

## AFRICANS

*The History of a Continent*

In a vast and all-embracing study of Africa, from the origins of humankind to the present day, John Iliffe refocuses its history on the peopling of an environmentally hostile continent. Africans have been pioneers struggling against disease and nature, but during the past century their inherited culture has interacted with medical progress to produce the most rapid population growth the world has ever seen.

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John Iliffe was Professor of African History at the University of Cambridge and is a Fellow of St John's College. He is the author of several books on Africa, including *A Modern History of Tanganyika* (Cambridge University Press, 1979) and *The African Poor: A History* (Cambridge University Press, 1988), which was awarded the Herskovits Prize of the African Studies Association of the United States.

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# Africans

## THE HISTORY OF A CONTINENT

Third Edition

**JOHN ILIFFE**

Fellow of St John's College, Cambridge



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*In memory of*  
*Charles Ross Iliffe*  
*and*  
*Joy Josephine Iliffe*

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## Preface to the Third Edition

David Fieldhouse suggested this book. In writing it, I have strayed far from my expertise as a documentary historian. John Sutton is partly to blame for that because he first interested me in African prehistory through his lectures at Dar es Salaam. David Phillipson kindly read and commented on my initial typescript, as did John Lonsdale, who has taught me so much. John Alexander and Timothy Insoll helped with books. I am very grateful to Carol Fellingham Webb for the care and skill she has exercised in converting my untidy typescript into a printable and electronic form.

In this new edition, I have recast the final chapters, now current to early 2016, extensively revised the sections on prehistory and the Atlantic slave trade, and made substantial changes to take account of recent scholarship on other periods. In doing so, I have relied heavily on the magnificent resources of the Cambridge University Library and have been grateful for the support and companionship of the members of my College.