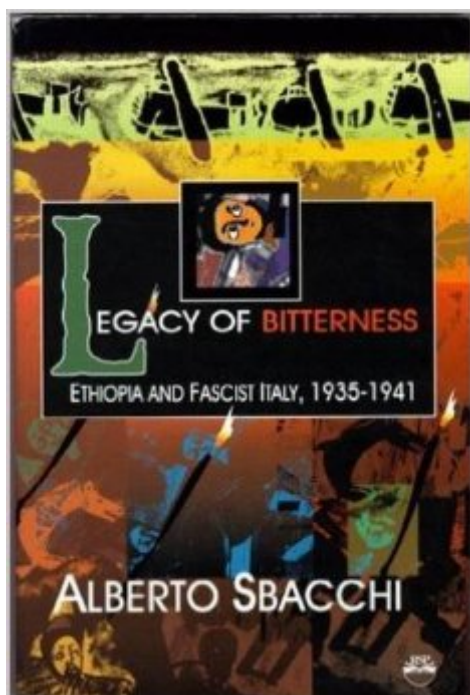


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Legacy Of Bitterness Ethiopia And Fascist Italy, 1935-1941



Synopsis

Book by Sbacchi, Alberto

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

I bought this book because I was writing a research paper on the Italo-Ethiopian War, and seeing as this humongous volume was written all about it, I was thrilled.. and I wasn't disappointed. It has lots of information about the war and was a great help in helping me narrow down my topic; it also covers background to the war, etc. However, I only found about half of the book at all relevant to what I was trying to find. Nevertheless, this fault does not affect the usefulness of the book, except that it just makes it a whole lot heavier. Not my choice for a light afternoon read, but very good for research.

Be careful with this book: I bought it for use in a history essay, expecting it to be a single work. Instead, Alberto Sbacchi, the noted Italian scholar and critic of imperialism, who is listed as the author, compiled a series of essays ranging from the 1970s to the present about the history of Italy in Ethiopia. There is a special concentration on Italian generals' use of poison gas against the Ethiopians, which is a little-addressed subject. Essentially, it is useful as a general reference, but be aware of bias and don't depend on it as a serious piece of historiography.

The author presented how the mighty European powers sacrificed Ethiopian independence in a clear and unambiguous manner. All the relevant facts and supporting documents were

appropriate. But I am NOT sure why, Mr. Sbacchi failed to mention that The Pope's tacit support of the campaign. In fact to set an example, he donated the Papal ring to help finance the Italian invasion of Ethiopia. This act by the Pope infuriated a number of Eritreans, who then not only converted to The Ethiopian Orthodox faith in protest, but also deserted Italy, and joined the Ethiopian patriots. The Pope's act left one of more Legacy of bitterness, since most thought that a Christian can not be cruel to another Christian. And they found out that European Christians are never meant to be equal with African Christians. Overall, it is a commendable work and I hope to see more like it.

Extremely interesting and fascinating book. This book would be even more interesting if juxtaposed with the later struggles between Ethiopia and the emerging state of Eritrea. Italy's actions (and later Britain and the UN) in this region of Northeast Africa reverberates until today with the Ethiopian-Eritrean border 1998-2000 War. I'd like to make one point about the atrocities committed against the Ethiopians by the Italians. Although the Italians did terrible acts of murder, rape, and genocide against the Ethiopians, their actions and appetite for murder, rape, and genocide were surpassed by the Ethiopians, who in later years committed even more terrible atrocities against the Eritreans (in their struggle for independence). Of course, actions taken by Haile Selassie later on in his regime, and Mengistu Haile Mariam led to millions of Ethiopians starving to death. So, what is my point? Well, I guess that the actions of the Italians should not be made ominous at that time in history because they are "Italians" or "whites". What the Italians did is what they did, and the Ethiopians, later, did far more terrible things to the Eritreans and to themselves.

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