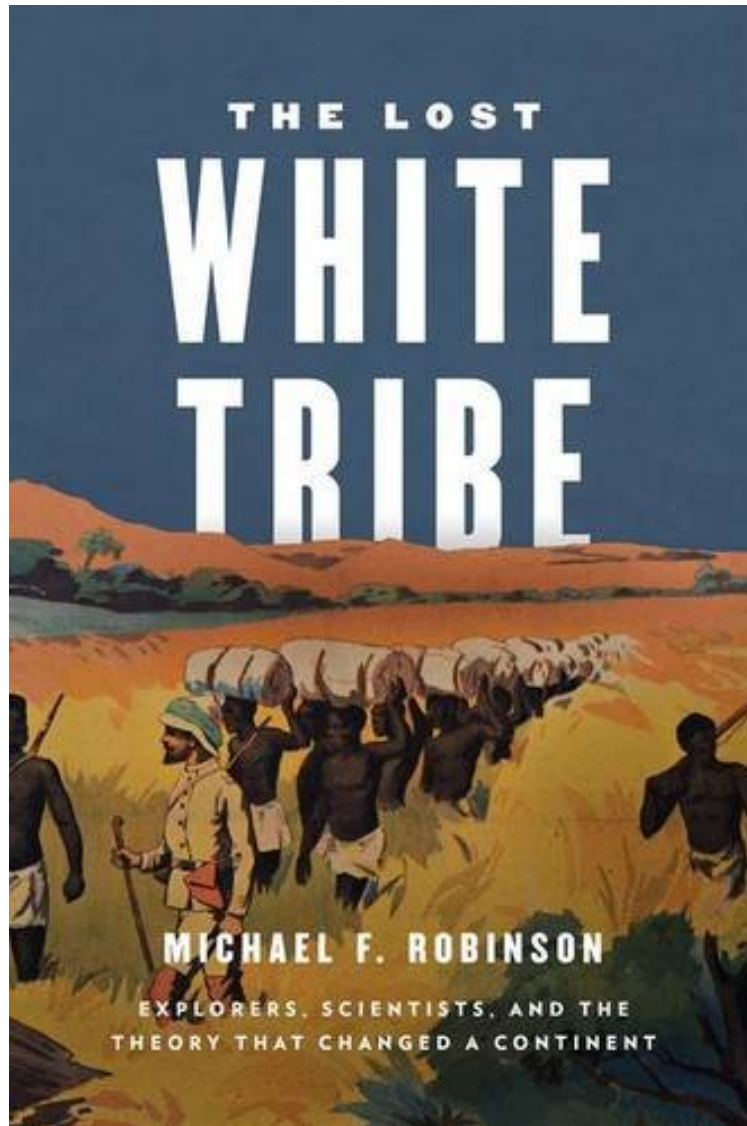


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The Lost White Tribe: Explorers, Scientists, and the Theory that Changed a Continent

Michael F. Robinson

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#573074 in Books Ingramcontent 2016-04-01Original language:EnglishPDF # 1 6.50 x 1.20 x 9.30l, .0 #File Name: 0199978484320 pagesThe Lost White Tribe Explorers Scientists and the Theory That Changed a Continent | File size: 76.Mb

Michael F. Robinson : The Lost White Tribe: Explorers, Scientists, and the Theory that Changed a Continent before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Lost White Tribe: Explorers, Scientists, and the Theory that Changed a Continent:

7 of 7 people found the following review helpful. Race to the bottomBy David WinebergAh, race. It feeds dreams,

