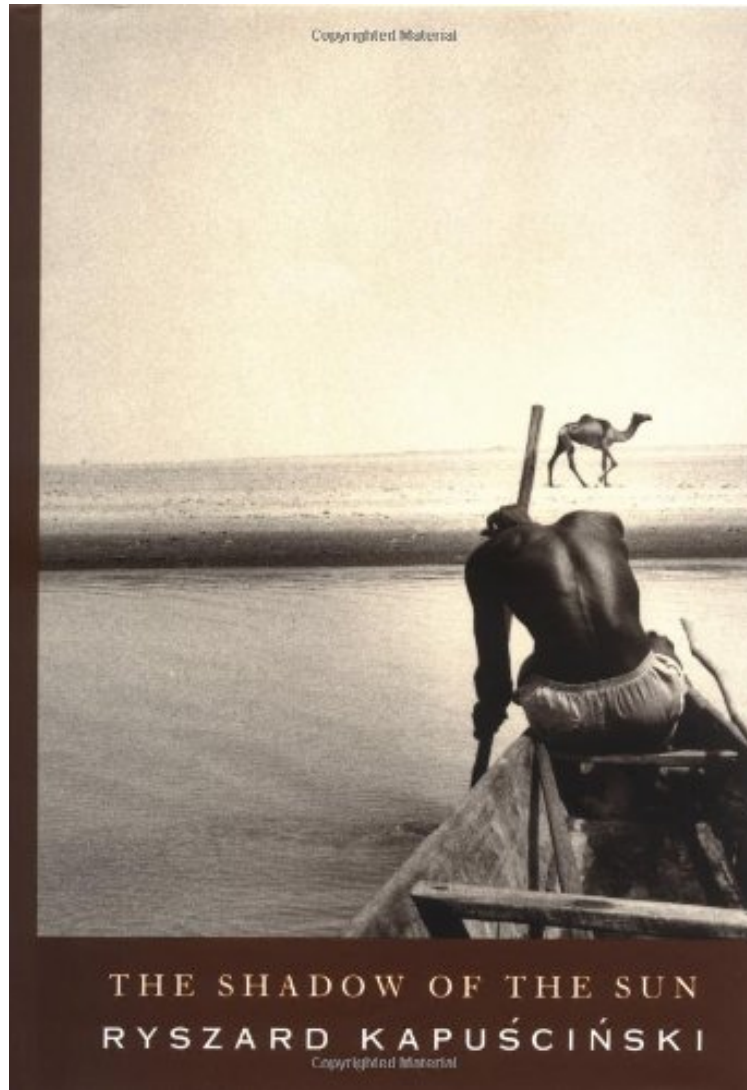


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The Shadow of the Sun

Von Ryszard Kapuscinski

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Von Ryszard Kapuscinski : The Shadow of the Sun before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Shadow of the Sun:

KundenrezensionenHilfreichste Kundenrezensionen3 von 3 Kunden fanden die folgende Rezension hilfreich. A collection of articles on Africa covering 40 yearsVon Alfred J. KwakDuring his lifetime RK has produced at least 3 superb monographs, on Ethiopia ("The Emperor"), on Iran ("Shah of Shahs") and on the remains of the Soviet Union ("Imperium"). In addition, he has has written numerous accounts of his adventures as a correspondent of the Polish News Agency during and after the end of the Cold War, in his own language and in journals such as GRANTA. The

best of his pieces were brought together in collections such as "The Soccer War". It must be remembered that his entire oeuvre was created in the pre-internet era. He relied on a device called "telex" to get his messages to Warsaw. The original telexes, his notebooks and his elephantine memory have been the main inputs for his books. The present volume is an overview of his writing on Africa from 1958 to 1998. Unlike most writers on Africa, RK has always elected, perhaps also for lack of funds, to live in close contact with Africans, living in cheap accommodations and giving the diplomatic circuit a wide berth. His insight into what threatens Africa's progress and what spurs its people to continue to struggle for a better life, is awesome. True academics, professional friends and critics of Africa, should take some time out to read this collection, which is not entirely without small errors: plantations of rubber trees in Sudan? Bantu farmers in Mali? Also, it does not deeply address issues like the Cold War, problems resulting from debt and Western-imposed limitations on free trade, or domestic corruption. However, RK has captured the soul of Africans living South of the Sahara better than anyone. Highly recommended. 0 von 0 Kunden fanden die folgende Rezension hilfreich. Beste Unterhaltung und Afrika wird lebendig! Von Justforfun Ich bekam dieses Buch von einem Freund empfohlen, der einige Zeit in Afrika als Arzt gearbeitet hat, weil es einem eine gute Vorstellung dieses riesigen Kontinents und seiner Bewohner gibt! Der Autor schreibt unterhaltsam und trifft den Nagel auf den Kopf! 0 von 0 Kunden fanden die folgende Rezension hilfreich. GREAT BOOK for ... Von Petar Kurschner jr..... those who wants to know more about real Africa, from the first hand from a great journalist out there ;)

