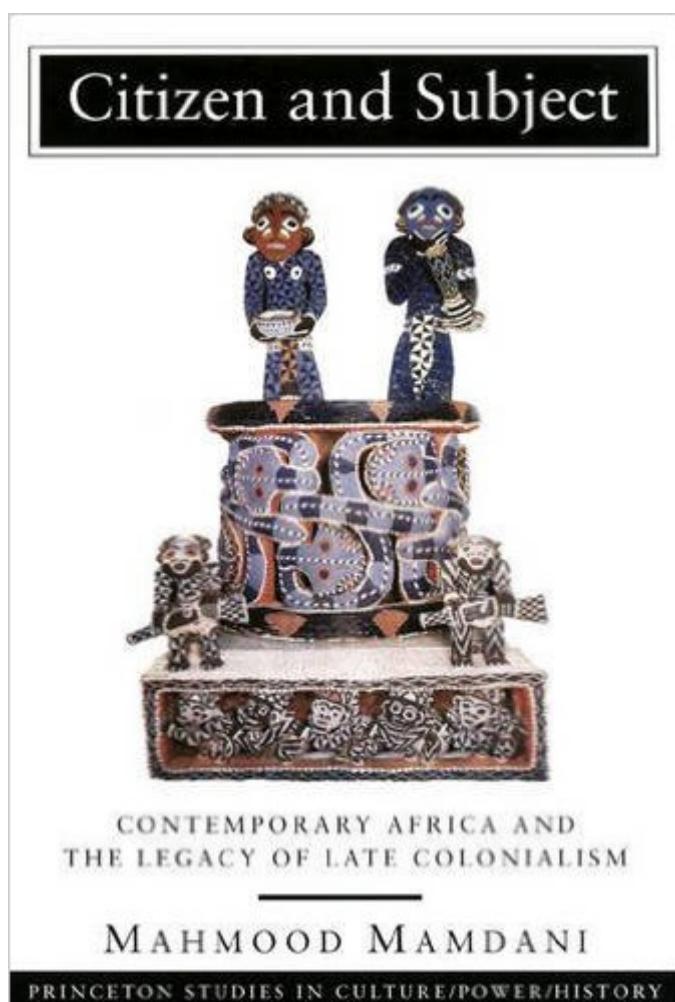


The book was found

Citizen And Subject: Contemporary Africa And The Legacy Of Late Colonialism (Princeton Series In Culture/Power/History)



Synopsis

In analyzing the obstacles to democratization in post- independence Africa, Mahmood Mamdani offers a bold, insightful account of colonialism's legacy--a bifurcated power that mediated racial domination through tribally organized local authorities, reproducing racial identity in citizens and ethnic identity in subjects. Many writers have understood colonial rule as either "direct" (French) or "indirect" (British), with a third variant--apartheid--as exceptional. This benign terminology, Mamdani shows, masks the fact that these were actually variants of a despotism. While direct rule denied rights to subjects on racial grounds, indirect rule incorporated them into a "customary" mode of rule, with state-appointed Native Authorities defining custom. By tapping authoritarian possibilities in culture, and by giving culture an authoritarian bent, indirect rule (decentralized despotism) set the pace for Africa; the French followed suit by changing from direct to indirect administration, while apartheid emerged relatively later. Apartheid, Mamdani shows, was actually the generic form of the colonial state in Africa. Through case studies of rural (Uganda) and urban (South Africa) resistance movements, we learn how these institutional features fragment resistance and how states tend to play off reform in one sector against repression in the other. Reforming a power that institutionally enforces tension between town and country, and between ethnicities, is the key challenge for anyone interested in democratic reform in Africa.