nightmares, and an unending stream of unfounded theories. The Lost White Tribe, while nominally historical, is really about race: the search to prove one race or another was dominant, significant and living proof of something or other beyond the theories of the day. In this case, a tribe of whites in Central East Africa. The book settles on three general theories: -Indo-Europeans descended from Europe to Africa into Asia and South America and left evidence of advanced societies among the primitives-Noah's son Ham, banished and cursed, fathered a tribe of whites in Central East Africa (and possibly Persia and even India and maybe China)-Aryan pure whites from northern Europe roamed the world, improving everything before totally disappearing. The central character here is Henry Stanley, of Dr. Livingstone I presume fame. Stanley was a journalist who returned to Africa again and again on publishers grants, feeding his passion for exploration. We can look back from the 21st century of GPS and Google Earth and be amazed how many decades it took for him to nail down the source of the Nile. But in his day, there was nothing more exciting and sensational. He was the talk of the western world. In the 1870s, some time after publishing his accounts, he suddenly claimed to have encountered a tribe of whites while in Africa. But neither he nor anyone else ever found them again. The book begins by following Stanley, and delves deeply into his history and his psyche. But then like a good Aryan, he simply disappears as Michael Robinson takes us to Rhodesia, Persia, India, China and the Americas for other racial explorers and their theories. Stanley appears again in the epilogue to wrap things up. We learn that Caucasians are whites named for the Caucasus Mountains area where a German doctor claimed the most perfect skulls came from. It was he who applied the name to all European whites, causing confusion ever since. We learn of theories that human races are all different species, that evolution began with whites, or with blacks, or with Adam and Eve, who seem to have been white, at least in the paintings. We learn that scientists, archaeologists, historians, doctors and psychologists followed slender threads to advance their own theories of race. It was a festival of racial nonsense for about a century. It wasn't until 1950 that a UN agency finally declared that all humans are the same species. And still today, groups and individuals glom onto obscure discoveries and suspect evidence to claim proof that Noah's son Ham is evident in Africa. The Lost White Tribe is a bizarre history lesson. David Wineberg² of 2 people found the following review helpful. In search of Ophir By James D. Crabtree A very interesting book. Robinson discusses 18th and 19th century theories on race, which evolved from Biblical theories regarding Moses, his sons and the repopulation of the world following the Deluge. This was superseded by more "scientific" theories regarding biometrics, archeology, linguistics and the results of European exploration of previously isolated areas. The intellectual gymnastics that 19th century authorities had to go through in order to justify European domination of Asian and African peoples (whether in the form of colonization or slavery) is explored in the book, but the most interesting part for me were the theories where Caucasian races MUST have had their own civilization in Africa (in the case of Zimbabwe) or explained the mound builders in America. These theories all had the same basis in that they believed Asia was the wellspring of the Human race and NOT Africa, which we now know is the case. These theories are significant in that the Nazis later bought into the idea of an "Aryan race" (which in fact was a common Aryan language, NOT a race) and in popular culture the idea of a lost white civilization somewhere in Africa found its way into literature and movies. An interesting topic!

In 1876, in a mountainous region to the west of Lake Victoria, Africa--what is today Ruwenzori Mountains National Park in Uganda--the famed explorer Henry Morton Stanley encountered Africans with what he was convinced were light complexions and European features. Stanley's discovery of this African "white tribe" haunted him and seemed to substantiate the so-called Hamitic Hypothesis: the theory that the descendants of Ham, the son of Noah, had populated Africa and other remote places, proving that the source and spread of human races around the world could be traced to and explained by a Biblical story. In *The Lost White Tribe*, Michael Robinson traces the rise and fall of the Hamitic Hypothesis. In addition to recounting Stanley's "discovery," Robinson shows how it influenced encounters with the Ainu in Japan; Vilhjalmur Stefansson's tribe of "blond Eskimos" in the Arctic; and the "white Indians" of Panama. As Robinson shows, race theory stemming originally from the Bible not only guided exploration but archeology, including Charles Mauch's discovery of the Grand Zimbabwe site in 1872, and literature, such as H. Rider Haggard's *King Solomon's Mines*, whose publication launched an entire literary subgenre dedicated to white tribes in remote places. The Hamitic Hypothesis would shape the theories of Carl Jung and guide psychological and anthropological notions of the primitive. The Hypothesis also formed the foundation for the European colonial system, which was premised on assumptions about racial hierarchy, at whose top were the white races, the purest and oldest of them all. It was a small step from the Hypothesis to theories of Aryan superiority, which served as the basis of the race laws in Nazi Germany and had horrific and catastrophic consequences. Though racial thinking changed profoundly after World War Two, a version of Hamitic validation of the "whiter" tribes laid the groundwork for conflict within Africa itself after decolonization, including the Rwandan genocide. Based on painstaking archival research, *The Lost White Tribe* is a fascinating, immersive, and wide-ranging work of synthesis, revealing the roots of racial thinking and the legacies that continue to exert their influence to this day.

"A well-researched, well-documented, and highly readable account." --Kirkus "A masterful biography of an idea: the

life story of the Hamitic hypothesis and its relationship to the histories of exploration, science, ideas of human origins, and much much more." - New Books Network "Extraordinary...For a book that focuses on long-dead explorers and old scientific texts, *The Lost White Tribe* feels startlingly relevant to the present political moment." - Religion Dispatches

About the Author Michael F. Robinson is an Associate Professor of History at the University of Hartford. He is the author of *The Coldest Crucible: Arctic Exploration and American Culture*, which won the Forum for the History of Science in America Prize in 2008.