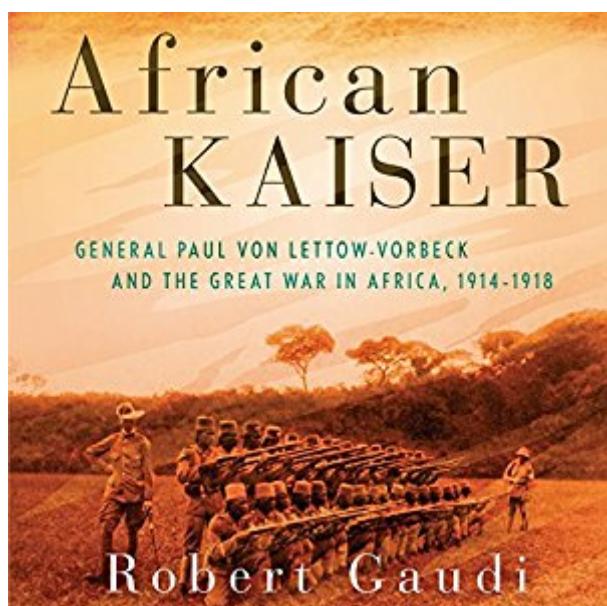


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African Kaiser: General Paul Von Lettow-Vorbeck And The Great War In Africa, 1914-1918



Synopsis

The incredible true account of General Paul von Lettow-Vorbeck and his exploits in World War I Africa with the legendary "Schutztruppe". As World War I ravaged the European continent, a completely different theater of war was being contested in Africa. And from this very different kind of war, there emerged a very different kind of military leader.... At the beginning of the twentieth century, the continent of Africa was a hotbed of international trade, colonialism, and political gamesmanship. So when World War I broke out, the European powers were forced to contend with each other not just in the bloody trenches - but in the treacherous jungle. And it was in that unforgiving land that General Paul von Lettow-Vorbeck would make history. With the now legendary "Schutztruppe" (Defensive Force), von Lettow-Vorbeck and a small cadre of hardened German officers fought alongside their fanatically devoted native African allies as equals, creating the first truly integrated army of the modern age. African Kaiser is the almost-forgotten true account of Weimar Germany's military escapades on the dark continent. A story of 1,000-mile marches through the harshest landscapes; of German officers riding bicycles into battle through the bush; of battleships hidden in jungle rivers teeming with crocodiles; of improbable Zeppelin voyages; of desperate men living off hippo lard and facing dangers in both man and nature. But mostly it is the story of von Lettow-Vorbeck - the only undefeated German commander in the field during World War I, and the last to surrender his arms in final defeat.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

An excellent history of a fascinating period. I find it's a shame that many history books are dry -- this one isn't. It is packed with so many details about a time that seems almost fantastical to the modern mind. Gaudi brings the conflicts and mentalities of colonialism during war alive with the rich language of a novelist and makes exciting, accessible reading of the subject.

Would make a great movie. Could not put it down, why have I not heard about it earlier? Will read again soon

Well written analysis of a little known theater in world war 1. Gaudi's description of the soldier's privations during the campaign are vivid.

little known history well presented and researched

Chock full of fascinating information and extremely well put together.

A great biography of a forgotten but great man. von Lettow-Vorbeck was the very best type of military officer whether German, Briton, or American. Historians concentrate on WW I's western front and ignore German East Africa and the eastern front. This book balances things out a bit.

One of the history books I've read in years and the best I've read on ww1. Write more, gaudi!

This is a fascinating account of a mostly forgotten chapter of WWI history. Battle cruisers, dirigibles, air planes, oxen carts, trains and plenty of shoe leather, all playing critical roles in the German effort to draw British resources away from the big show in Europe. For military history buffs this is a must read!

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