

BOOK REVIEWS

MARTIN HALL: THE CHANGING PAST: FARMERS, KINGS AND TRADERS IN SOUTHERN AFRICA 200-1860. David Philip, Cape Town, 1992.

In a review published in the **Journal of African History** David Phillipson commented that Martin Hall aimed "... to present a non-technical reinterpretation of the past two thousand years in southern Africa as revealed partially, but not exclusively, through archaeology".

Professor Hall is one of the pioneers amongst those who seek to place history within the broader archaeological context and to strip away the artificial divisions between the two disciplines.

This work is both scholarly and accessible to the general reader with an interest in African history. Hall makes extensive use of maps, sketches, diagrams and photographs in such a way as to expand the text as well as to engage the reader in his fascinating material.

His compass is a broad one and yet he does more than justice to the series of themes that have captured the public imagination down the years. His particular focus is on the iron age which was clearly central to the peopling of Africa by those who tilled the soil whilst tending flocks and herds. The "mysteries" of Great Zimbabwe and Mapungubwe are unravelled in an absorbing manner.

This is not a new publication but a re-issue of that which was first published in 1987 as a companion volume to Raymond Inskeep's **Peopling of Southern Africa** and **The Tswana and Southern Sotho** by Messrs Lye and Murray. This work was edited by Prof. Martin West.

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