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### **The Partition of Africa**

In the latter part of the nineteenth century, as technological progress enabled the exploration of hitherto neglected territory, the powers of Western Europe embarked on a process of imperial expansion into the African continent. As a journalist for *The Times*, geographer John Scott Keltie (1840–1927) wrote articles on the ‘scramble’ at the time, and in 1893 published this authoritative text on the subject, here reissued in its revised and augmented second edition of 1895. Keltie’s presentation of the topic was well received and remained of lasting relevance, being described in his obituary as ‘the best text-book of that exploration and division of a forgotten continent’. Early chapters address certain aspects of African history, but the bulk of the book deals with European attempts at settlement, partition and commercial exploitation. The future of Africa, as a site of ongoing European contention and competition, is also considered.

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*NOTE.*

I think it right to state that none of the gentlemen whose names are mentioned in the Preface are responsible for the opinions expressed or the policy advocated in this work.

J. S. KELTIE.

*March 28, 1895.*

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THE PARTITION  
OF  
AFRICA

BY

J. SCOTT KELTIE

ASSISTANT-SECRETARY TO THE ROYAL GEOGRAPHICAL SOCIETY  
EDITOR OF 'THE STATESMAN'S YEAR-BOOK,' ETC.

WITH TWENTY-FOUR MAPS

*SECOND EDITION*

LONDON : EDWARD STANFORD  
26 & 27 COCKSPUR STREET, CHARING CROSS, S.W.  
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We sail'd wherever ship could sail,  
We founded many a mighty state ;  
Pray God our greatness may not fail  
Through craven fears of being great.  
TENNYSON.



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## PREFACE TO SECOND EDITION

THERE is every reason to be satisfied with the reception which the first edition of this work has met with. While one or two German and French papers have charged me with Chauvinism, others declare that my treatment of the enterprises of these countries in Africa has been quite impartial. In revising the present edition I have endeavoured to modify such passages as might be open to a charge of unfair patriotic bias. This is the case especially with respect to Portugal, for many valuable suggestions with reference to which I am indebted to my friend Mr. J. Batalha Reis. Yet withal, I am afraid it remains evident that I am not indifferent to my country's success in the race with her rivals.

Much has taken place in Africa during the two years that have elapsed since the publication of the first edition. This has necessitated extensive revision of several of the later chapters, and an addition of some seventy pages to the work. The book has been carefully revised throughout, and important additions have been made to the maps.

I have again to express my indebtedness to the friends mentioned in the preface to the first edition for valuable help in preparing the new edition. My thanks are also due to Count Joachim Pfeil, Mr. F. C. Selous, Mr. H. H. Johnston, C.B., and Mr. Herbert Canning, Secretary to the British South Africa Company.

J. S. K.

*28th February 1895.*

## PREFACE TO FIRST EDITION

FEW words of preface are necessary. The main purpose of this volume is to give a brief connected narrative of the remarkable events which, during the last eight years, have led to the partition of the bulk of Africa among certain of the Powers of Europe. The process of partition has been so bewilderingly rapid, there has been such a jostling crowd of episodes over some millions of square miles, that it is difficult to realise clearly the various stages that have led to the existing conditions. It is hoped that the present volume may enable those interested in Africa to form a fairly clear conception of a story unprecedented in the case of any other continent. In order to connect the main subject with the past history of the Continent, an attempt is made in the earlier chapters to trace the relations of what we may call the outside world with Africa from the Egyptian times downwards. The book does not profess to be either a history of African exploration or a treatise on the geography of the Continent. Incidentally these matters

*PREFACE TO FIRST EDITION*

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may be referred to ; but the main purpose is to deal with attempts at settlement, partition, and industrial development. One chapter does deal with the economical aspects of the geography of Africa. Those who desire to study the geography of the Continent in detail need have no difficulty in doing so ; there are several easily accessible works. A list of the leading works bearing on the subject of the present volume will be found in Appendix II.

I must acknowledge the kindness of Sir John Kirk in reading the whole work, and making many important suggestions. Sir George Taubman Goldie (Royal Niger Company), Mr. George S. Mackenzie (Imperial British East Africa Company), and Mr. George Cawston and Mr. C. H. Weatherley (British South Africa Company), have been good enough to revise the chapters in which they are specially interested. Mr. E. G. Ravenstein has been good enough to draw up the Statistical Table in the Appendix. The Index has been made by Dr. James Murie.

The Maps, which have been done under the care of Mr. Stanford's cartographer, Mr. John Bolton, have been specially selected and compiled to illustrate the various stages and aspects dealt with in the work.

J. S. K.

*4th January 1893.*

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