans over land power and authority to justify their claims chiefs spirit mediums and elders of each clan make appeals to different but related constructions of the past emphasising the disappearance of the voice that used to speak there these narratives also describe the destruction alienation and desecration of great zimbabwe that occurred and continues through the international and national archaeological and heritage processes and practices by which great zimbabwe has become a national and world heritage site today

this book provides a general guide to stone structures of the pre colonial period called zimbabwe this is a name which denotes their usage as prestige buildings and that a particular quality of masonry with frequent application of wall decoration patterns was required which distinguishes them from many other stone structures of coarse workmanship at least 300 sites are known within the borders of zimbabwe alone while a few more are found in botswana south

africa and mozambique however recent findings have indicated that stone buildings in southern angola of similar typology also carry decoration patterns that suggests a much wider distribution in the region than was previously thought the word zimbabwe is of historical origin which has been customized to refer to a specific typology of stone walls and to distinguish them from the rest of low grade buildings which number several hundred in the 16th century it denoted royal and chiefly settlements built in stone and it was used figuratively to imply the presence there of such important political figures in this guide zimbabwe lower case and in italics refers to stone walls whereas when in upper case it refers either to great zimbabwe or zimbabwe the modern country this work is the first comprehensive volume to act as a guide to the archaeological stone wall structures zimbabwe sites are the only immovable cultural remains of substantial physical form that have been inherited from a pre colonial past in a post colonial state they are extremely valuable as tangible evidence of the historical continuity of indigenous populations with a pre colonial past their history implies an inheritance for present and future generations and entrust ownership to the public religious activities connected with the sites imply not just vestigial importance but embody cosmological values that bind people together a descriptive inventory such as this guidebook serves two purposes i e a heritage register to support conservation programmes and as a popular study guide to interest both local and international visitors

this book focuses on a forgotten place the khami world heritage site in zimbabwe it examines how professionally ascribed values and conservation priorities affect the cultural landscape when there is a disjuncture between local community and national interests and explores the epistemic violence that often accompanied colonial heritage management and archaeology in southern africa the central premise is that the history of the modern zimbabwe nation in terms of what is officially remembered and celebrated inevitably determines how that past is managed it is about how places are experienced and remembered through narratives and how the loss of this heritage memory may mark the un inheriting of place memory and cultural landscape at the khami world heritage site zimbabwe is informed by the author s experience of living near and working at great zimbabwe and khami as an archaeologist and uses archives and traditional narratives to build a biography for this lost cultural landscape whereas great zimbabwe is a resource for the state s contentious narrative of unity and a tool for cultural activism among communities whose cultural rights are denied through the nationalisation and globalisation heritage at khami which has lost its historical gravity there is only silence researchers and students of cultural heritage will find this book a much needed case study on heritage identity community and landscape from an african perspective

first published in 1994 this research guide was written as a comprehensive though by no means exhaustive survey of the literature pertinent to studying the indigenous complex societies of

south central africa although the paramount focus of the compilation was the archaeology of great zimbabwe the author has drawn from a broad geographical area and a wider period of time than that usually associated with zimbabwean culture in order to demonstrate the cultural background for the growth of monumental trading towns in south central africa

the ruins of great zimbabwe are acknowledged as one of the most impressive monuments in africa but also one of the most mysterious many scholars have investigated them without coming to any agreement on the identify of their builders their purpose or even their date the author considers the ruins in both an african and a global context and reviews investigations of other archaeological and historical enigmas around the world he finds previously unsuspected connections between zimbabwe and ancient civilisations such as the phoenicians and the builders of the giza pyramids finally he offers a truly heavenly explanation for great zimbabwe

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