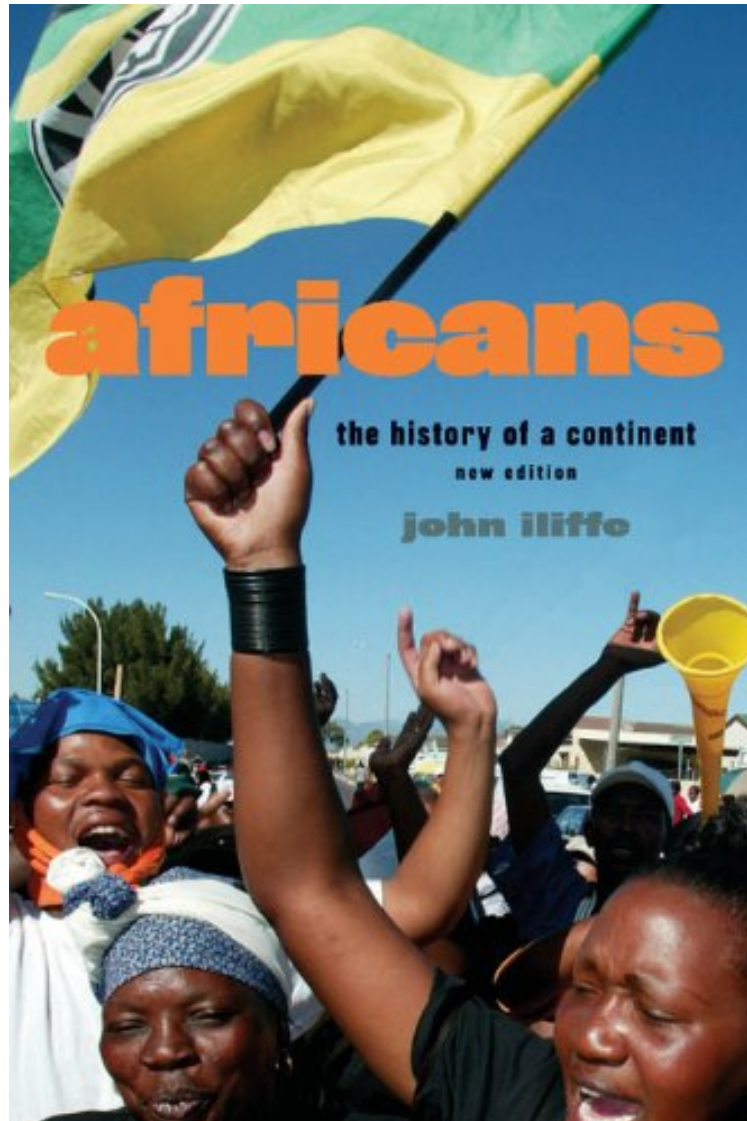


(Mobile pdf) Africans: The History of a Continent (African Studies)

## Africans: The History of a Continent (African Studies)

Von John Iliffe

*\*Download PDF / ePub / DOC / audiobook / ebooks*



 Download

 Read Online

Produktinformation -Verkaufsrank: #769827 in eBooksVerffentlicht am: 2007-08-13Erscheinungsdatum: 2007-08-13File Name: B000SK52MI | File size: 25.Mb

**Von John Iliffe : Africans: The History of a Continent (African Studies)** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Africans: The History of a Continent (African Studies):

KundenrezensionenHilfreichste Kundenrezensionen3 von 3 Kunden fanden die folgende Rezension hilfreich. A history of Africa for the 21st century.Von markbearn@aol.comIliffe's 'Africans' is the most distinguished and intelligent brief history of Africa yet written. Dry, and at times dense with information, it nonetheless succinctly and brilliantly outlines the history of this complex and fascinating continent from earliest man to the democratic movements of the 1990s. Centred around a thesis that the key to Africa's history is population change, Iliffe weaves

his tale with masterly skill. Underpopulated until the middle of the 20th century, the central feature of African history till the modern period has been a struggle for the control of scarce labour - land, by contrast, being abundant. Only with the massive population increases and urbanisation of the last fifty years have parts of the continent become overpopulated, where a struggle for natural resources among an abundance of competitors has become the defining feature of African society (anyone who has spent time in the dog-eat-dog societies of Kenya or Nigeria can happily testify to this truth). This simple, somewhat tendentious but nonetheless thought-provoking thesis is the thread on which the book hangs, and is a relief from the dry, tedious and abstracted ideological and political theories which other historians have tried to apply to African history. This is a much richer book than such a summary might imply - Iliffe seems to have read every book and article ever written on African history (his Stakhanovite work methods are renowned), and politics, great men, religion, social movements all play a part in the narrative: and, as one has come to expect from Iliffe, African proverbs are studded in the text like diamonds in a tiara, illuminating and making real the events and processes on which he dwells. This is perhaps too dry a book to celebrate completely - Iliffe's Jesuitical approach to historical research lacks passion, and his powerful historian's mind perhaps takes for granted in the reader a too-deep understanding of that subject and its conventions. But ANYONE who wishes to understand more about the African continent cannot do without the learning, wisdom and intelligence that this book offers. Africa has been done a great service.

**Kurzbeschreibung** In a vast and all-embracing 2007 study of Africa, from the origins of mankind to the AIDS epidemic, John Iliffe refocuses its history on the peopling of an environmentally hostile continent. Africans have been pioneers struggling against disease and nature, and their social, economic and political institutions have been designed to ensure their survival. In the context of medical progress and other twentieth-century innovations, however, the same institutions have bred the most rapid population growth the world has ever seen. Africans: The History of a Continent is thus a single story binding living Africans to their earliest human ancestors. **Pressestimmen** 'Reading this seminal work afresh has made me appreciate just what an extraordinary achievement it really is.' John Parker, *Journal of African History* '... an expert guide for the general reader to enjoy and to comprehend as background to what is so often in the news. Iliffe writes lucidly and is not afraid to express complicated judgements in simple language, as we are told that, at present day, Africa is experiencing both crisis and renewal and the greatest of disasters embodies hope.' The Historical Association **ber das Produkt** This is a general history of Africa, from the origins of mankind to the AIDS epidemic. It combines a broad picture of Africa's history with more detailed analysis of recent developments in a manner that other accounts of the continent do not attempt.