

# Facing Mount Kenya

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facing mount kenya first published in 1938 is a monograph on the life and customs of the gikuyu people of central kenya prior to their contact with europeans it is unique in anthropological literature for it gives an account of the social institutions and religious rites of an african people permeated by the emotions that give to customs and observances their meaning it is characterised by both insight and a tinge of romanticism the author proud of his african blood and ways of thought takes the reader through a thorough and clear picture of gikuyu life and customs painting an almost utopian picture of their social norms and the sophisticated codes by which all aspects of the society were governed this book is one of a kind capturing and documenting traditions fast disappearing it is therefore a must read for all who want to learn about african culture

with an introduction by bronislav malinkowski facing mount kenya is a central document of the highest distinction in anthropological literature an invaluable key to the structure of african society and the nature of the african mind facing mount kenya is not only a formal study of life and death work and play sex and the family in one of the greatest tribes of contemporary africa but a work of considerable literary merit the very sight and sound of kikuyu tribal life presented here are at once comprehensive and intimate and as precise as they are compassionate

study of the impingement of cultural factors on issues of social reform economic development and african nationalism with particular reference to cultural policy in east african developing countries discusses ideological implications of a written history and literature considers social implications and political aspects involved in the choice of language and covers political participation elites traditional culture social change cultural change social integration social class tribal peoples etc maps and references

includes the proceedings of the royal geographical society formerly published separately

in this book challenges the commonly accepted narratives of the past especially as described in kenyatta s book facing mount kenya it describes a pre colonial narrative of unity that held together the various traditions of africa

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