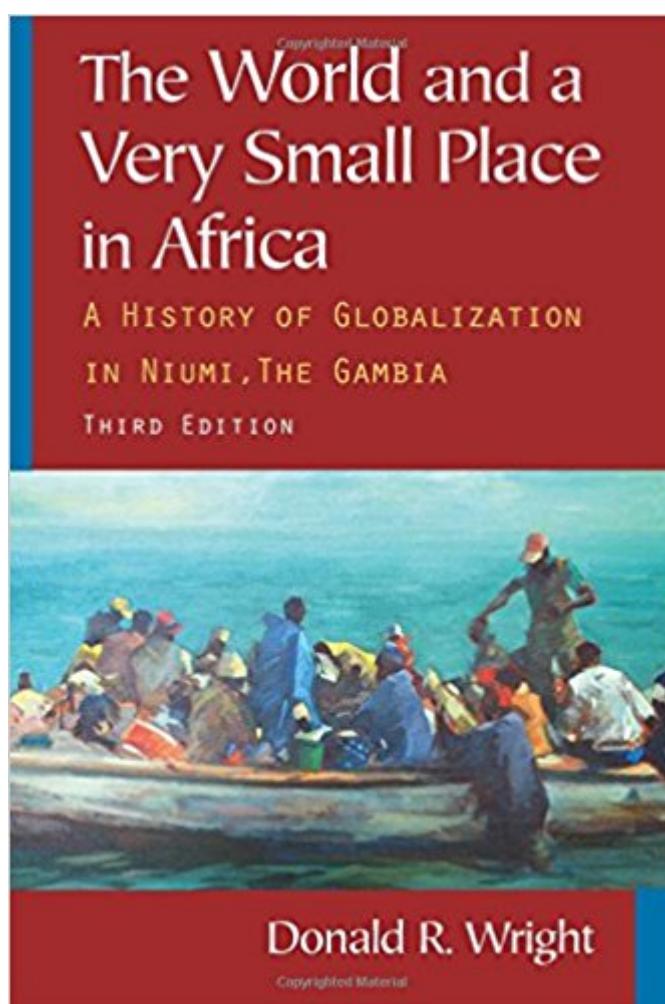


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The World And A Very Small Place In Africa: A History Of Globalization In Niumi, The Gambia (Sources And Studies In World History)



Synopsis

Niumi, a small, little-known territory located on the bank of the Gambia River in West Africa, is seemingly far from the reaches of world historical events. And yet the outside world has long had a significant - and increasingly profound - impact on Niumi. This fascinating work shows how global events have affected people's lives over the past eight centuries in this small region in Africa's smallest country. Drawing on written and oral testimony, and writing in a clear and personal style, Donald R. Wright connects 'globalization' with real people in a real place. This new edition updates discussions of global history and African history based on current studies and new developments that have been factored into the interpretive framework. Reflecting on recent visits to Niumi, Wright extends the story into 2009, to consider the impact of global recession and domestic political repression under a regime in power for the past fifteen years. Punctuating the narrative are photographs, maps, and 'Perspectives' boxes on selected topics such as the sale of slaves five centuries ago, colonial sexism, the fate of press freedom, and how popular culture affects growing up in a traditional society. Throughout, the author deals with African history seriously, global trends critically, and human lives sensitively.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

"It's really splendid to see this book reemerging in its new edition: it's the best combination of local sensitivity and global awareness I know of. The historical sweep is impressive, giving a sense of

several major versions of global interaction. The updating about recent globalization is particularly welcome, but in this larger historical perspective. And the book is accessible to students, another obvious plus." - Peter N. Stearns, George Mason University; "In revising and updating this work, Donald Wright has done the seemingly impossible: he has significantly improved what I have long considered the best teaching book on Africa. Extensively researched, analytic, and inter-disciplinary in approach, the book is equally suited for first-year World or African History surveys, upper level West African classes, and graduate courses on the Atlantic. Extensive interviews done in 2003 give a poignant immediacy to the book, and the photographs and maps match the text well, promoting further understanding among readers who are unfamiliar with the area." - Allen M. Howard, Rutgers University" --This text refers to the Kindle Edition edition.

This is a terrific book on all levels. Wright has an interesting take on world systems as seen through the lens of a small community in The Gambia - a community called Niumi. But, much more than an academic book, Wright is an excellent writer who has written an evocative story of the village through time to the twentyfirst century. As told by Wright, the story of this village and its people grabs you.

Utilizing The Gambia as a case study, Wright illustrates a complicated and fascinating history of Africa through a very small region. Demonstrating a great deal of historical inquiry, more books are necessary to illuminate the importance of African studies.

I bought this for an African history and it served as textbook. It's pretty compact considering the amount of specific information they give you regarding Niumi. If you want to learn about life in West Africa, the social structures, and the impact of trade and the environment then this is a good place to start.

To write a good book on such a small country is quite a task. I have read this book twice in preparation to go to The Gambia for short-term stays (not as a tourist). I had a hard time focusing on some of the history of the area, such as dynasties and tribes. Some fo the other information like slavery, economy, and women are very eye-opening, dispelling many myths about Africa. Nothing is quite the same as experiencing the country first-hand, but this book may help to rid the initial culture-shock if you are going there. The book Roots (and the 1980s tv show) are based on this country. I suggest reading Wright's book first; it makes Roots that much more enjoyable.

Perfect just what I wanted thank you!

I wasn't sure I was going to like this book, but it actually ended up being a great read. I would suggest it to anyone interested in globalization and/or economic markets.

I am thoroughly enjoying this book, which perfectly combines historical research and present-day ethical concerns. I recommend it for anyone interested in how everyday lives fit or don't fit into the bigger picture.

This book is well written, concise and gives knowledge about a the broad concept of colonization by using a small section of territory.

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