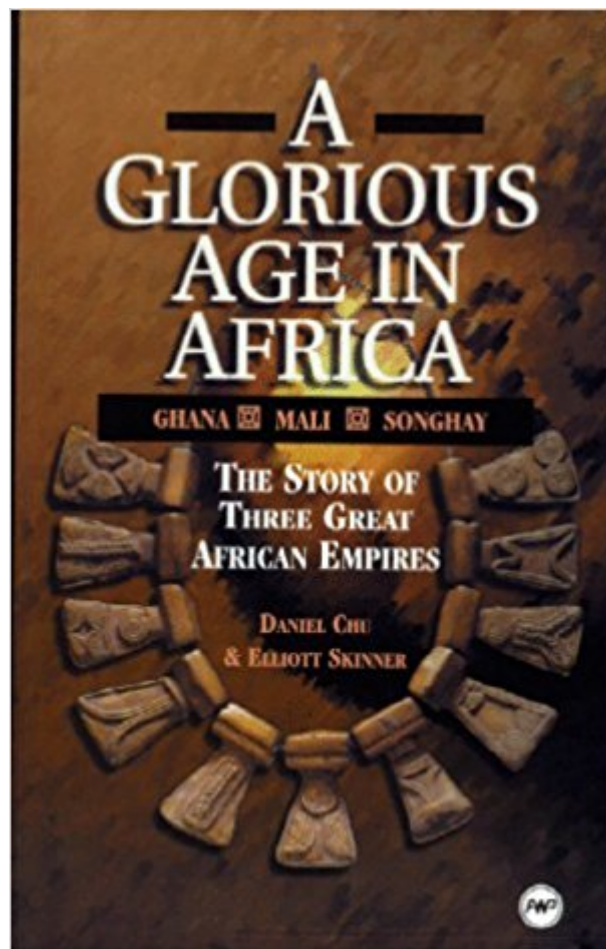




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A Glorious Age In Africa: The Story Of 3 Great African Empires (Awp Young Readers Series)



Synopsis

Ghana, Mali & Songhay: The Story of Three Great Empires

Book Information

Age Range: 7 and up

Paperback: 120 pages

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Average Customer Review: 4.1 out of 5 stars 11 customer reviews

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Customer Reviews

Did you know...that during Europe's "Dark Ages," three great African empires provided the main advance of human knowledge? That Timbuktu was once of the greatest centers of learning in the world? Did you know...that on separate pilgrimages to Mecca, two African emperors dispensed more than ten million dollars apiece in charity? That another emperor used a thirty pound gold nugget as a hitching post? Did you know..that until the invention of firearms the mighty African warriors of the Sudan were never conquered? This book reveals the magnificent history and heritage of Africa, destroying, once and for all, the centuries-old, still lingering myth that Africa "was a continent without history." Here is a fascinating account of the Africans from the 8th to the 16th century, highlighted by the successive rise of three Sudanese empires that at their height were the equal of any contemporary civilization in Europe or Asia.

There are two things to know about this book that might not be apparent right off. The first is that it is written for middle grade level children. The second is that it was published in 1963. The most recent edition came out in 1996. However, because it was written for kids there are no notes about what, if anything, changed between editions. I don't know how up to date the facts in the book are, or if new information may have come to light since 1963 that would add to the picture. I wish there

had been a brief preface addressing the question. Surely we've learned a little more in the last 50 years! Also, possibly because of when the book was written, the term "Negro" is used to refer to many African peoples (to contrast them with the Berbers). That was startling to see, but its clear no negative connotation was meant. In school I learned nothing about African history, so when I saw this book I jumped at the chance to improve my child's education--and my own. The book covers three north African empires, Ghana, Mali and Songhay, and some of the most important members of these nations. It covers the gold-salt trade, the role of religion, and the achievements of each empire. My 1996 edition includes some hand drawn maps and an index. As a childrens' book, this is more of an overview than a rigorous or scholarly work, but it's better than I had even in high school, and will serve as a good foundation for later learning.

Inspiring historical tool on the African influence on the world.

There are not that many books which talk about this time in Africa on an elementary level. I did receive it on time and as described. Thanks!

Little book with big knowledge.

There are some early inaccuracies in regards to Africa that may make one skeptical. Please read Dr. Ben and Dr. Clark for Africa's proper context first.

Great book! We purchased this from a suggestion by the Apologia curriculum 'around the world in 180 days'. So far we are really learning and enjoying this book as a group read aloud and also as a discussion starter.

This book covers the history of 3 great African civilizations, from approximately 700 - 1600. This neglected history is an amazing story of civilization & high culture in Africa. While this book was written for children, I would recommend this book for everyone who enjoys history. I haven't seen the information in this book in any other world history book. There are a few problems with the book. It is not written in an easy-to-read style. The book throws unfamiliar name, after unfamiliar name. It is difficult to keep all the names straight. Some charts or an appendix would make a big difference. Also, the maps in the book are poorly reproduced and unreadable in many parts.

This slender volume provides a good basic account of the three primary kingdoms of ancient Africa. We have heard much in recent years from Afro-centric revisionist historians about the alleged wonder of ancient Africa. This book puts some of those myths into perspective. While obviously intended for a young reading audience, this book has some useful information. The maps and pictures have an amateurish quality to them, but will doubtless appeal to high school students and less sophisticated readers. The text is simple and a bit over-stated at times. The three African kingdoms discussed here were certainly impressive for their time and place, but seem to have left little lasting influence. They were primarily trading empires, with some literature (Islamic Koranic writing and study) some architecture and medicine. Music, art and higher forms of literature that would be found in Europe in the Renaissance appear to be non-existent. It is interesting to note that all three Kingdoms were heavily influenced by Islam, a non-indigenous religion. Thus it seems Africa's greatest kingdoms were due more to the influence of Islam than anything else. Much about these kingdoms remains obscure and will likely remain so, thus providing numerous revisionist historians the means to make all sorts of outrageous statements. The perfect atmosphere for invention and fabrication. Still, this book provides a clearer look at the early history of Africa more so than recent ethno-centric studies like those compiled by the dubious Louis Gates. Young and older readers alike can certainly find some merit in this work

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