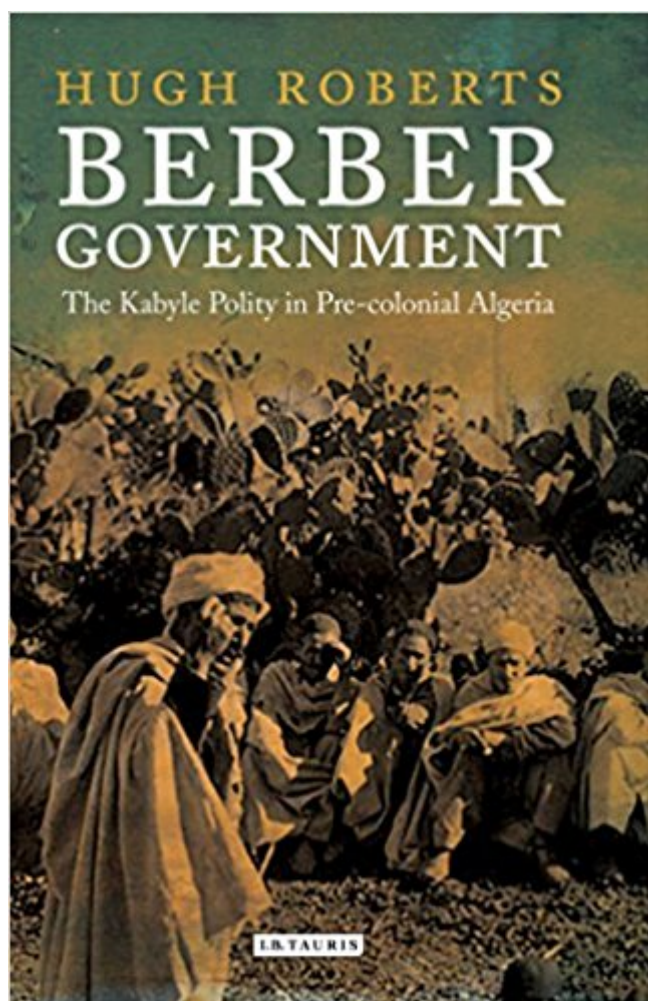


The book was found

Berber Government: The Kabyle Polity In Pre-Colonial Algeria (Library Of Middle East History)



Synopsis

The Berber identity movement in North Africa was pioneered by the Kabyles of Algeria. But a preoccupation with identity and language has obscured the fact that Kabyle dissidence has been rooted in democratic aspirations inspired by the political traditions of Kabylia itself, a Berber-speaking region in the north of Algeria. The political organisation of pre-colonial Kabylia, from which these traditions originate, was well described by nineteenth-century French authors. But their inability to explain it encouraged later theorists of Berber society, such as Ernest Gellner and Pierre Bourdieu, to dismiss Kabylia's political institutions, notably the jema'a (assembly or council), and to reduce Berber politics to a function of social structure and shared religion. In *Berber Government*, Hugh Roberts, a renowned expert on North Africa, explores the remarkable logics of Kabyle political organisation and the unusual degree of autonomy it possessed in relation to both kinship divisions and the religious field. This book further offers a pioneering account of the social and political history of Kabylia during the Ottoman period and establishes a radically new way to understand the complex place of the Kabyles in Algerian politics.

Book Information

Series: Library of Middle East History

Hardcover: 352 pages

Publisher: I.B.Tauris (November 30, 2013)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 1845112512

ISBN-13: 978-1845112516

Product Dimensions: 5.6 x 1.4 x 8.8 inches

Shipping Weight: 1.2 pounds (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: Be the first to review this item

Best Sellers Rank: #1,589,028 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #82 in Books > History > Africa > Algeria #444 in Books > History > Africa > North Africa #757 in Books > Textbooks > Humanities > Religious Studies > Islam

