

Southeast Asia Head Office  
Blk 231, Bain Street  
#03-05, Bras Basah Complex  
Singapore 180231  
Tel : +65-6883-2284/6883-2204  
Fax : +65-6883-2144  
info@marymartin.com  
www.marymartin.com

South Asia Head Office  
8/123, Third Street,  
Tatabad, Coimbatore 641012  
India  
Tel : +91-422-2499030/2495780  
Fax : +91-422-2495781  
info@marymartin.com  
www.marymartin.com

Ruling Nature, Controlling People : Nature Conservation, Development and War in North-Eastern Namibia since the 1920s / Maano Ramutsindela

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Recent nature conservation initiatives in Southern Africa such as communal conservancies and peace parks are often embedded in narratives of economic development and ecological research. They are also increasingly marked by militarisation and violence. In *Ruling Nature, Controlling People*, Luregn Lenggenhager shows that these features were also characteristic of South African rule over the Caprivi Strip region in North-Eastern Namibia, especially in the fields of forestry, fisheries and, ultimately, wildlife conservation. In the process, the increasingly internationalised war in the region from the late 1960s until Namibia's independence in 1990 became intricately interlinked with contemporary nature conservation, ecology and economic development projects. By retracing such interdependencies, Lenggenhager provides a novel perspective from which to examine the history of a region which has until now barely entered the focus of historical research. He thereby highlights the enduring relevance of the supposedly peripheral Caprivi and its military, scientific and environmental histories for efforts to develop a deeper understanding of the ways in which apartheid South Africa exerted state power.

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