

Historical Dictionary Of Lesotho

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lesotho is rather different from most other african countries for starters it is a kingdom which preserves a traditional hierarchy and customs and its population consists of one fairly homogenous ethnic group although admittedly there are differences and occasional rifts within it then it is a landlocked country completely

surrounded by south africa on which is depends heavily economically it has not been doing particularly well this partly because the country is so poorly endowed by nature and its people often eke out a living abroad politically there have been ups and downs the downs fortunately lying in the past with lesotho doing somewhat better since the latest elections socially and culturally as hinted it is quite unique and this can be gathered from reading the book this second edition of historical dictionary of lesotho covers the full scope of lesotho s ancient colonial and independence eras it gives greater emphasis to the more recent period and brings the book fully up to date this is done through a chronology an introductory essay appendixes and an extensive bibliography the dictionary section has over 400 cross referenced entries on civil society key events leaders governmental international religious and other private organizations policies political movements and parties economic elements and many other areas that have shaped the country s trajectory this book is an excellent access point for students researchers and anyone wanting to know more about lesotho

an extensive chronology of lesotho s evolution is also included book jacket

although lesotho is a small state never likely to be a major player in global affairs its special interactions with south africa make it a prototype for regional cooperation joint action by south africa s and botswana s military forces to end anarchy and preserve democracy in lesotho serves as an important test case of regional peacekeeping in africa this reference provides comprehensive entries on historical events and personalities and focuses especially on the basotho who have shaped lesotho s development rather than on colonial officials and other expatriates greatest attention is given to the events institutions issues personalities places and external relationships of the post independence era the bibliography introduces a plethora of newer publications about lesotho that have supplanted the rather sparse published literature previously available an extensive chronology of lesotho s evolution is included the authors range of professional expertise and ability to compliment each author s areas of specialization offers in depth coverage of the most crucial events and participants in lesotho s development

lesotho s history has long been defined by its enclave status within south africa but it is a hard fought and hard won status that helps unite basotho through the shared history of struggle against colonial rule in the region since the end of apartheid in 1994 lesotho s status as a separate entity has been called into question though the fierce national pride built through centuries of resistance to outside rule has mitigated against any serious discussions of incorporating lesotho into south africa still the political instability and lack of a flourishing domestic economy have made life difficult for the majority of basotho and could call into question the viability and legitimacy of the state in the eyes of its citizens if it cannot enact significant reforms in the coming decades historical dictionary of lesotho third edition contains a chronology an introduction and an extensive bibliography the dictionary section has more than 500 cross referenced entries on important personalities as well as aspects of the country s politics economy foreign relations religion and culture this

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reaching back into earlier periods when the swazi nation was being formed there are entries on swazi kings queens and others who played significant roles the colonial era is also clearly delineated and entries on important people places and events important to swaziland s contemporary history are also included the considerable material provided in the dictionary is buttressed by a solid introduction a chronology and especially a substantial bibliography

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