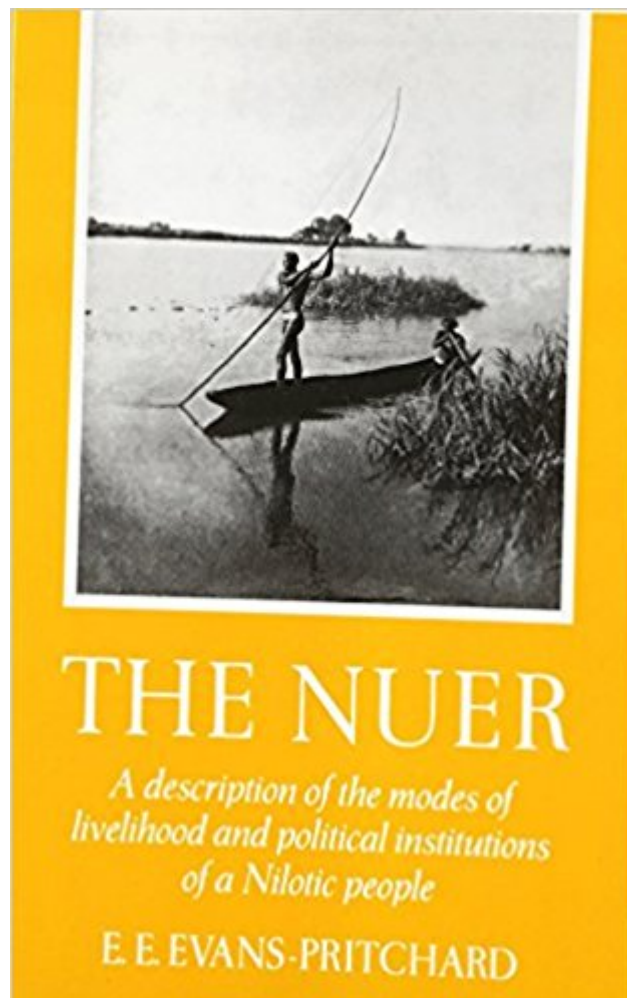




**Ebook Directory**  
the best source of ebook

The book was found

# The Nuer: A Description Of The Modes Of Livelihood And Political Institutions Of A Nilotic People



## Synopsis

This is a reproduction of a book published before 1923. This book may have occasional imperfections such as missing or blurred pages, poor pictures, errant marks, etc. that were either part of the original artifact, or were introduced by the scanning process. We believe this work is culturally important, and despite the imperfections, have elected to bring it back into print as part of our continuing commitment to the preservation of printed works worldwide. We appreciate your understanding of the imperfections in the preservation process, and hope you enjoy this valuable book.

## Book Information

Paperback: 271 pages

Publisher: Oxford University Press (July 15, 1969)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0195003225

ISBN-13: 978-0195003222

Product Dimensions: 8.2 x 0.8 x 5.4 inches

Shipping Weight: 12 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 3.2 out of 5 stars 10 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #190,442 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #36 in [Books > History > Africa > Central Africa](#) #124 in [Books > Textbooks > Humanities > History > Africa](#) #429 in [Books > Politics & Social Sciences > Social Sciences > Specific Demographics > Native American Studies](#)

## Customer Reviews

"An excellent example of British social anthropology. Useful as a teaching tool for social organization."--Michele Gamburd, Portland State University  
"We used this as an ethnographic example of structural-functionalism for our introductory theory course. Very useful."--Margaret S. Johnson, University of Colorado  
"The best ecology and anthropology ever written." -- Whole Earth Review  
"Amazed that it went out of print briefly. I plan to use it again."--P. Shipton, Harvard University

The late Edward E. Evans Pritchard was a Professor of Social Anthropology at the University of Oxford.

The Kindle edition is illegible. The diagrams and photos are unavailable and the footnotes are placed in the middle of the text, sometimes separating a paragraph by a few pages ... and sometimes even separating words. If I paid more than \$0.99 I would be asking for my money back. Now the semester is started and I have to rush order a physical copy in order to complete my assignments. I KNEW the price was too good to be true.

This e-book has a number of flaws that make it absolutely worthless, except as a case study in how NOT to release a classic work in an electronic edition. The first problem you will notice is that the pages are oriented 90 degrees from proper. This may not be so much of an issue for those reading on a Kindle device (who can simply rotate the device appropriately), but for those of us reading it using the PC app that alone makes it useless, at least until decided to include a "rotate page" feature. To make matters worse, instead of being OCRd text (which would make it highlightable, selectable, copy-and-pasteable, annotatable, etc.) each "page" of this e-book is simply a direct, unmanipulated image scan of the page of the original work, which in addition to making the file size much larger than it should be, renders the usual Kindle text tools (highlight for definitions, etc.) useless. But the worst part? The "pages" in the book are cut off in the middle of the original source pages, often times literally in the middle of a line of text, so that the top half of a letter might be on one page while the bottom half is on the next. Reading this e-book is simply not a pleasant experience. You probably do not want to buy it, unless you've had a bit too much to drink with your friends and you want something inordinately silly to laugh at. Even then, you can watch "literal movie trailer" parodies on YouTube for free.

great

Textbook

The complexity of Nuer relations with their environment, because of herding cattle, is detailed in the first chapters. (Nuer name thier cattle and can distinguish scores of them.) In the later chapters Evans-Pritchard takes us through how herding leads to patrilineal descent and the formation of lineages and clans. This social organization dictates whom a man will marry, how the bride price will be paid, and how most disputes are settled. The work helps us understand the nature of feuds, both their negative aspects and their positive ones. The social organization is further shaped by conflict with the Dinka, a neighboring tribe. The analysis gave us a paradigm for how lineal organization

works leading to important insights in North America as well as Africa where clan organization is common. Both Nuer and Dinka are in today's news because of the conflict in southern Sudan. Their earlier "wars" are hardly more than quarrels by the standards of northern Sudan's brutality. It's not uncommon to meet Nuer refugees in Tucson because of war's ravages.

