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Abstract: This reader was designed for the student and laymen interested in obtaining an overview of Africa, its peoples and cultures. The 36 contributions are arranged in six parts: Basic characteristics of Africa and its peoples (landscapes, prehistoric origins, human biological diversity, languages, economic prehistory); Ecology, economy, and habitation (among the Kalahari Bushmen, the Luvale of Zambia, the Kababish Arabs of northern Kordofan (Sudan), the Pakot of Kenya, and the Ibo of Nigeria, West African economic systems, African architecture); African social institutions (among the Tsimihety of Madagascar, the Kikuyu of Kenya, the WoDaaBe of the Niger delta, the Bushong of Zaire, the Mossi of Burkina Faso, the Sidamo of Ethiopia, the Tiv of Nigeria, and the Nyoro of Uganda); African political institutions (in Plateau Tonga society (Zambia), Rwanda, the Zande State (Sudan), Botswana, and among the Zulu of South Africa); African aesthetics and recreation (proverbs in Fante culture (Ghana), oral literature in black Africa, Swahili poetry, Hausa praise singing (Nigeria), African music, the Kalabari 'ekine' men's society (Nigeria)); African beliefs and religions (the Mande creation myth (Mali), Yoruba cosmology (Nigeria), Coptic Christianity (Egypt), liturgy in Ethiopia, and Islamic expansion in Africa).