Customer Reviews

"Hugh Roberts's book is sharp, exhaustive, detailed and poignant. It fills an important gap and its general point about the institutional richness of Kabyle politics (and the primacy of politics more generally) is made with devastating effect. The book does not just track and explain five hundred years of 'the Kabyle polity' (though it does that) but also explores the logic of how and why the polity

transformed as it did when it did.Â There is no arguing from first causes or flaccidly conceived
â ^cultural tendenciesâ ^TM.Â Roberts alerts us to multiple possible readings of every turn of events,
and marshals evidence for his way of understanding each one of them.Â What makes this
intellectually satisfying is the way these are brought together, the way empirical rigor and sometimes
bewildering specificity is rendered sensible via a broader logic of institutional forms understood and
acted upon in particular cultural ways.Â Neither the culture nor material conditions explain political
life.Â Political life is undertaken by political actors, whom we get to know through Robertsâ ^TM's
description, and these actors employ the institutional resources available to them in culturally
sensible ways in their historically specific moments.Â Eric Wolf long ago complained that European
scholars conceive of Others as â ^people without historyâ ^TM. Robertsâ ^TM's book is a potent antidote
to that. I have not read anything like it." (â “ David Crawford, Professor of Sociology and
Anthropology, Fairfield University)â ^InÂ Berber Government: the Kabyle polity in pre-colonial
Algeria Hugh Roberts brings to bear his unbeatable knowledge of Ottoman Algerian history and
politics as well as his equally impressive gift for social theory. He provides a convincing map of the
structures, legal system, and complex social networks that had generated a self-governing Kabyle
Berber polity by the advent of French colonial rule.â ^TM (- Edmund Burke III, Research Professor of
Modern Middle Eastern and World History, University of California, Santa Cruz)â ^Shattering the
views of Orientalists and nativists alike, this massively erudite and ruthlessly precise book takes the
reader on an exhilarating detective hunt through barely-known sources, exposing a rich political
history of Berber self-government that generations of researchers have missed. This is a landmark
study that decisively changes the received wisdom on Berbers, Algeria, and the political history of
the region. It is one of the best books I have read in Middle East Studies in recent years.â ^TM (â “
John Chalcraft, Associate Professor, Department of Government, LSE)

Hugh Roberts is the Edward Keller Professor of North African and Middle Eastern History at Tufts
University. He previously held the position of Director of the International Crisis Group's North Africa
programme and is the author of The Battlefield: Algeria 1988-2002.

[Download to continue reading...](#)

Berber Government: The Kabyle Polity in Pre-Colonial Algeria (Library of Middle East History)
Algeria Pre-colonial History, Colonial Era, and self-governance: Religious information, ethnic
groups, government and politics MiG-23 Flogger in the Middle East: Mikoyan i Gurevich MiG-23 in
Service in Algeria, Egypt, Iraq, Libya and Syria, 1973 until Today (Middle East@War) Online
Activism in the Middle East: Political Power and Authoritarian Governments from Egypt to Kuwait

(Library of Modern Middle East Studies) Democracy and Youth in the Middle East: Islam, Tribalism and the Rentier State in Oman (Library of Modern Middle East Studies) Syria and Iran: Diplomatic Alliance and Power Politics in the Middle East (Library of Modern Middle East Studies) Power and Policy in Syria: Intelligence Services, Foreign Relations and Democracy in the Modern Middle East (Library of Modern Middle East Studies) Ecuador History: Pre-Hispanic Era, Discovery and Conquest, Spanish Colonial Era, Society, Economy, Government, Politics History and the Culture of Nationalism in Algeria (Cambridge Middle East Studies) Everyday Life in the Muslim Middle East, Third Edition (Indiana Series in Middle East Studies) From Resilience to Revolution: How Foreign Interventions Destabilize the Middle East (Columbia Studies in Middle East Politics) The Middle East on the Eve of Modernity: Aleppo in the Eighteenth Century (Study of the Middle East Institute Ser) Writing Off the Beaten Track: Reflections on the Meaning of Travel and Culture in the Middle East (Contemporary Issues in the Middle East) Greater Middle East Region: Including Afghanistan, Pakistan, Libya and Turkey (Hammond Greater Middle East Region Map) Algeria (Modern Middle East Nations and Their Strategic Place in the) America Latina / Latin America: Epoca colonial / Colonial Period (Biblioteca Basica De Historia / Basic History Library) (Spanish Edition) History and Culture of Algeria: National Economy, Ethnic Relations and history, Religion, Ethnic Cultural differences, Government and leadership. ALGERIA Country Studies: A brief, comprehensive study of Algeria Tourism in Algeria: Algeria touristic information relate to strategic locations, Sites, Scenes, Security status and more The Algeria Fact and Picture Book: Fun Facts for Kids About Algeria (Turn and Learn)

[Contact Us](#)

[DMCA](#)

[Privacy](#)

[FAQ & Help](#)