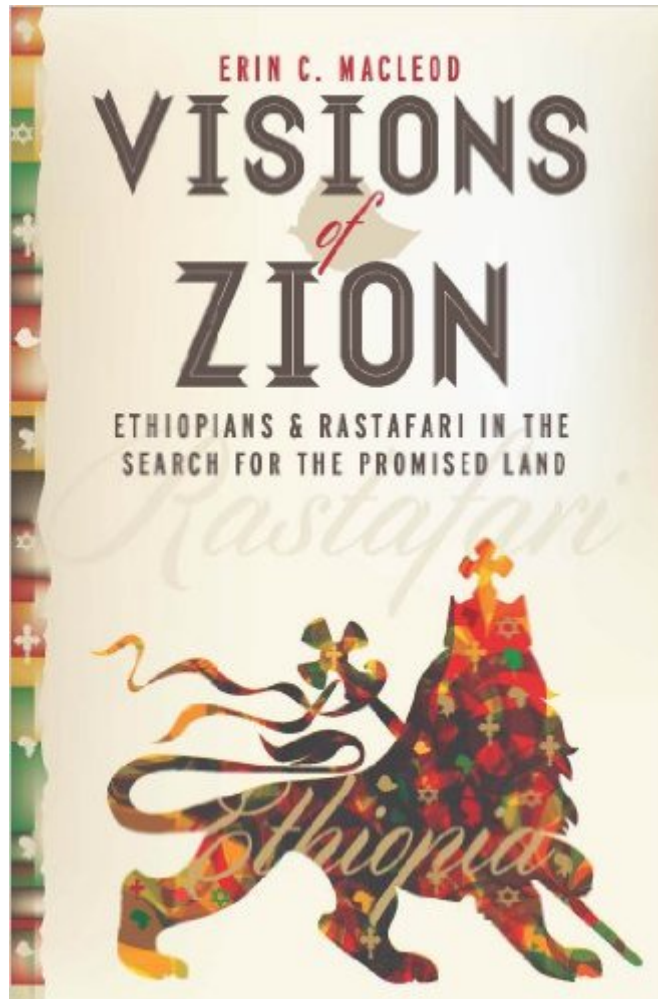


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Visions Of Zion: Ethiopians And Rastafari In The Search For The Promised Land



Synopsis

In reggae song after reggae song Bob Marley and other reggae singers speak of the Promised Land of Ethiopia. Repatriation is a must! they cry. The Rastafari have been travelling to Ethiopia since the movement originated in Jamaica in 1930s. They consider it the Promised Land, and repatriation is a cornerstone of their faith. Though Ethiopians see Rastafari as immigrants, the Rastafari see themselves as returning members of the Ethiopian diaspora. In *Visions of Zion*, Erin C. MacLeod offers the first in-depth investigation into how Ethiopians perceive Rastafari and Rastafarians within Ethiopia and the role this unique immigrant community plays within Ethiopian society. Rastafari are unusual among migrants, basing their movements on spiritual rather than economic choices. This volume offers those who study the movement a broader understanding of the implications of repatriation. Taking the Ethiopian perspective into account, it argues that migrant and diaspora identities are the products of negotiation, and it illuminates the implications of this negotiation for concepts of citizenship, as well as for our understandings of pan-Africanism and south-south migration. Providing a rare look at migration to a non-Western country, this volume also fills a gap in the broader immigration studies literature.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

VISIONS OF ZION: A BOOK REVIEW by Albert and Tempie Williams Crawley United Kingdom Visions of Zion-Ethiopians and Rastafari in the search for the promised land (ISBN: 978-1-4798-8224-3,) New York university Press, is a welcome extension to the growing body of work written about the

Rastafari movement. The author, Erin C Macleod, in this book, presents candid and thought-provoking insights into the sentiments of the Ethiopian people, especially as it relates to the Rastafarians who began arriving in the country since the 1960s at the invitation of then monarchy. Although there are many books written on the Rastafarians of Jamaica, there are not many that have delved in such great depth into the question of repatriation to Ethiopia by the Rastafari adherents who regard the last Emperor of Ethiopia, His Imperial Majesty, Haile Selassie The First, as the Living God, and consequently regard themselves as his true sons and daughters. This Macleod has managed to do, conducting her research with great sensitivity, both to the Ethiopian-born respondents, and to the Rastafari community. Macleod's strong work ethic and true ethnological approach is self-evident, and she draws on a rich set of scenarios, conversations, anecdotes, reflections and memories acquired during her stay in Ethiopia between 2007/08 and intermittent stays between 2004 and 2013. First as a volunteer with Habitat for Humanity Ethiopia, a Christian, non-governmental development agency, then as a traveler, or should we say, a truth-seeker - I formerly interviewed over 90 people primarily in Shashamane. - she says.

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