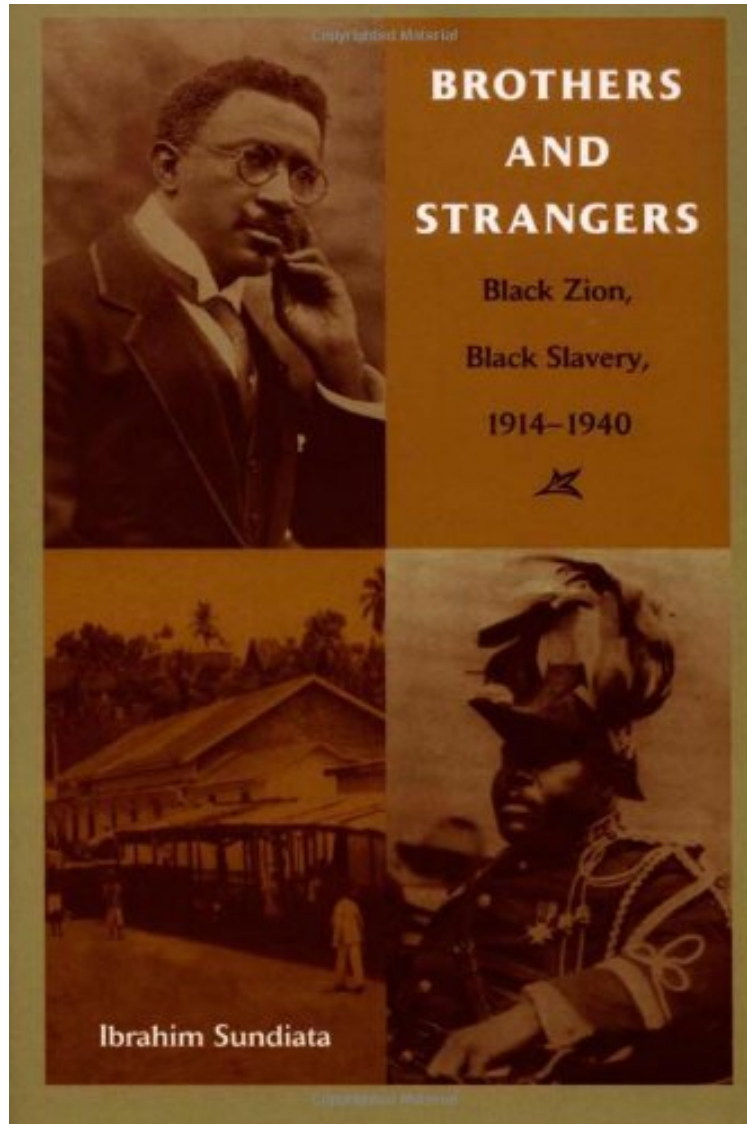


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## Brothers and Strangers: Black Zion, Black Slavery, 19141940

*Ibrahim Sundiata*

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#2079588 in Books Duke University Press Books 2004-02-03 Original language: English PDF # 1 8.60 x 1.07 x 6.62l, 1.17 #File Name: 0822332477456 pages | File size: 30.Mb

**Ibrahim Sundiata : Brothers and Strangers: Black Zion, Black Slavery, 19141940** before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Brothers and Strangers: Black Zion, Black Slavery, 19141940:

3 of 3 people found the following review helpful. Very difficult reading By Ashtar Command "Brothers and Strangers" is a scholarly book about the often tricky relations between African-Americans and Liberia, a West African republic founded by freed Black American slaves. The subject is interesting, but unfortunately this book is too detailed and

super-scholarly, attempts to deal with a dozen different subjects all at once, and often loses the red thread. If you want to write a dissertation on Marcus Garvey's or W.E.B. Du Bois' contacts with Liberia, you probably would have to sift through brother Sundiata's magnum opus. Personally, I consider this to be one of the most difficult scholarly books I've ever attempted to read. And I have an MA, for crying out loud! Hopefully, more accessible books on Liberia and Liberia's impact on Black America exist. Still, I give the book three stars, since I'm in general agreement with much of the contents.

Unprecedented in scope and detail, *Brothers and Strangers* is a vivid history of how the mythic Africa of the black American imagination ran into the realities of Africa the place. In the 1920s, Marcus Garvey convinced that freedom from oppression was not possible for blacks in the Americas led the last great African American emigrationist movement. His U.S.-based Universal Negro Improvement Association worked with the Liberian government to create a homeland for African Americans. Ibrahim Sundiata explores the paradox at the core of this project: Liberia, the chosen destination, was itself racked by class and ethnic divisions and like other nations in colonial Africa marred by labor abuse. In an account based on extensive archival research, including work in the Liberian National Archives, Sundiata explains how Garvey's plan collapsed when faced with opposition from the Liberian elite, opposition that belied his vision of a unified Black World. In 1930 the League of Nations investigated labor conditions and, damningly, the United States, land of lynching and Jim Crow, accused Liberia of promoting conditions analogous to slavery. Subsequently various plans were put forward for a League Mandate or an American administration to put down slavery and modernize the country. Threatened with a loss of its independence, the Liberian government turned to its brothers beyond the sea for support. A varied group of white and black anti-imperialists, among them W. E. B. Du Bois, took up the country's cause. In revealing the struggle of conscience that bedeviled many in the black world in the past, Sundiata casts light on a human rights predicament which, he points out, continues in twenty-first-century African nations as disparate as Sudan, Mauritania, and the Ivory Coast.

This much needed and long awaited book is a godsend not only for its courageous handling of its controversial subject but also for the more general information that it presents in the field of Liberian history. It is indispensable work for anyone professing an interest in Black Atlantic studies. Wilson Jeremiah Moses, editor of *Liberian Dreams: Back-to-Africa Narratives from the 1850s* and Ferree Professor of American History at Pennsylvania State University