

benin city of blood

Book Concept: Benin City of Blood

Logline: A gripping historical thriller unraveling the forgotten horrors of the Benin Kingdom's clash with European imperialism, told through the interwoven stories of a determined archaeologist, a haunted descendant, and the unearthed secrets of a blood-soaked past.

Target Audience: History buffs, fans of historical fiction and thrillers, readers interested in African history and colonialism, and those fascinated by archaeology and mystery.

Ebook Description:

Dare to uncover the secrets buried beneath the sands of time... secrets stained with blood.

Are you tired of sanitized history textbooks that gloss over the brutal realities of colonialism? Do you crave a story that delves into the complex and often overlooked narratives of the African continent? Are you fascinated by unsolved mysteries and the power of the past to haunt the present?

Then Benin City of Blood is the book for you. This meticulously researched historical thriller plunges you into the heart of the Benin Kingdom before, during, and after its devastating encounter with British imperialism. Uncover a forgotten history filled with courage, betrayal, and unimaginable atrocities.

Benin City of Blood by [Your Name]

Introduction: Setting the historical stage - the Benin Kingdom before the arrival of Europeans.

Chapter 1: The Rise and Fall - Exploring the pre-colonial Benin Kingdom, its power, and its unique culture.

Chapter 2: The Punitive Expedition - A detailed account of the 1897 Benin Expedition and its devastating consequences.

Chapter 3: The Looting of Benin - Exploring the systematic plunder of Benin's priceless artifacts and its lasting impact.

Chapter 4: Echoes of the Past - The story of Ada, a modern-day archaeologist haunted by her family's connection to the events of 1897, and her quest to uncover the truth.

Chapter 5: The Search for Justice - Ada's investigation intertwines with the story of Prince Ewuare, a descendant of the Oba who survived the invasion, and their joint fight to reclaim their heritage.

Chapter 6: Unveiling the Secrets - The climax, where hidden truths are revealed and the consequences of the past come to light.

Conclusion: The enduring legacy of the Benin Expedition and the ongoing struggle for repatriation of artifacts.

Article: Benin City of Blood - A Deep Dive into the Book's Content

This article provides a comprehensive exploration of the book Benin City of Blood, expanding on each chapter outlined in the ebook description.

1. Introduction: Setting the Stage - The Benin Kingdom Before the Europeans

Keywords: Benin Kingdom, pre-colonial Benin, Edo people, Oba, brass casting, political structure, social organization

The Benin Kingdom, long before European contact, was a sophisticated and powerful state in what is now southern Nigeria. For centuries, the Edo people thrived under a centralized monarchy, ruled by the Oba, a divine king. This wasn't a simple tribal society; it possessed a complex political structure, sophisticated art forms, and a robust economy. The Kingdom was renowned for its advanced bronze and brass casting techniques, producing intricate sculptures and artifacts that are now considered masterpieces of world art. Its elaborate palaces and city walls, built over centuries, stood as testaments to its wealth and power. This introduction aims to paint a vibrant picture of pre-colonial Benin, showcasing its accomplishments and the rich tapestry of its culture, providing a stark contrast to the devastation that was to come.

2. Chapter 1: The Rise and Fall - Exploring Pre-colonial Benin

Keywords: Benin Empire, economic prosperity, cultural achievements, political stability, military strength, internal conflicts, external threats

This chapter delves deeper into the Benin Kingdom's history, exploring its growth from a small settlement to a vast empire. It details the key factors contributing to its prosperity: its strategic location, its sophisticated agricultural practices, its thriving trade networks, and its powerful military. The chapter examines the intricacies of the Oba's court, the role of the Edo people in maintaining societal order, and the mechanisms of governance. It will also address internal conflicts and external threats faced by the kingdom in the centuries leading up to the 1897 expedition, demonstrating its resilience and vulnerability simultaneously.

3. Chapter 2: The Punitive Expedition - A Detailed Account of the 1897 Benin Expedition

Keywords: Benin Expedition, British imperialism, Captain Gallwey, Oba Ovonramwen Nogbaisi, violence, colonialism, diplomatic failures, justification for invasion

This chapter provides a detailed account of the 1897 Benin Expedition, often referred to as a "punitive expedition." It examines the events leading up to the invasion, focusing on the diplomatic failures and misunderstandings between the British and the Benin Kingdom. It sheds light on the brutal realities of the expedition, the violence inflicted upon the Benin people, and the destruction of their cultural heritage. The chapter critically analyzes the justifications offered by the British for their actions, questioning the narratives of "civilizing missions" and highlighting the imperialist motivations behind the invasion.

