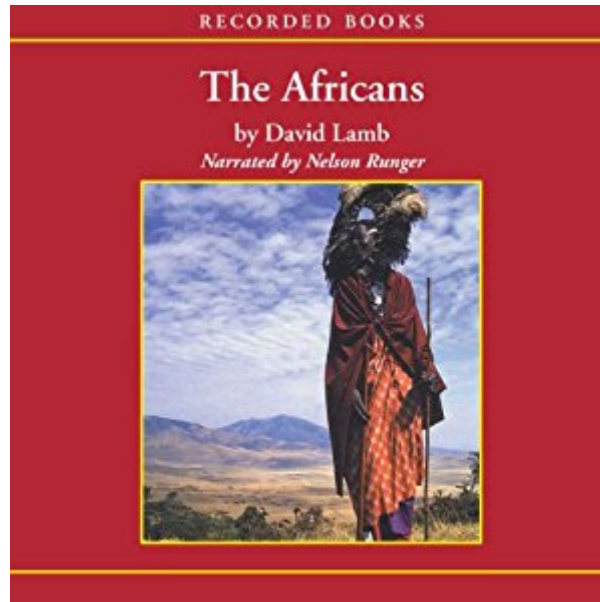


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# The Africans



## Synopsis

Part political travelogue and part contemporary history, this book is the result of 4 years spent in Africa by "Los Angeles Times" correspondent David Lamb. It includes interviews with witch doctors, presidents, guerrilla leaders, shanty town dwellers and university professors. --This text refers to the Hardcover edition.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

My enjoyment of David Lamb's *The Arabs* was so great that I knew I would have to read this book once I had a good reason to focus in on Africa. An upcoming trip to South Africa provided the impetus to get the Kindle version and start self-educating. Lamb fully admits his American biases and frames of reference, but he hardly needed to call himself biased; I found him to be about as objective as any person of any nationality could be. He packs a lot of topics and stories into the book without ever relying too much on numbers or personal encounters. I admire the way he holistically integrates statistics, general observations, and specific experiences. Recommended for someone who wants to know about the Africa of the twentieth century, though sadly not updated with events of the nineties or beyond.

Loved the book. Well written and insightful. I think David really captures the essence of Africa. I grew up in Nigeria in the late 60's and early 70's. This book just validates ideas I have/had on Africa. The book really help you understand, how 20-30 years later the same things are happening, coupe d'etats in Central African Republic and elsewhere, civil wars all over the place, etc. I'm

wondering if there is a newer edition?

I found the book fascinating and great background information but it only goes up to the 1980s. Still an excellent read.

I have lived in Mozambique. This book is accurate and brilliantly written. It was recommended by an American world traveler.

A social, cultural and historical view of the issues facing our most diverse continent. This is not a dry history book - Lamb delivers even statistics with relevant stories and profiles of Africans - from the poorest to the most powerful. I read this book in preparation for a safari in Kenya. I had no background on "black Africa" from school - history classes seem to ignore any African country south of Egypt. Lamb's book provided me with insight and understanding of why things are the way they are in Africa - and helped temper my Western way of looking at the world. The book is organized into chapters which are easily read in one sitting. Lamb draws on lessons from history, personal observations (he lived there for four years) and the observations of Africans to weave a story of a continent on the verge of major change. The book emphasizes the beauty of the land while honestly speaking of the tragedies of the past (and future). My only wish is that The Africans had been updated for the 90's. I am looking forward to reading The Arabs, also by Lamb.

I picked this book up after finishing "The Arabs" by the same author. Like the prior book, Lamb gives a nice description of each African country, warts and all. I had read "The Scramble for Africa: White Man's Conquest of the Dark Continent from 1876-1912" in the past so this was a nice overview of what happened after the Europeans left. For the most part, Africa is a mess but it is nice to know why that is the case and Lamb explains this. The book is getting a little dated (last entry was 1984 and South Africa was still under apartheid) but it works great as a history of that time period.

I read this book more than a decade ago and have to agree with the good reviews this book is still getting. I was at the time pleasantly surprised to find a foreign journalist writing such a balanced account on Africa. When I read the book (in the mid Eighties) South Africa was still very isolated from the rest of Africa. This book gave me a window on Africa north of us and fascinated me. I always judge any media (newspaper, books TV, whatever) on their coverage of that with which I am familiar. If I find that to be well balanced and true, I will trust the rest of the material covering things I

might not be familiar with. This book passed with flying colours. For example it pointed out the lunacy of Apartheid, while not hiding the fact that it was the only African country with a well functioning infrastructure, civil service etc. The book is neither left nor right. It gives it as it is. Indeed a very rare talent for a journalist. Lamb for example pointed out the world's hypocrisy regarding South Africa. The country was internationally isolated because of statutory racial discrimination and a lack of democracy. Yet the ethnic cleansing going on all over Africa on a grand scale was (and still is) ignored. There was (and still is) virtually no democracy anywhere, massive corruption, very little human rights etc, etc while nobody batted an eye. That is tragically still the case. Africa is in bigger chaos than when David Lamb wrote his book, but still nobody seems to be willing to take a tougher stand and condemn African governments for what they are - useless. He pointed out this \*real\* racial discrimination. South Africa was not allowed to run an undemocratic outfit because "white people can't behave like that!" Everybody on the other hand seems to expect the rest of Africa to be in chaos - "after all they are only blacks." I found this form of racism very relevant in the way the world interacts with Africa. Very few writers have this insight in where the political correct pseudo liberals lost the plot. This is why this book is a classic and I still remember most of it, though I read it nearly 15 years ago!

Love reading and the book became one of my favorites but the script is so small. It's my eye problem I guess.

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