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Thanks to Dr. Leakey, and to the collaborators who worked on the manuscript after his death, the Kikuyu mores have been set down from descriptions of the daily activities of the people, digging, planting, harvesting, care of animals, trading, marriage, tribal raiding, dancing and lawgiving, to the customs connected with sex, clothing and food, and the details of ceremonies linked with rites de passage, religious beliefs, magic and medicine. It is a picture of a successful self-regulating community, in which a strict set of rules and punishments established order and enabled the tribe to survive within its environment.

The autonomy of tribal life all over the world is now being eroded, for better or worse. But this well-rounded study, intricate in its mass of detail, yet straightforward in approach, seeks to make no assertions or comparisons with other cultures, It will thus be an important unbiased primary source for social anthropologists, ethnologists and social scientists, as well as being of great value to all those interested in Africa and its history.

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#### SHORTER NOTICES

Le Périple d'Hannon | The Periplus of Hanno. By Jacques Ramin (P. E. H. HAIR), 305; The Coral Buildings of Suakim. By Jean-Pierre Greenlaw (P. S. GARLAKE), 305; Libération d'Esclaves et Nouvelle Servitude. By François Renault (Roger Anstey), 306; The United States Experience in South Africa 1784–1870. By Alan R. Booth (John Wright), 307; Racism and Empire: White Settlers and Coloured Immigrants in the British Self-Governing Colonies 1830–1910. By Robert A. Huttenback (John Wright), 308; Education for Freedom: A History of Lincoln University, Pennsylvania. By Horace Mann Bond (Ian Duffeleld), 309; Saints and Politicians: Essays in the Organization of a Senegalese Peasant Society. By Donal B. Cruise O'Brien (Lucy E. Creevey), 309; African Politics in South Africa, 1964–1974: Parties and Issues. By D. A. Kotze (Shula Marks), 310; Le Congo: Formation Sociale et Mode de Développement Économique. By H. Bertrand (Bogumil Jewsiewicki), 311; Guinea-Bissau and Cape Verde Islands: A Comprehensive Bibliography. By Joseph M. McCarthy (Richard Pound), 312: The Economic History of Tropical Africa, Vol. I: The Pre-Colonial Period; Vol. II: The Colonial Period. Edited by Z. A. and J. M. Konczacki (A.G.H.), 313; African Social Studies: A Radical Reader. Edited by Peter C. W. Gutkind and Peter Waterman (A.G.H.), 313.

BOOKS NOT REVIEWED BOOKS RECEIVED

#### JOURNAL OF AFRICAN HISTORY, VOLUME XIX, NO. 2

#### CONTENTS

I	New Light on Early Food Production in the Central Sudan	
	By Lech Krzyaniak (Archaeological Museum, Poznan)	159
II	The Role of the Wangara in the Economic Transformation of the	
	Central Sudan in the Fifteenth and Sixteenth Centuries	
	By Paul Lovejoy (York University, Toronto)	173
Ш	The Torodbe Clerisy: A Social View	
	By John Ralph Willis (Princeton University)	195
IV	Price Fluctuations in the Early Palm Oil Trade	
	By A. J. H. LATHAM (University College of Swansea)	213
V	Factions and Fissions: Transvaal/Swazi Politics in the Mid-	
	Nineteenth Century	
	By Philip Bonner (University of the Witwatersrand)	219
VI	'Tawani, Machambero!': Forced Cotton and Rice Growing on the	
	Zambezi	
	By LEROY VAIL and LANDEG WHITE (University of Zambia)	239
REV	VIEW ARTICLE	
	The Economics of Colonialism in Africa	
	By Douglas Rimmer (C.W.A.S., University of Birmingham)	265

#### BOOKS REVIEWED

The Cambridge History of Africa, Volume 5: c. 1790 to c. 1870. Edited by John Flint (Martin A. Klein), 275; Where Hunters Gathered: A Study of Holocene Stone Age People in the Eastern Cape. By H. J. Deacon (R. R. Inskeep), 278; The Non-Semitic Languages of Ethiopia. Edited by M. Lionel Bender (Neal Sobania), 279; Ethnohistorical Studies on the Kru Coast. By Ronald W. Davis (Jo Mary Sullivan), 280; Kraal and Castle: Khoikhoi and the Founding of White South Africa. By Richard Elphick. A Voyage to the Cape of Good Hope, etc. By Anders Sparrman, edited by V. S. Forbes (Robert Ross), 282; Chiefs and Clerics: Abdul Bokar Kan and Futa Toro 1853-1891. By David Robinson (John Ralph Willis), 284; Warfare in the Sokoto Caliphate: Historical and Sociological Perspectives. By Joseph P. Smaldone (Robert Smith), 285; An Economic History of Kenya and Uganda, 1800-1970. By R. M. A. van Zwanenberg, with Anne King (John Lonsdale), 287; Traditional Ideology and Ethics among the Southern Luo. By A. B. C. Ocholla-Ayayo (Aylward Shorter), 289; Deep Mende: Religious Interactions in a Changing African Rural Society. By Darrell Reeck (Humphrey J. Fisher), 290; Pilgrims in a Strange Land: Hausa Communities in Chad. By John A. Works, Jnr (J. S. Birks), 291; El Colonialismo Hispanofrances en Marruecos (1898-1927). By Victor Morales Lezcano (E. G. H. Joffé), 293; Abd el-Krim et la République du Rif: Actes du Colloque International d'Études Historiques et Sociologiques, 18-20 Janvier 1973. Edited by René Gallissot (B. G. Martin), 295; Mathu of Kenya: A Political Study. By Jack R. Roelker (Kenneth J. King), 297; Civil-Military Relations in Sierra Leone: A Case Study of African Soldiers in Politics. By Thomas S. Cox. Politics in Liberia: The Conservative Road to Development. By Martin Lowenkopf. Liberia and Sierra Leone: An Essay in Comparative Politics. By Christopher Clapham (John Cartwright), 298; La Guinée sans la France. By Sylvia-Soriba Camara (R. W. Johnson), 300; Southern Rhodesia's Independence Struggle: The Role of Immigrants and Inv

[Contents continued at foot of inside back cover.