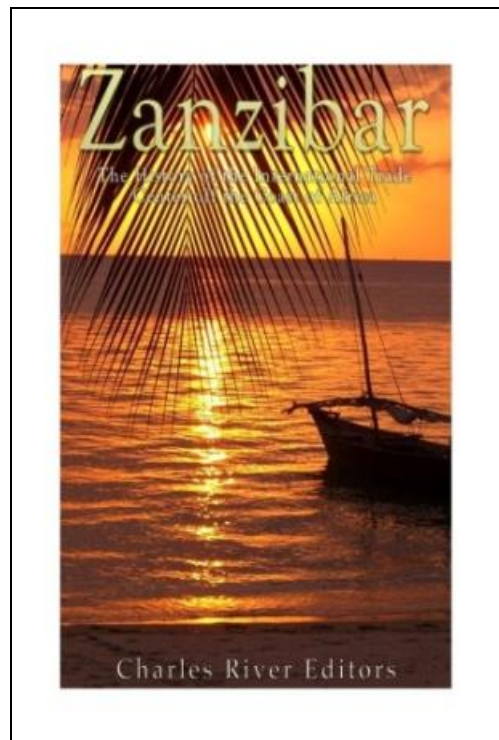


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Createspace Independent Publishing Platform, 2016. Paperback. Condition: New. Language: English . Brand New Book \*\*\*\*\* Print on Demand \*\*\*\*\*.\*Includes pictures \*Includes various explorers accounts of Zanzibar at different times \*Includes online resources and a bibliography for further reading \*Includes a table of contents It was then capital of an Afro-Arab dynasty, a centre of commerce and international diplomacy, a seat of learning, and a gateway to Africa. - Abdul Sheriff, 1995 Situated about 25 miles off the Tanzanian coast, Zanzibar, with its sultans and spices, merchants and mosques, dhows and doorways of richly carved timber, has captured the imagination of travelers and writers for hundreds of years. It has long evoked a romantic mystique, calling up images of an island paradise in the warm waters of the Indian Ocean. Its gleaming Muslim Swahili town, built of white coralline limestone, can trace approximately a thousand years of maritime trading, and it also sustained a plantation economy based principally on slaves and cloves. Stone Town is one of the few historic trading cities from the Swahili civilization that remains a viable urban center to this day. For much of the last millennium, Zanzibar served as the center of maritime interaction and trade between Africa, the Arabian Peninsula, and India, and the architectural and urban heritage of the island reflects the complex fusion of these cultural spheres. By tracing the changes seen in the archaeological record, it is possible to identify the transformations that occurred in the landscape, people, and architecture of Zanzibar. The earliest known people to call Zanzibar home, the Swahili, built their iconic coral rag houses on the strategically important Shangani Peninsula. It was therefore a populated-though sparsely so-island that European traders discovered during the Age of Exploration. The main settlement in Zanzibar was Mji Mkongwe ( old town in Swahili),...



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