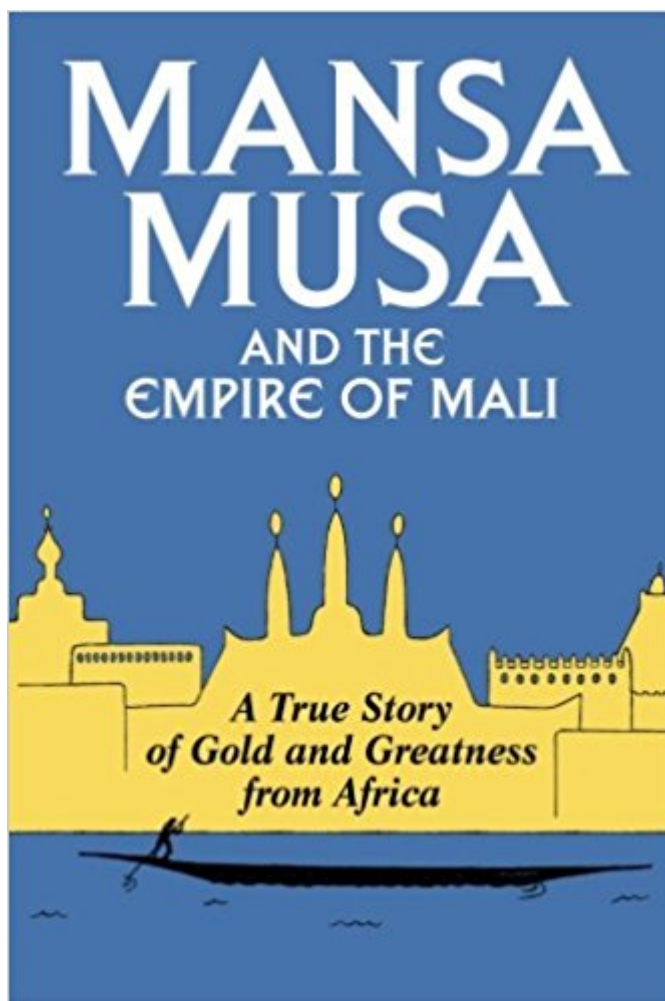


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Mansa Musa And The Empire Of Mali



Synopsis

Oliver's well-researched biography of Mansa Musa reads like an exotic tale of gold, glory, and adventure. During his long reign as Mali's emperor, Mansa Musa led his empire into its Golden Age; presided over a spectacular, 60,000 person, 9,000 mile pilgrimage; founded a university in Timbuktu; and helped revolutionize architecture across the Sudan. Oliver does not allow Musa's story to get bogged down in detail by seamlessly weaving a lot of history into his narrative and by supplying curious readers with an extensive Glossary. Many of the African ancestors of today's African-Americans came from West Africa. From 700 -- 1600 A. D., one after the other, three great, black, commercial empires dominated West Africa. They were powerful, prosperous, complex, stable -- and large. At its height, the Empire of Mali was the size of all of Western Europe. Well-crafted and fast paced, Oliver's book is enhanced by a liberal sprinkling of enjoyable drawings, clear and helpful maps, and interesting photos. Not only are Mansa Musa's triumphs and dilemmas clearly portrayed, but so are the lives of the people of medieval Mali.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Like most Western-educated people, I know almost no pre-colonial African history. In particular, I had no idea that in the 14th century the empire of Mali ranked with the greatest in the globe. This book begins to fill a significant hole in my education. It is easy to read and I enjoyed the whimsical graphics. Attention teachers! You need this book.

This was an easy read. I thoroughly enjoyed learning about the richest man who ever lived. The

story was told in a clear concise manner. The author shared interesting facts and archaeological pictures that added to the beautiful story. The story's format is great for children and adults alike. I hope one day to see a movie made of this story.

Well written and full of detail. Positive stories out of west African history are few and far between, Oliver's story helps me believe this may be due to a lack of documentation and not a lack of material. An easy read with beautiful illustration, I would highly recommend for anyone with an interest in African history. Stories like this need to make it into our school's curriculum, our children need to know that African history is more than slavery, genocide, famine and Nelson Mandela.

I was hoping for a history book detailing the Mali empire in West Africa. What little historical detail the book contains may be factually correct but the book reads like a children's book. The book gave a superficial account of the history of Mali, without sufficient detail to form any ideas about life in those times or the history of the empire.

This book provides an engaging narrative of the history of Mansa Musa's reign of an the African Mali empire that rivaled and even surpassed it's European counterparts. If you are interested in African history or world history in general to be honest, you need to get this book. I used the text to speech feature to have it read to me and it was a good experience. I learned a lot without actually having to read the text, I just listened.

Take a trip back in time and meet Mansa Musa, the ruler of Mali. Bringing to life one of the greatest journeys of its time, the author hides a healthy dose of history inside an engaging narrative. A good choice for history buffs and history teachers alike.

made a great gift

This volume is a great introduction to the topics of ancient African history, the empire of Mali, the great trek of Mansa Musa to Mecca and back, the introduction of a unique adobe style of architecture for which West Africa continues to be well-known, and useful graphics and glossary. The book's pedigree is curious. While it is informative, most of the references are from 1980s scholarship, and there is no description of the author or even a publisher to write to. It would have been nice to have had greater substantiation of claims so the book lacks the credibility it might

otherwise have.

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