



Going South: Tracing the Maasai from the Middle East to East Africa

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COLLECTION EDITED BY Kaziwa Salih

COLLECTION
Middle Eastern Studies

EDITION
1st edition

MARKET
College/higher education
and Professional and
scholarly

This course reading...

- Traces the historical origins and migration narratives of the Masai people from the Middle East to East Africa.
- Blends personal family history with broader anthropological and historical analysis of East African societies.
- Examines the complex impact of British colonialism on Indigenous leadership, land, and cultural identity in Kenya.
- Explores themes of intermarriage, cultural resilience, and community survival amid urbanization and nation-building.
- Ideal for students and scholars in anthropology, African history, political science, biography, and international affairs.

What forces shaped the rise of the Masai in East Africa, and how did one family's story become intertwined with the region's complex history of migration, colonization, and cultural survival?

Going South: Tracing the Masai from the Middle East to East Africa by Paul Nkuo Kunoni traces the historical, cultural, and political pathways that shaped the Masai people and their enduring legacy in the region.

A multigenerational narrative tracing a Maasai family from ancient migrations to colonial upheaval, postcolonial struggle, and modern asylum. Blending history, memoir, and anthropology, it follows Lenku's journey across Kenya, the United States, and Canada, revealing how ancestry, displacement, and resilience shape African lives in a world marked by migration.

Drawing on historical reflection and personal investigation, Kunoni explores the events that contributed to the Masai's influence in East Africa while uncovering the overlooked role of a native royal family whose spiritual and administrative leadership helped shape tribal traditions. The narrative reveals the tensions faced by this family—caught between Masai authority and British colonial power—and documents how colonial policies displaced them from the Nairobi Forest, paving the way for the establishment of modern-day Nairobi.

Blending personal heritage with broader historical analysis, the book examines intermarriage, cultural identity, and the resilience of communities navigating the pressures of colonialism, urbanization, and nation-building. It also situates these experiences within wider political movements, including Pan-Africanism, post-independence struggles, neo-colonial influences, and Africa's democratic transformations.

Ideal for students and scholars in anthropology, African history, political science, and international relations, as well as readers interested in Indigenous histories, colonial legacies, and the evolving cultural identities of East Africa.

Paul Nkuo Kunoni is a Kenyan-born medical scientist and researcher whose work and personal heritage explore the history, culture, and identity of the Masai and East African communities.

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