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Basil Davidson

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The Lost Cities of Africa



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When I was a graduate student of history in the '60s, Africa apparently did not. The standard texts of the time (Langer's "Encyclopedia of World History" and "The Times Atlas of World History") have no sections on the era of the great African empires. Davidson's later work (e.g., "West Africa before the Colonial Era") gives a better idea of the greatness of Mali, Songhai and Kongo, the states of the west African Sahel. 1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Excellent Book! By Vicky in Nebraska If you're looking for a book to help you know how wonderful the continent of Africa was in pre-colonial times, this is a must read. Helps to dispel some of the negative stereotypes people have about the continent, that came as a result of Europeans colonizing the continent and basically messing it up. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Such an interesting book. Learning about some of the ... By Nick Such an interesting book. Learning about some of the formative principles of humankind and major civilization really struck a chord with me when I had to read this in one night for a paper in 2011.

Combining archeological evidence and scholarly research, Davidson traces the exciting development of the rich kingdoms of the lost cities of Africa, fifteen hundred years before European ships first came to African shores.

Basil Davidson is the most effective popularizer of African history and archaeology outside Africa and certainly the best trusted in Africa itself. - Roland Oliver in THE NEW YORK REVIEW OF BOOKS Davidson is the often-overlooked fourth man in the group that includes his contemporaries and fellow historians, Christopher Hill, Eric Hobsbawm and E.P. Thompson (a close friend of Davidson for many years). These men's committed, left-wing approach to writing history opened up the stuffy, chauvinist world of British professional historians and reached a popular audience far beyond academia. But whereas the others wrote about the British or European past, Davidson studied Africa and put his political energies into the struggle for Third World liberation. - Michael Bygrave in THE GUARDIAN From the Back Cover Combining archeological evidence and scholarly research, Davidson traces the exciting development of the rich kingdoms of the lost cities of Africa, fifteen hundred years before European ships first came to African shores. About the Author Basil Davidson is the author of more than ten books on African history and has devoted over thirty years to the intensive study of the African peoples. His books include "The African Past, The Atlantic Slave Trade, Lost Cities of Africa, African Kingdoms" and "The History of West Africa to 1800."