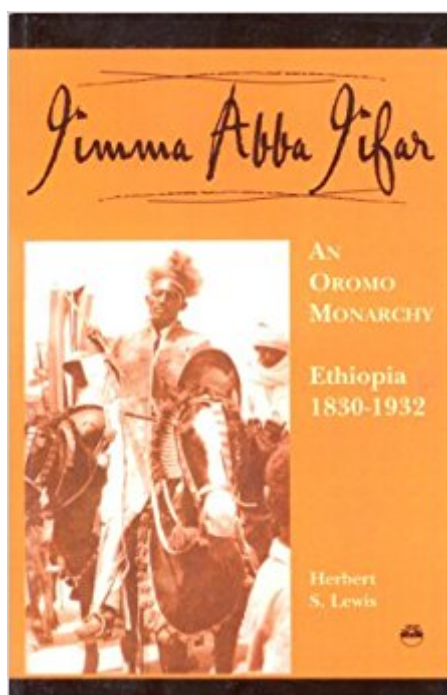


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Jimma Abba Jifar: An Oromo Monarchy Ethiopia 1830-1932



Synopsis

Established around 1830, the Kingdom of Jimma Abba Jifar was the largest and most powerful of the five monarchies formed by the Oromo in the Gibe region of southwestern Ethiopia. Although the Oromo are known for their democratic ("republican") gada system, Jimma and other Gibe states arose through a series of processes and historical events in the 19th century that propelled certain men into positions of supreme power. Based on intensive fieldwork in Jimma, this book presents a study of the history and organization of Jimma under its most powerful ruler, Abba Jifar II (1878-1932). Lewis stresses the dynamic aspects of politics and places the political history and structure of Jimma in perspective by noting its similarities and differences to monarchical systems in other parts of Africa and the rest of the world. He also explores those distinctive aspects of the Oromo culture which gave Jimma Abba Jifar its particular political style and includes an ethnographic study of an Oromo Muslim agricultural community. This is one of the first published professional anthropological works about the Oromo and will be of strong interest to social scientists as well as African anthropologists and historians.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Herbert S. Lewis, Professor Emeritus of Anthropology at the University of Wisconsin-Madison, has been concerned with Oromo and Ethiopian studies since the late 1950s. In addition to this book and numerous articles about various aspects of Oromo culture and history, he is the author of *After the Eagles Landed: The Yemenites of Israel*, a study of cultural change and ethnicity. He received his

doctorate in Anthropology from Columbia University in 1963.

This is a great book to read, it gives much information the land, people, governmental structure, just the charts on the page 82, 84 -85 are amazing to read. The author really put some time and effort into this work. On scale of 1 through 10 I'll give it 11, get the book it's worth it.

informative book about Jimma Abbaa Jifaar and Oromo people in the surrounding area

A must-read for anyone interested in Ethiopian history, both for its explicit and implicit information. I'll explain: Explicitly, it presents the history of a Kingdom that was only recently incorporated into the Ethiopian Empire. The origins, mechanisms, social and economics of this small but rather wealthy kingdom in what is now south-west Ethiopia. Implicitly I thought it contained rather interesting information too. At first I was tempted to disregard the whole book seeing that the author only uses the word "Oromo" in the front page, and then insists on using the "Galla" word, which nowadays has extremely bad connotations (and I mean REALLY bad connotations!). The author addresses this problem, but his biggest mistake is that he does it at the end of the book, not at the beginning. So, all Oromo readers out there, read the end (the epilogue) before, otherwise you may get very angry. If you're going to visit this region of Ethiopia, I really recommend it as not only the Jimma Kingdom of the Aba Yifar dynasty is discussed, but also the neighbouring kingdoms of Kaffa, Enarya, etc.

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