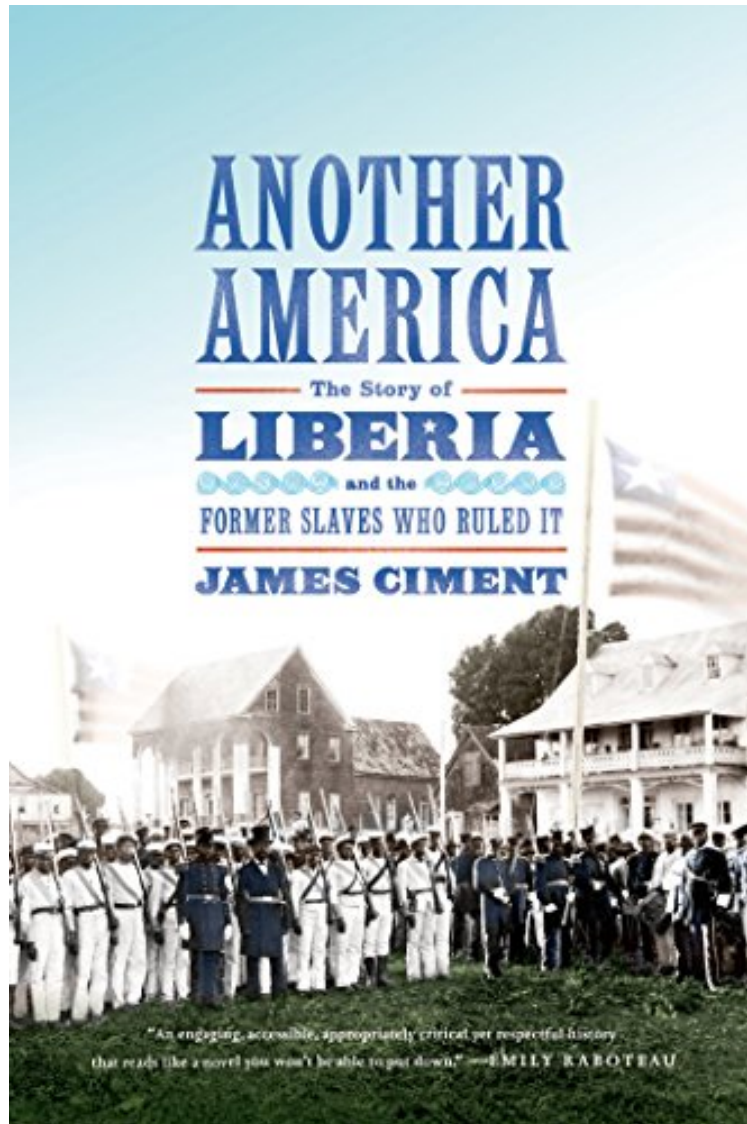


(Ebook free) Another America: The Story of Liberia and the Former Slaves Who Ruled It

# Another America: The Story of Liberia and the Former Slaves Who Ruled It

James Ciment

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#199665 in Books Ciment James 2014-08-12 2014-08-12 Original language: English PDF # 1 219.96 x 23.62 x 5.681, 1.00 #File Name: 0809026953336 pages Another America The Story of Liberia and the Former Slaves Who Ruled It | File size: 24.Mb

**James Ciment : Another America: The Story of Liberia and the Former Slaves Who Ruled It** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Another America: The Story of Liberia and the Former Slaves Who Ruled It:

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Liberia and the Former Slaves Who Ruled It by James Climent is an utterly fascinating story about the unintended consequences of the slave republic established the American Colonization Society, which supported the settlement of freed slaves to Africa. Climent presents us with a tragedy from the very beginning of Liberia's founding in 1847. Former slaves establish a colony in Africa, under the best intentions of both the white people who financially supported the colony, and the slaves who settled it. Yet the settler class, who were often multi-racial, ruled the country to the exclusion of the native Africans. Liberia was two countries, one in which native Africans were ruled by arrogant and at times corrupt officials in the capital, Monrovia. A bloody civil war erupted in the late twentieth century, essentially ending the reign of Americo-Liberians. But their legacy remains: Liberia is still a much divided country and poor country, trying to recover from its searing legacy. Climent presents a fascinating story of this alternate America known to few Americans. Our story is also their story. This book should be mandatory reading. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Five Stars By Jon Jones I can't put this book down. 4 of 5 people found the following review helpful. good factual history but disjointed theme By Shirley This book was factually rich at least to a relative novice on Liberian history; however it was a bit disjointed and at times difficult to follow. The title and intro suggested a study of how conditions faced by Africans in the US led to poor self-governance choices in Africa but the book itself only superficially deals with this issue. In focusing largely on color and politics the author unsuccessfully attempts to shoehorn what appears to have been a very complex and evolving social, political and economic structure into a single a theme. The result is that the theme falls apart and at least this reader is left with the feeling that most of the pieces to the puzzle that is Liberia were left on the cutting room floor.

