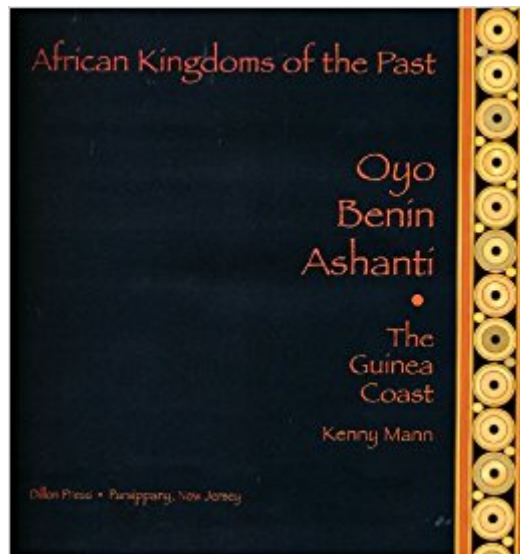




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Oyo, Benin, Ashanti: The Guinea Coast (African Kingdoms Of The Past)



Synopsis

juvenile, Santa Claus

Book Information

Series: African Kingdoms of the Past

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Customer Reviews

Grade 6-10?Portraits of three West African kingdoms are created through the use of legends and history. Mann looks first to Ife, which is understood to be the founding kingdom of the Yoruba and predated the rise of Oyo, the subject of the second chapter. Next come thematic chapters on the environment, kingdom building (including the origin of states in the Sudan prior to the development of Ife), and the slave trade; then the chapters on Benin and Ashanti. An epilogue takes the story through colonial rule to the present. Each chapter about a kingdom opens with an appealing oral tradition central to the kingdom's identity, followed by information about its history and culture. However, this material is not always well organized, and the line between story and history becomes blurred, allowing readers to conclude that African history is mostly legend. Overall, the book seems somewhat fragmented and confusing. The attractive layout includes excellent-quality full-color photographs and lively border designs. A map locates the featured kingdoms projected onto a map of current West African nations. A clearer, more knowledgeable history of these kingdoms is included in Philip Koslow's *Centuries of Greatness, 750-1900* (1994) and his books in the "Kingdoms of Africa" series (all Chelsea) provide excellent detail. Yet some young people will appreciate Mann's adding brief versions of the griots' stories to the history.?

Loretta Kreider
Andrews, Enoch Pratt Free Library, Baltimore, MD
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I am a homeschooler who is constantly looking for books to teach about African History. This is the best reference I have found to date on Ancient to old kingdoms in Africa. This is part of a six part series on the past kingdoms of Africa. It is geared for an upper elementary to middle school student. The author is from Kenya and I appreciated the time and justice the author gave to each part of Africa in the 6 total books. You will not be disappointed. I have purchased many books on African History for young people and this is the most thorough I have found. The books are in color and the book is arranged more like a textbook with inlays and little pop outs within the text. There is excellent art work throughout the book. I like this book because it covers less known kingdoms, and the information is in depth. I have found that many books on African History just repeat the very basic facts and offer no culture or richness, this book does. I highly recommend. I will be incorporating this series of books into our African studies curriculum.

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