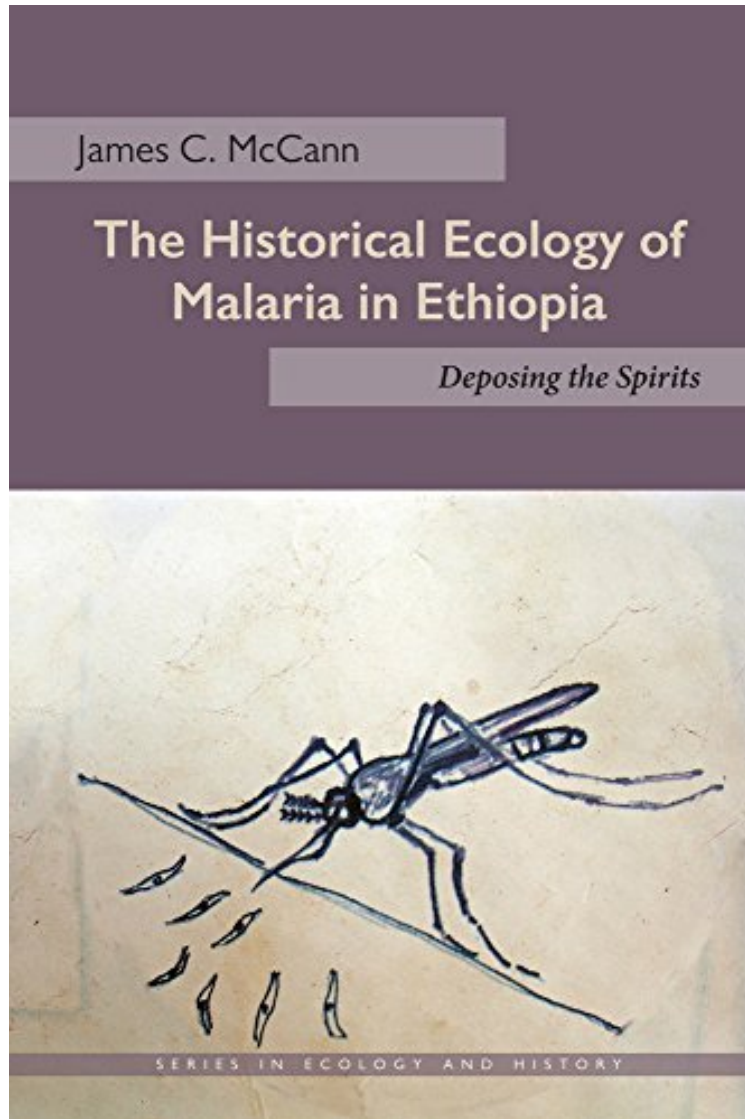


[Download] Historical Ecology of Malaria in Ethiopia: Depositing the Spirits (Ecology History)

Historical Ecology of Malaria in Ethiopia: Depositing the Spirits (Ecology History)

James C. McCann

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James C. McCann : Historical Ecology of Malaria in Ethiopia: Depositing the Spirits (Ecology History) before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Historical Ecology of Malaria in Ethiopia: Depositing the Spirits (Ecology History):

One of the most important books written on Africa in the last ten years indeed, in any ten years. David M. Anderson, University of Warwick Malaria is an infectious disease like no other: it is a dynamic force of nature and Africa's most deadly and debilitating malady. James C. McCann tells the story of malaria in human, narrative terms and explains the history and ecology of the disease through the science of landscape change. All malaria is local. Instead of examining the disease at global or continental scale, McCann investigates malaria's adaptation and persistence in a single region, Ethiopia, over time and at several contrasting sites. Malaria has evolved along with humankind and has adapted to even modern-day technological efforts to eradicate it or to control its movement. Insecticides, such as DDT, drug prophylaxis, development of experimental vaccines, and even molecular-level genetic manipulation have proven to be only temporary fixes. The failure of each stand-alone solution suggests the necessity of a comprehensive ecological understanding of malaria, its transmission, and its persistence, one that accepts its complexity and its local dynamism as fundamental features. The story of this disease in Ethiopia includes heroes, heroines, witches, spirits and a very clever insect as well as the efforts of scientists in entomology, agroecology, parasitology, and epidemiology. Ethiopia is an ideal case for studying the historical human culture of illness, the dynamism of nature's disease ecology, and its complexity within malaria.

This is one of the most important books written on Africa in the last ten years indeed, in any ten years. If this book does not win a prize, then there is truly no justice. A superb topic, handled here by an accomplished historian at the peak of his powers. The epilogue is simply magnificent. Sparse, almost curt, it makes the case with blinding clarity. The past lives with us. The future is about adaptability, not progress. David M. Anderson, University of Warwick