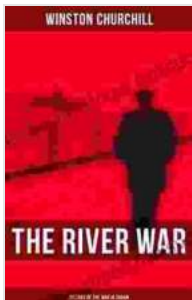


The River War: A Comprehensive History of the War in Sudan



The River War (History of the War in Sudan): Historical & Autobiographical Account of the Reconquest of Sudan by Greg Bak

★★★★★ 5 out of 5

Language : English
File size : 1092 KB
Text-to-Speech : Enabled
Screen Reader : Supported
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Print length : 274 pages



The River War, also known as the Mahdist War, was a protracted military conflict that took place in Sudan from 1881 to 1899. The war pitted the forces of the British Empire and the Egyptian Khedivate against those of the Mahdist Sudanese, led by the charismatic religious leader Muhammad Ahmad. The war's outcome had a profound impact on the history of Sudan and the wider region, shaping the course of British colonial rule in Africa.

Causes of the War

The roots of the River War can be traced to a complex interplay of political, economic, and religious factors. Egypt's attempt to establish control over Sudan in the mid-19th century led to resistance from the local population, who resented Egyptian rule and its heavy taxation. Economic grievances,

including the imposition of a cotton monopoly by the Egyptian government, fueled popular discontent.

Religious fervor also played a significant role. Muhammad Ahmad, a charismatic preacher from Northern Sudan, proclaimed himself the Mahdi, the messianic figure prophesied to liberate Sudan from foreign oppression. His message resonated with many Sudanese, who were eager to throw off Egyptian and British influence.

The Mahdist Uprising

In 1881, Muhammad Ahmad launched an uprising against the Egyptian government in Sudan. His Mahdist followers, armed with little more than spears and swords, quickly gained control of large swaths of the country. The Egyptian army, weakened by years of corruption and mismanagement, was unable to effectively quell the rebellion.

The Mahdists' success was due in part to their superior knowledge of the terrain and their ability to mobilize a large number of followers. They also benefited from the support of many local tribes, who saw the Mahdi as a symbol of Sudanese independence.

British Intervention

As the Mahdist uprising gained momentum, the British government became increasingly concerned about the threat it posed to its interests in Egypt and the wider region. In 1884, a British force was sent to Sudan to rescue General Charles Gordon, who had been besieged in the city of Khartoum by the Mahdists.

The British expedition, led by General Horatio Kitchener, inflicted heavy losses on the Mahdists but failed to reach Khartoum in time to save Gordon. The fall of Khartoum and the death of Gordon shocked the British public and led to a reassessment of British policy in Sudan.

The Reconquest of Sudan

In 1896, the British government decided to reconquer Sudan and avenge the death of Gordon. Kitchener, who had been appointed Sirdar of the Egyptian Army, was given command of the expedition.

Kitchener's forces, equipped with superior weaponry and tactics, systematically defeated the Mahdist armies. In 1898, Kitchener's forces entered Khartoum and effectively ended the Mahdist state.

Consequences of the War

The River War had a profound impact on Sudan and the wider region. The war led to the establishment of Anglo-Egyptian Sudan, a condominium ruled jointly by Britain and Egypt. This arrangement lasted until Sudan's independence in 1956.

The war also had a significant impact on the British Empire. The victory in Sudan boosted British prestige and helped to secure its control over Egypt and the Suez Canal.

Legacy of the War

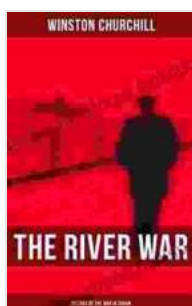
The River War is remembered as one of the most significant conflicts in the history of the British Empire. It was a brutal and costly war that had a lasting impact on Sudan and the wider region.

The war also serves as a reminder of the complexities of colonial rule. The British, who initially intervened in Sudan to protect their interests, ultimately found themselves embroiled in a long and bloody conflict. The war's legacy continues to shape Sudanese politics and identity.

The River War was a pivotal chapter in the history of Sudan. It was a complex and bloody conflict that had a profound impact on the country and the wider region. The war's legacy continues to shape Sudanese politics and identity today.

Further Reading

- The River War: The Campaign in the Sudan 1881-99 by Winston Churchill
- The Mahdist War in the Sudan, 1881-1899 by Richard Hill
- Kitchener in the Sudan: A Biography of Lord Kitchener by John Connell



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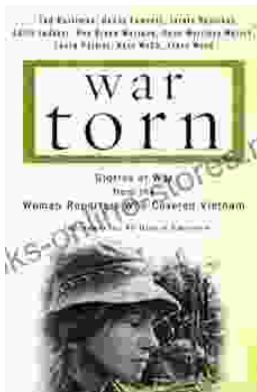
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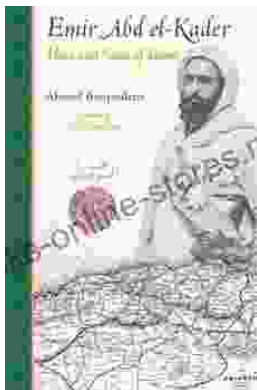
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