This book is one of the classics of ethnography - indeed, one of the works which defines what ethnography and anthropology are. The Nuer is an account of a group of pastoralists living in the Sudan as Evans-Pritchard knew them when he did field work in er... uh... the late 30s early 40s. The first half of the book is a detailed and lively (for an academic) account of their way of life, the seasonal rhythms of the year, and their intense interest in cattle. The second half of the book then deals with the main subject of the book: the social organization of the Nuer. E-P moves to a greater and greater level of abstraction, creating a more and more crystalline view of the patterns of kinship and marriage that underlie Nuer life. The main structure is the lineage system - a group of people all related from a common ancestor through an unbroken line of male succession. This book is famous because of E-P's account of the lineage system. The concept of the lineage and descent became key in anthropology, and E-P's Nuer materials helped provide the perfect example of the lineage as theorized by Radcliffe-Brown, E-P's teacher. As a result of this book, anthropologists spend the next two decades running around all over the world looking for lineage systems. As it turns out, this sort of system is not particularly widespread across the world - at least not in its pure form. Indeed, it turns out that E-P's formulation was too neat and clean and too crystalline. As one pundit put it, "not even the Nuer are like The Nuer". So one drawback of the book is the false clarity that it provided. This was useful in the forties and fifties, but meant that eventually the study of kinship and social organization would have to move out of the paradigm E-P had set up. Another problem with the book is the fact that it takes place in a vacuum. It is easy not to notice that the Nuer are under the sway of British authority and had recently been bombed when E-P arrived. The colonial context of the book is suppressed. There are other criticisms that could be made of the book - it is now a half-century behind the times - but it stands up today as a good read and a fascinating argument. The fact that reactions to it have been so extreme - overwhelming enthusiasm, abiding hatred, quizzical puzzlement, cow obsession - point to the fact that a book doesn't have to be loved forever to be read forever. Like all classics, The Nuer both good to read and good to think.

The Nuer is a challenging but supremely rewarding study of a people who, with minimal technology and living a way of life that is very primitive by the standards of Westerners, achieve a perfection of

ecological harmony with their environment. Evans-Pritchard's (E-P) description of the Nuers' rich and multifaceted relationship with their cattle is unforgettable. E-P writes with elegance, brilliance, compassion, and respect for the proud and dignified Nuer who, because of this great monograph, are among the most famous people ever studied by anthropologists.

I disagree completely with the "reader from Washington" who wrote it is a boring book. Probably he/she didn't read more than the first two, more descriptive chapters. This book became "a classic" because it was a turning point in the history of Anthropology, specially because of its analysis of the political system of the Nuer.

[Download to continue reading...](#)

The Nuer: A Description of the Modes of Livelihood and Political Institutions of a Nilotic People  
Nuer Journeys, Nuer Lives: Sudanese Refugees in Minnesota  
Institutions, Institutional Change and Economic Performance (Political Economy of Institutions and Decisions)  
Governing the Commons: The Evolution of Institutions for Collective Action (Political Economy of Institutions and Decisions)  
Description of the Colt's double-action revolver, caliber .38, with rules for management, memoranda of trajectory, and description of ammunition  
Description of the Colt's double-action revolver, caliber .38, with rules for management, memoranda of trajectory, and description of ammunition ... April 1, 1905. Rev. Oct. 3, 1908  
World List of Universities, 25th Edition: And Other Institutions of Higher Education (World List of Universities & Other Institutions of Higher Education)  
Nuer Dilemmas: Coping with Money, War, and the State  
African Economic Institutions (Routledge Global Institutions)  
Nuer-American Passages: Globalizing Sudanese Migration (New World Diasporas)  
North Korea: Federal Research Study with Comprehensive Information and Analysis - Political, Economic, Social, and National Security Systems and Institutions, Nuclear Programs, Cult of Kim Il Sung  
The Price of Wealth: Economies and Institutions in the Middle East (Cornell Studies in Political Economy)  
Economic Analysis of Property Rights (Political Economy of Institutions and Decisions)  
Mitla: a Narrative of Incidents and Personal Adventures on a Journey in Mexico, Guatemala, and Salvador in the Years 1853 to 1855: With Observations on the Modes of Life in those Countries  
The Guitar Grimoire: A Compendium of Formulas for Guitar Scales and Modes  
Major Scales and Modes For Chromatic Harmonica: The Practical Reference Guide  
Melodic Minor Scales and Modes for Chromatic Harmonica  
The Guitarist's Scale Book - Over 400 Guitar Scales and Modes  
The Jimmy Haslip's Melodic Bass Library: Scales and Modes for the Bass Guitarist  
Fretboard Theory: Complete Guitar Theory Including Scales, Chords, Progressions, Modes, Song Application and More.

Contact Us

DMCA

Privacy

FAQ & Help