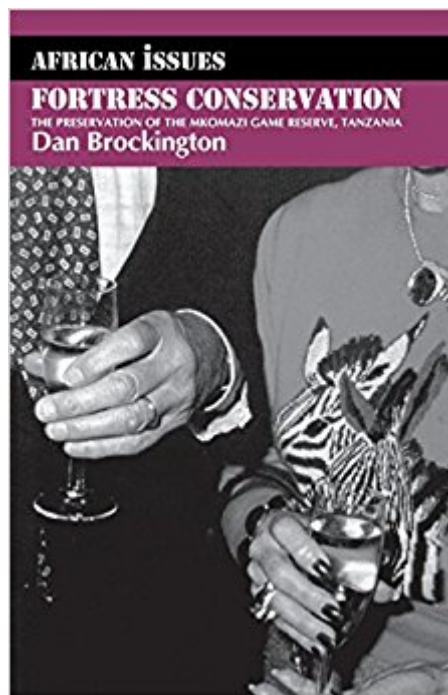




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Fortress Conservation: The Preservation Of The Mkomazi Game Reserve,



Synopsis

Do cattle destroy a wilderness? Does a wilderness need to be devoid of people in order to be "saved"? In this hard-hitting book, Dan Brockington argues that the dominant approach to wildlife conservation in Africa has more to do with Western views of the environment than with what is appropriate for African people and herds. He focuses on the Tanzanian government's decision to evict people and cattle from the Mkomazi Game Reserve in 1988, but he also considers damaging, harmful, and unjust conservation efforts across the continent. Extensive fieldwork and archival investigations enable the author to elucidate the history of the Mkomazi reserve, assess competing explanations of the environmental dynamics of the reserve, and show the negative effects of exclusion on local populations and the regional economy.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

This is a book well worth reading. It covers a lot of very interesting material, ranging from a consideration of conservation as both ideology and practice (Chapter 1) and of fortress and community conservation (Chapter 6) to a detailed study of Mkomazi and its people and the history of the reserve, its land alienation and evictions and their impact on livelihoods. - Dan Taylor in DEVELOPMENT POLICY REVIEW --This text refers to an alternate Paperback edition.

Dan Brockington received his Ph.D. from University College London. Dan Brockington is a Research Fellow at New Hall, Cambridge.

The book makes a useful contribution to the conservation and development debate by tracing the history and the implications of the gazettement (closing off) of the Mkomazi grasslands of Tanzania. But rather than just tracing out this history and its sorry implications, the author goes further to make the normative claim, buttressed by evidence, that the gazettement of Mkomazi was inappropriate, indeed wrong since the existing populations were adversely affected by the loss of land and associated colonial and post colonial extortions. Maasai herders should not, therefore, have been excluded from the Reserve. An impressive body of evidence is brought to bear on the central question of effects of exclusionary conservation on local populations in this part of East Africa. Extensive fieldwork and archival investigation has been carried out, including survey-based human ecology measurement of pastoral welfare and livelihoods. The author has a sparse, clear and whimsical writing style. The book stands up well as an empirical study, although the broader literature and `debates' on African livelihood systems and resource access could be addressed more.

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