4. Chapter 3: The Looting of Benin - Exploring the Systematic Plunder

Keywords: Benin Bronzes, cultural heritage, looting, artifact repatriation, colonial exploitation, museum collections, ethical considerations

This chapter focuses on the systematic looting of Benin's invaluable artifacts, including the renowned Benin Bronzes. It details how the British forces systematically plundered the royal palaces and temples, confiscating countless works of art, religious objects, and royal regalia. The chapter investigates the distribution of these looted artifacts to museums and private collections around the world, highlighting the ethical implications of their acquisition and the ongoing debate surrounding repatriation. This section will also explore the symbolic significance of the stolen artifacts and their connection to Benin's cultural identity.

5. Chapter 4: Echoes of the Past - Ada's Story

Keywords: Archaeology, historical fiction, family legacy, personal quest, uncovering the truth, intergenerational trauma, colonialism's lasting impact

This chapter introduces Ada, a contemporary archaeologist whose family history is deeply intertwined with the events of 1897. Haunted by the stories passed down through generations, she embarks on a personal quest to uncover the truth about her ancestors' roles in the invasion and its aftermath. This section will explore her struggles, her discoveries, and the emotional toll of confronting a painful past. Ada's story serves as a vehicle to explore the lasting impact of colonialism on individuals and families, highlighting the intergenerational trauma and the enduring search for historical justice.

6. Chapter 5: The Search for Justice - Ada and Prince Ewuare

Keywords: Repatriation, historical justice, cultural identity, collaboration, overcoming prejudice, reconciliation, shared heritage

This chapter introduces Prince Ewuare, a descendant of the Oba who survived the invasion. His story runs parallel to Ada's, illustrating the perspectives of both sides affected by the events of 1897.

Their paths converge as they collaborate to reclaim their shared heritage and fight for the repatriation of the looted artifacts. This section explores the challenges they face, the prejudices they overcome, and their efforts to foster reconciliation between their communities and the international institutions holding Benin's stolen treasures.

7. Chapter 6: Unveiling the Secrets - The Climax

Keywords: discovery, revelation, confrontation, conflict, resolution, historical truth, emotional catharsis, justice

This chapter represents the culmination of Ada and Ewuare's investigation, where crucial discoveries are made, secrets are unveiled, and past injustices are confronted. This is a high-stakes section filled with dramatic tension, revealing hidden truths about the expedition and its consequences. It marks a turning point in their personal journeys and a potential step towards historical justice and reconciliation.

8. Conclusion: The Enduring Legacy

Keywords: colonial legacy, ongoing struggle, repatriation movement, cultural preservation, historical memory, reconciliation, future prospects

The concluding chapter reflects on the enduring legacy of the Benin Expedition and the ongoing struggle for the repatriation of Benin's cultural treasures. It explores the broader implications of the event, its impact on African history, and its relevance to contemporary discussions about colonialism, historical justice, and cultural preservation. It offers a nuanced perspective on the complex issues involved and suggests potential pathways towards reconciliation and a more accurate understanding of this pivotal moment in history.

FAQs:

1. Is this book a work of fiction or non-fiction? It's a work of historical fiction, meaning it uses a fictional narrative to explore real historical events and figures.
2. What is the main focus of the book? The book focuses on the 1897 Benin Expedition, its impact on the Benin Kingdom, and the ongoing struggle for repatriation of looted artifacts.
3. Who are the main characters? The main characters are Ada, a modern-day archaeologist, and Prince Ewuare, a descendant of the Oba.
4. What is the time period covered in the book? The book covers the pre-colonial Benin Kingdom, the 1897 expedition, and the present day.

5. Is the book suitable for all ages? Due to the graphic depiction of historical violence, the book is best suited for mature readers.
6. What kind of research went into writing this book? Extensive research was conducted using historical archives, academic papers, and interviews with experts.
7. What is the significance of the Benin Bronzes? The Benin Bronzes are a collection of bronze plaques and sculptures that represent a significant part of Benin's cultural heritage.
8. What is the current status of repatriation efforts? Repatriation efforts are ongoing, with several museums returning artifacts to Nigeria.
9. How does this book contribute to understanding colonialism? The book provides a nuanced perspective on the impact of colonialism on African societies and highlights the importance of historical justice.

Related Articles:

1. The Benin Bronzes: A Legacy of Plunder and Repatriation: Explores the history, significance, and ongoing repatriation efforts surrounding the Benin Bronzes.
2. Oba Ovonramwen Nogbaisi: The Last Independent Oba of Benin: Focuses on the life and reign of the Oba during the British invasion.
3. The 1897 Benin Expedition: A Critical Analysis: Provides a detailed examination of the events surrounding the expedition and its justifications.
4. The Cultural Impact of Colonialism on Benin: Explores the long-term consequences of the British invasion on Benin's culture and society.
5. Ada and Ewuare's intertwined journeys: A focus on the fictional characters and their roles in uncovering the truth.
6. The Role of Museums in Colonial Exploitation: Examines the role of museums in perpetuating colonial narratives and the ethics of artifact ownership.
7. The Ongoing Struggle for Justice in Benin City: Discusses contemporary efforts to achieve historical justice and cultural reclamation.
8. Benin City: A City Reborn: Examines the city's rebuilding and resurgence after the destruction of 1897.
9. The Significance of Oral Traditions in Benin History: Explores how oral history complements written records in understanding Benin's past.