Book Information

Paperback: 344 pages

Publisher: Princeton University Press; 1st edition (April 1, 1996)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0691027935

ISBN-13: 978-0691027937

Product Dimensions: 6.1 x 0.9 x 9.2 inches

Shipping Weight: 12.6 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.8 out of 5 starsÂ See all reviewsÂ (4 customer reviews)

Best Sellers Rank: #193,314 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #85 inÂ Books > Politics & Social Sciences > Politics & Government > Specific Topics > Colonialism & Post-Colonialism #131 inÂ Books > Politics & Social Sciences > Politics & Government > International & World Politics > African #228 inÂ Books > Politics & Social Sciences > Politics & Government > Elections & Political Process > General

Customer Reviews

CONTEXT: Mamdani's starting point is that colonialism caused a profoundly negative impact on African societies, and this impact is evident in the dysfunctional African states of the modern era, wherein governments struggle for legitimacy while civil unrest and low living standards are commonplace. **OVERALL:** Ultimately Mamdani does not succeed in proving his thesis, and for this 3 stars might be appropriate, but the educational value is so high and the sources so comprehensive that I give 4. The writing style is somewhat dense and occasionally opaque, the volume is a little more than it needs to be to impart the message. The worst of this is the introduction, which may be best to skip. The conclusion is a bit tinged with the short-lived post-Cold War idea that democracy is the answer for everything. **CONTENT:** Mamdani identifies the "bifurcated state" as a result of calculated colonial policy to most efficiently rule African colonies. In urban centers, individual liberties were defined and enforced, as in Western civil law. Customary law held sway in the hinterlands, however, and it was the key aspect of Indirect Rule, imported by the British from Asia. It dictated what claims the state had a right to make on individuals. Thus customary law was a means of controlling society, including land, women, animal herds, water, forest, etc. It was disguised as traditional practice because it was administered by the Native Authority - African "chiefs" acting as colonial agents. In reality it was malleable so as to ensure achieving colonial ends, which were essentially maintaining order, tax revenue, and labor supply. Historically, there were significant institutionalized cultural restraints on the power of chiefs.

[Download to continue reading...](#)

Citizen and Subject: Contemporary Africa and the Legacy of Late Colonialism (Princeton Series in Culture/Power/History) IS THIS WHY AFRICA IS? (Why Africa is poor, Why Africa is not developing, What Africa needs, What Africa needs to develop): Africa, Africa, Africa, Africa Africa, Africa, Ebola, Ebola, Ebola, Ebola Citizen's Guide to Colorado Water Law (Citizen's Guide Series Book 1) Political Ascent: Contemporary Islamic Movements In North Africa (State, Culture, and Society in Arab North Africa) States and Power in Africa: Comparative Lessons in Authority and Control (Princeton Studies in International History and Politics) Subaru Legacy & Forester: Legacy 2000 thru 2009 - Forester 2000 thru 2008 - Includes Legacy Outback and Baja (Haynes Repair Manual) Africa and the West: A Documentary History: Volume 2: From Colonialism to Independence, 1875 to the Present Burying SM: The Politics of Knowledge and the Sociology of Power in Africa (Social History of Africa (Paperback)) The Forgotten Female Aesthetes: Literary Culture in Late-Victorian England (Victorian Literature and Culture Series) The Transfiguration of History at the Center of Dante's Paradise (Princeton Legacy Library) The Ocean of Truth: A Personal History of Global Tectonics (Princeton Legacy Library) Princeton Readings in Islamist Thought: Texts and Contexts from

al-Banna to Bin Laden (Princeton Studies in Muslim Politics) The Princeton Field Guide to Dinosaurs: Second Edition (Princeton Field Guides) Of Revelation and Revolution, Volume 1: Christianity, Colonialism, and Consciousness in South Africa Power Training: For Combat, MMA, Boxing, Wrestling, Martial Arts, and Self-Defense: How to Develop Knockout Punching Power, Kicking Power, Grappling Power, and Ground Fighting Power Cool Colleges: For the Hyper-Intelligent, Self-Directed, Late Blooming, and Just Plain Different (Cool Colleges: For the Hyper-Intelligent, Self-Directed, Late Blooming, & Just Plain Different) Last Steps: The Late Writings of Leo Tolstoy: The Late Writings of Leo Tolstoy (Penguin Classics) Beyond Colonialism and Nationalism in the Maghrib: History, Culture, and Politics Engines of Liberty: The Power of Citizen Activists to Make Constitutional Law Wildlife of East Africa (Princeton Pocket Guides)

[Dmca](#)