The History of the Peoples of the Eastern Desert



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edited by

Hans Barnard and Kim Duistermaat

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Hard cover with dust jacket, 22 × 29 cm, 8¾ × 11¼ inch; 31 chapters with index and bibliography, 520 pages, 345 black-and-white illustrations; CD-ROM with 14 sound (mp3) and 6 video (mp4) fragments, as well as the complete bibliography of the volume (Chapter 32) in pdf-format

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The last quarter century has seen extensive research on the ports of the Red Sea coast of Egypt, the road systems connecting them to the Nile, and the mines and quarries in the region. What has been missing is a systematic study of the peoples of the Eastern Desert in whose territories these ports, mines, quarries, and roads were located. The overall aim of this volume is to fill this gap by presenting an historical overview of the larger region as a roughly chronological narrative. The thirty-one chapters do not form a history in the conventional sense, but represent text-based histories, political histories, geographic and geographic historic studies, ethnographies, research based on philological analyses, and developmental analyses. The major strength of the volume is its multidisciplinary perspective, focusing on the long-term history of the region. The volume takes its origin in a conference in Cairo, with invited chapters supplementing

the proceedings of this conference. The resulting volume brings together a range of scholars, scholarship and approaches to the study of the Eastern Desert, a region that has never before been subject to such a broad synthesis. The breadth of perspective does not sacrifice depth, for all authors deal in some detail with the specifics of the subject matter of their contribution. As a whole, this collection is timely and well-planned, and it provides an outline of the history and sociology of the Eastern Desert that is unparalleled for its comprehensiveness in any language. As such, it will be the essential starting point for future research on the Eastern Desert.

