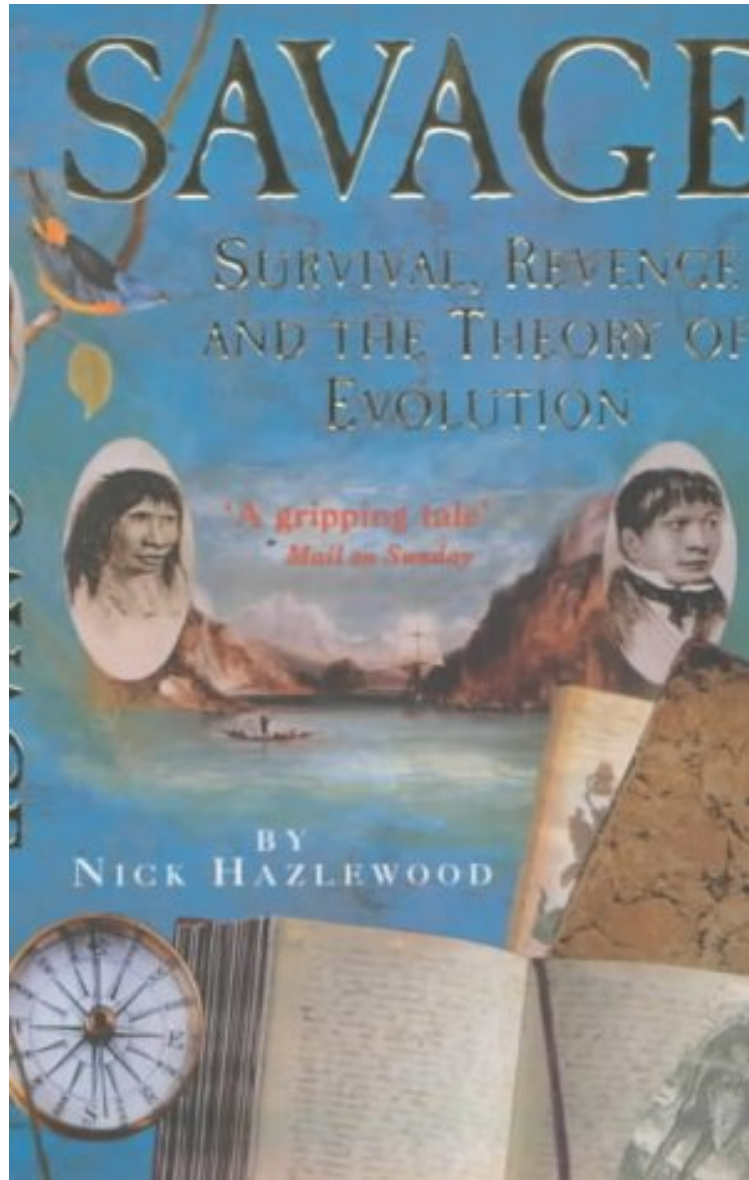


(Download) Savage: the Life and Times of Jemmy Button

Savage: the Life and Times of Jemmy Button

Nick Hazlewood

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Nick Hazlewood : Savage: the Life and Times of Jemmy Button before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Savage: the Life and Times of Jemmy Button:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. The incredible story of civilizing nativesBy robert stallardAn unusual story of the taking of three Fuegian natives from the tip of South America by the British captain Fitzroyand the attempt to instill 'civilization' in them with the plan to return them and see if they pass it on to the native

population.0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Great Anthropology bookBy Ruth BlackmonWhat a treasure this book is! If anyone ever wants to find out about how culture clashes sometimes end tragically this is a great book. Poor Jemmy Button was used by the English Christian Missionaries for their own benefit and promptly forgotten when he was no longer of any use to them. Sad but thought provoking tale.7 of 7 people found the following review helpful. Tragic Clash of CulturesBy Rob HardyCharles Dickens wrote, "Missionaries are perfect nuisances and leave every place worse than they found it." I do not know if Dickens knew about the missionary aims of the Patagonian Missionary Society, but there he surely would have found confirmation of his opinion. In *Savage: The Life and Times of Jemmy Button* (Thomas Dunne Books), Nick Hazlewood has written an amazing and sad story about missionaries, colonialism, and a tragic clash of cultures. Sparking the story, a shocking tale of repeated good intentions and bad results, was the high Tory captain of the HMS *Beagle*, Edward FitzRoy. FitzRoy thought it would be grand to take Fuegian specimens back to Britain. One of them, swapped for a button, became Jemmy Button, and Darwin got to see him on the *Beagle*'s trip in 1831 to take him back home (so he had influence in Darwin's *The Descent of Man*). FitzRoy's hopes were futile, as Jemmy turned native again. In 1845, the Patagonian Missionary Society, one of the many Protestant vanguards of British colonialism, made an effort to land on Tierra del Fuego and begin proselytizing. The mission lasted a week, because the natives merely stole from it, without improvement of their souls. In 1850, a similar attempt led to the deaths of the missionaries. Newspapers warned the Patagonian Missionary Society off any future effort, but the public loved this British bravado, and the Society was emboldened to try a new venture. It would use one of the Falkland Islands as a staging ground to which Fuegians could be ferried, civilized, converted, and returned. To this end, Jemmy was found and was kidnapped once again, along with members of his family. They became homesick and resentful, and were cycled back home, with another nine Fuegians picked up. The Society's reports were glowing, but glossed over the frequent problems. One of the basic ones was that the Fuegians had little concept of property rights, and when they liked something, they took it, and they resented any subsequent searches. When this group was returned, eight missionaries were murdered. The Society blamed the work of Satan, but as one letter to the papers said, the massacre "...was produced by the recklessness of the society and their agents, and therefore I must conclude that Satan is much maligned in this matter." Hazlewood has told this astonishing and distressing story with a novelist's fluency. In the end, the efforts toward the Fuegians could not have been more futile. Ranchers and sheep-farmers soon began invading their island, and brought devastating diseases or simply hunted them down and shot them. No pure Fuegians survived. Those with intentions of greed harmed them as much as those with intentions of improvement under the guise of imposition of a strong culture over a weak one. Such were the benefits of civilization to the savages.

A tale of tragedy, catastrophe, and the triumph of the human spirit. In 1830 a Yamana Indian boy, Orundellico, was bought from his uncle in Tierra del Fuego for the price of a mother-of-pearl button. Renamed Jemmy Button, he was removed from his primitive nomadic existence, where life revolved around the hunt for food and the need for shelter, and taken halfway round the world to England, then at the height of the Industrial Revolution. He learned English and Christianity, met King William IV and Queen Adelaide, and made a strong impression on many of the major figures in Britain, eventually becoming a celebrity. Charles Darwin himself befriended the Fuegian and later wrote about their time together on *The Beagle*, voyaging back to the southern tip of South America. Their friendship influenced one of the most important and controversial works of the century, *On the Origin of the Species*. Upon his return to Tierra del Fuego, Jemmy found that life could never be the same for him there. The *Beagle*'s captain deposited the young man on a lonely, windswept shore and charged him with the tasks of "civilizing" his people and bringing God to his homeland. At first ostracized and attacked by other Fuegians, Jemmy later became the target of zealous and ambitious missionaries. Thirty years after his return, a missionary schooner in Tierra del Fuego was attacked, with nearly everyone on board killed, and Button himself was accused of leading the massacre. Button's life story illustrates how the lofty ideals of imperialism often resulted in appalling consequences. Thoroughly researched and remarkably well written, this fascinating and poignant story is ultimately about survival, revenge, murder, and the destruction of a whole race of people, blurring the boundaries of civilization and savagery.