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Encyclopedia of the Peoples of Africa and the Middle East 2 Volume Set (**Jfacts on File Library of World History**) From Brand: Facts on File

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- Sales Rank: #3007905 in Books
- Brand: Brand: Facts on File
- Published on: 2009-06-01
- Original language: English
- Number of items: 2
- Dimensions: 11.20" h x 2.60" w x 8.70" l, 6.35 pounds
- Binding: Hardcover
- 864 pages

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Editorial Review

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Not to be confused with the Peoples of Africa series published by Facts On File in 1997, this set is a companion to Encyclopedia of the Peoples of Asia and Oceania (2009) and has a similar format. About 900 entries cover ancient and modern groups, from Ababda to Zulu. Some entries are only a sentence or two long when the people constitute a subgroup; the Ababda, for example, are a subgroup of the Beja people of Sudan. Larger entries, such as Zulu (2 pages) and Arabs (19 pages), include sections on the group's origins, language, history, and culture. Large entries also have maps, pictures, time lines, and a list of further reading. Fact boxes offer basic information such as location, ancestry, and language; and sidebars contain biographical profiles. Some of the entries, such as South Africans and Sudanese, are based on nationality and provide information on geography, inception as a nation, and cultural identity. Each volume has a table of contents, list of entries, and list of illustrations and maps for the set, as well as a map of Africa and the Middle East. The second volume has appendixes that include a list of the people featured in biographical sidebars, descriptions of the geography of Africa and the Middle East, an essay on human evolution, a chronology of Africa and the Middle East from prehistoric times to 2008, and a "Glossary of Cultural Terms." The appendixes are followed by a bibliography and an index. Up-to-date and well researched, this set is an excellent resource for undergraduate libraries as well as public libraries. Also available as an ebook. --Christy Donaldson

About the Author

Historical consultant Anthony Gorman is a lecturer in modern Middle Eastern history at the University of Edinburgh. Historical consultant Andrew Newman is a reader in Islamic studies and Persia the University of Edinburgh and director of the Graduate School of Literatures, Languages, and Cultures.

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