Additional Resources

Benin - Wikipedia

Benin, [a] officially the Republic of Benin, [b] is a country in West Africa. It was formerly known as Dahomey. [10] . It is bordered by Togo to the west, Nigeria to the east, Burkina Faso to the ...

Benin | History, Map, Flag, Capital, & Population | Britannica

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in strategic places in the city. The rest of the body was thrown into the bush. Others had different treatment. Their blood was collected in vessels, which were poured over royal tombs and ...

Knowledge and attitude of undergraduates towards blood ...

Benin City, 2Department of Haematology and Blood Transfusion University of Benin Benin City All correspondences to: Nwogoh Benedict E-mail:benedict.nwogoh@uniben.edu ORIGINAL ...

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diabetes in Benin City, Nigeria Introduction Self-monitoring of glycaemic control is a cornerstone of diabetes care that can ensure patient participation in achieving and maintaining specific ...

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Malawi Medical Journal 29 (2): 113117 June 2017 Original ...

control among hypertensive outpatients at the University of Benin Teaching Hospital in Benin City, Nigeria. Methods This was a cross-sectional descriptive study that involved 224 hypertensive ...

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NEW LIGHT ON BENIN ARCHAEOLOGY AND TECHNOLOGY

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Pharmacist's Intervention in the Control of Blood Sugar ...

Benin City, Edo State. We expected to use the outcome of this study to develop a programme aimed at improving diabetic control in rural communities in Edo State.

CHANGES IN BLOOD C-REACTIVE PROTEIN IN PREGNANCY ...

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unit, and the increased availability of blood for transfusion through the intensification of blood donation drive in the hospital. Conclusion We conclude that the results of MPDSR, when acted ...

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Their Effects on Ikpoba River, Benin City, Edo State, Nigeria 12 1E.I. Atuanya, N.A. Nwogu and E.A. Akpor 1Department of Microbiology, University of Benin, P.M.B 1154, Benin City, Edo ...

Flooding in Benin City, Nigeria - ResearchGate

Benin City is made up of three main local government areas: Egor, Ikpoba Okha, and OredoThe 2006 records of the . National Population Commission of Nigeria, reads that the three local ...

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Conclusion: This study presents, prospective commercial blood donors visiting University of Benin Teaching hospital Benin City Nigeria. The screening of blood needed for transfusion in all ...

Knowledge, attitude and practice of voluntary blood donation ...

Benin Teaching Hospital, Benin City. Pretested questionnaires were administered to 140 ... blood donors are still the significant source of blood components for transfusion [4].

Human Sacrifice in Pre-Colonial West Africa - JSTOR

For Benin, see esp. Robert Home, City of Blood Revisited: a new look at the Benin Expedition of 1897 (Rex Collings,1982), pp. 50,102-4: P. A. Igbafe, 'The fall of Benin: a reassessment', . of ...

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blood, oxygen and necessary equipment in the hospital. Although the hospital had relevant emergency obstetric care facilities, there is inadequate midwifery staff, blood, oxygen supplies ...

Das Königreich Benin in deutschen Medien - Was fehlt?

conquer you. Now do it quickly.' The victim's blood was scattered over the regalia according to the custom, but his last words cast a gloom over the ceremony. They were to be remembered by ...

Ann Ibd. Pg. Med 2015. Vol.13, No.2 100-107 KNOWLEDGE, ...

Dept. of Haematology & Blood Transfusion, University of Benin Teaching Hospital, Benin City, Edo State 2. Department of Haematology, University College Hospital, Ibadan, Oyo State ...

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blood, appropriate clinical use of blood and establishment of quality systems. Improvement of blood transfusion services requires concerted effort by all involved in the value chain from the ...

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factors for asymptomatic malaria parasitaemia and anemia among blood donors in a private medical laboratory in Benin City, Nigeria. Methods: Venous blood was collected from a total of ...

Seroprevalence of Cytomegalovirus (CMV) Amongst Voluntary ...

Amongst Voluntary Blood Donors in University of Benin Teaching Hospital (UBTH), Edo State, Nigeria C. K. Ojide¹, E. A. Ophori^{2*}, N. O. Eghafona² and C. Omoti³ ¹Department of Medical ...

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among Healthcare Workers at the University of Benin Teaching Hospital, Benin City, Nigeria BenedictNwogoh, 1 UsimenahonAigberadion, 1 andAlexanderIkennaNwannadi 2

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Department of Medicine, Renal Unit, University of Benin, University of Benin Teaching Hospital, Benin City, Nigeria. E-mail: enajite.okaka@uniben.edu This is an open access article ...

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