Kurzbeschreibung In 1957, Ryszard Kapuscinski arrived in Africa to witness the beginning of the end of colonial rule as the first African correspondent of Poland's state newspaper. From the early days of independence in Ghana to the ongoing ethnic genocide in Rwanda, Kapuscinski has crisscrossed vast distances pursuing the swift, and often violent, events that followed liberation. Kapuscinski hitchhikes with caravans, wanders the Sahara with nomads, and lives in the poverty-stricken slums of Nigeria. He wrestles a king cobra to the death and suffers through a bout of malaria. What emerges is an extraordinary depiction of Africa--not as a group of nations or geographic locations--but as a vibrant and frequently joyous montage of peoples, cultures, and encounters. Kapuscinski's trenchant observations, wry analysis and overwhelming humanity paint a remarkable portrait of the continent and its people. His unorthodox approach and profound respect for the people he meets challenge conventional understandings of the modern problems faced by Africa at the dawn of the twenty-first century. From the Trade Paperback edition. de When Africa makes international news, it is usually because war has broken out or some bizarre natural disaster has taken a large number of lives. Westerners are appallingly ignorant of Africa otherwise, a condition that the great Polish journalist and writer Ryszard Kapuscinski helps remedy with this book based on observations gathered over more than four decades. Kapuscinski first went to Africa in 1957, a time pregnant with possibilities as one country after another declared independence from the European colonial powers. Those powers, he writes, had "crammed the approximately ten thousand kingdoms, federations, and stateless but independent tribal associations that existed on this continent in the middle of the nineteenth century within the borders of barely forty colonies." When independence came, old interethnic rivalries, long suppressed, bubbled up to the surface, and the continent was consumed in little wars of obscure origin, from caste-based massacres in Rwanda and ideological conflicts in Ethiopia to hit-and-run skirmishes among Tuaregs and Bantus on the edge of the Sahara. With independence, too, came the warlords, whose power across the continent derives from the control of food, water, and other life-and-death resources, and whose struggles among one another fuel the continent's seemingly endless civil wars. When the warlords "decide that everything worthy of plunder has been extracted," Kapuscinski writes, wearily, they call a peace conference and are rewarded with credits and loans from the First World, which makes them richer and more powerful than ever, "because you can get significantly more from the World Bank than from your own starving kinsmen." Constantly surprising and eye-opening, Kapuscinski's book teaches us much about contemporary events and recent history in Africa. It is also further evidence for why he is considered to be one of the best journalists at work today. --Gregory McNamee.co.uk Polish writer and foreign correspondent Ryszard Kapuscinski may be in the twilight of a golden career spanning more than 40 years but *The Shadow of the Sun*, an alternative record of his experiences of Africa and its stupefying white heat, is perhaps his finest hour. This for a writer who, to echo the sentiments of Michael Ignatieff, has turned reportage into literature. Drawn to the Developing World through an impoverished wartime upbringing, Kapuscinski arrived in Ghana in 1957 and was on hand to witness the tumultuous years in which colonial Africa was dismantled, resulting in born-again countries ripe for ransacking by despots. From the glare of Accra airport which greets him on first arrival, to the Tanzanian night of the final pages, he crosses savannah, desert and city by foot, road and train, searching out the two most important, yet inconstant commodities on the continent: shade and water. Threatened by an Egyptian cobra, cursed with cerebral malaria and tuberculosis, plagued by black cockroaches the size of small turtles, Kapuscinski intermingles the immediate and the reflective in 29 satisfyingly fragmented vignettes, encompassing historical narratives and personal experience across a host of countries, including Ethiopia, Uganda, Nigeria, Sudan and Liberia. While acknowledging European colonial culpability, he refuses to rinse his words in guilt. *The Shadow of the Sun* is

reminiscent of Gianni Celati's *Adventures in Africa*, employing similarly symphonic atmospherics that can bear poetic witness to both the tragic history of Rwanda and the Ngugi beetle, which toils in the desert to produce the sweat it drinks to survive. As much about the plastic water container as the warlord and preferring the African shanty town to the Manhattan skyscraper as a monument to human achievement, what Kapuscinski, the author of *Shah of Shahs* describes is not Africa, which he claims does not exist except geographically but a distillation of life itself, through its religiosity, its trees, the frightening abundance of youth, sun that "curdles the blood" and terrorising, ruling armies that fall in a day. The first in a projected trilogy pulling together Africa, Central America and Asia, *The Shadow of the Sun* is an exceptional and humbling work of imagination and experience by a writer intent on liberating truths from fact. -- David Vincent