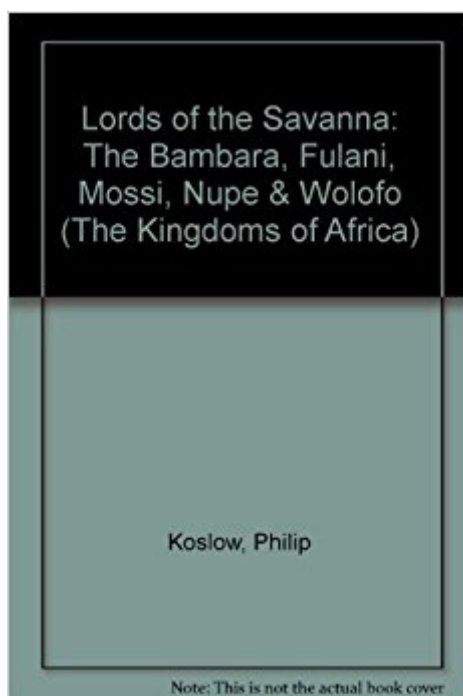


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Lords Of The Savanna: The Bambara, Fulani, Mossi, Nupe & Wolof (The Kingdoms Of Africa)



Synopsis

An historical survey of five peoples of precolonial West Africa each of which made lasting contributions to art, politics, religion, and other areas.

Book Information

Age Range: 12 and up

Series: The Kingdoms of Africa (Book 59)

Library Binding: 72 pages

Publisher: Chelsea House Pub (L) (July 1997)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0791031411

ISBN-13: 978-0791031414

Product Dimensions: 0.5 x 10.5 x 8.8 inches

Shipping Weight: 13.4 ounces

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Customer Reviews

Gr 7 Up--The strengths of this book are characteristic of others in the series: Koslow's solid knowledge of West African history; a strong narrative style that simplifies complicated histories without undue distortion; attractive illustrations and layout; and an appropriate, if unannotated, list for further reading. Unfortunately, the shortcomings are also held in common: a single, appallingly inadequate map (here also inaccurate, with the Igbo located more than 600 miles too far west); a lack of source notes for quotations and contemporary illustrations; some poorly focused captions; and a weak introduction. Rather than describing the precolonial history of a single kingdom, this volume incorporates five lesser-known ethnic groups. The Igbo are particularly out of place. Rather than living on the savanna occupied by the others, they live(d) in a coastal forest environment to the southeast, but the text explains neither the environmental differences nor the logic of including the Igbo among the selections. Moreover, as Koslow emphasizes, they were the exact opposite of a kingdom--one of Africa's many stateless societies. While there may be advantages in gathering histories of less well known groups in one book, here the title confuses, belying the diversity

described in the text. The books on the Mossi and Fulani in Rosen's "Heritage Library of African Peoples" include good historical information within their anthropological framework, but Nupe and the Bambara are not similarly treated in other YA materials. Beyond this, the informed verve of the narratives is what gives this book its special value. Loretta Kreider Andrews, Enoch Pratt Free Library, Baltimore, MD Copyright 1998 Cahners Business Information, Inc.

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