The first popular history of the former American slaves who founded, ruled, and lost Africa's first republic In 1820, a group of about eighty African Americans reversed the course of history and sailed back to Africa, to a place they would name after liberty itself. They went under the banner of the American Colonization Society, a white philanthropic organization with a dual agenda: to rid America of its blacks, and to convert Africans to Christianity. The settlers staked out a beachhead; their numbers grew as more boats arrived; and after breaking free from their white overseers, they founded Liberia Africa's first black republic in 1847. James Climent's *Another America* is the first full account of this dramatic experiment. With empathy and a sharp eye for human foibles, Climent reveals that the Americo-Liberians struggled to live up to their high ideals. They wrote a stirring Declaration of Independence but re-created the social order of antebellum Dixie, with themselves as the master caste. Building plantations, holding elegant soirees, and exploiting and even helping enslave the native Liberians, the persecuted became the persecutors until a lowly native sergeant murdered their president in 1980, ending 133 years of Americo rule. The rich cast of characters in *Another America* rivals that of any novel. We encounter Marcus Garvey, who coaxed his followers toward Liberia in the 1920s, and the rubber king Harvey Firestone, who built his empire on the backs of native Liberians. Among the Americoes themselves, we meet the brilliant intellectual Edward Blyden, one of the first black nationalists; the Baltimore-born explorer Benjamin Anderson, seeking a legendary city of gold in the Liberian hinterland; and President William Tubman, a descendant of Georgia slaves, whose economic policies brought Cadillacs to the streets of Monrovia, the Liberian capital. And then there are the natives, men like Joseph Samson, who was adopted by a prominent Americo family and later presided over the execution of his foster father during the 1980 coup. In making Liberia, the Americoes transplanted the virtues and vices of their country of birth. The inspiring and troubled history they created is, to a remarkable degree, the mirror image of our own.

From Booklist From a distance, the decades of turmoil in Liberia, including an exceptionally barbaric civil war, may seem indistinguishable from the instability and violence wracking so much of postcolonial Africa. But Liberia has been, theoretically, an independent nation since 1847, and its history has been strongly linked to the U.S. rather than European colonial powers. Climent, an independent scholar specializing in African American history, has provided an interesting perspective on Liberia's history. In the 1820s, emancipated American slaves settled there under the sponsorship of antislavery activists. The rhetoric of these founders is filled with idealistic hope eerily reminiscent of the city upon a hill sentiments expressed by the Pilgrim and Puritan arrivals in New England. But New England was not empty and neither was this equatorial region of West Africa. As Climent illustrates, it was that fact that was a driver of much of Liberian history. The so-called Americo-Liberians quickly established themselves as a governing class, ruling over the vast majority of indigenous ethnic groups and causing the predictable social and economic resentments. This is an informative account of a nation that has been strongly influenced by our own. --Jay Freeman Climent captures the establishment and destiny of [Liberia], from [its] expectant beginnings, to the Orwellian zeal with which the formerly oppressed in many cases became the oppressors, to the more recent atrocities committed by Charles Taylor. That few Americans today seem aware of Liberia's story, and their own country's essential role in it, gives this book a place in the lexicon that exceeds the mere quality of its research or readability of its text, both of which are considerable. The Daily Beast Vivid . . . Enlivened by profiles of some of the early settlers, this is an engaging and accessible account. Publishers Weekly America's ugly affair with slavery produced an illegitimate child, the nation of Liberia. James Climent's book is a stunning portrait of both Americas, the superpower and the outcast

'child'--a nation we fostered, abused, and used, and that now thrives despite it all. Ciment brings a journalist's 'you are there' voice and a novelist's insight to this history of America reborn in Africa under black rule and misrule. Affecting, at times violent, and filled with unforgettable characters, *Another America* reads like nonfiction Dostoyevsky. Greg Palast, author of *The Best Democracy Money Can Buy* and *Vultures' Picnic* James Ciment has written well about the fantastic, twisted story of the Republic of Liberia, which saw freed slaves from America return to Africa to rule over the natives for more than a century, until they were ousted in a long and brutal civil war. *Another America* is an engaging, accessible, appropriately critical yet respectful history that reads like a novel you won't be able to put down. Emily Raboteau, author of *Searching for Zion: The Quest for Home in the African Diaspora* James Ciment's *Another America* is a rip-roaring popular retelling of Liberian history. It is a whirl of names and places that evokes the conundrum presented by African Americans in Africa claiming to be the spokespersons for blackness. Its lesson--that class hierarchies can derail appeals to racial unity--is a vital one. Ibrahim Sundiata, author of *Brothers and Strangers: Black Zion, Black Slavery, 1914-1940* With a fistful of good characters and a backbone of research, James Ciment's very readable book makes the story of Liberia, the ex-slaves' country, look like a limb of American history. Edward Ball, author of *Slaves in the Family* About the Author James Ciment is an editor and the author of several books on the history of Africa and the Middle East. He lives in Los Angeles with his wife and two children.