



The Rise of an African Middle Class: Colonial Zimbabwe 1898-1965

By Michael West

Indiana University Press. Paperback. Book Condition: new. BRAND NEW, The Rise of an African Middle Class: Colonial Zimbabwe 1898-1965, Michael West, In this fine-grained history, Michael O. West focuses on how the unintended consequences of colonialism lead to the creation of an African middle class in Zimbabwe. Tracing Africans' quest for social recognition from the time of Cecil Rhodes to Rhodesia's unilateral declaration of independence, West shows how some Africans were able to avail themselves of scarce educational and social opportunities in order to achieve some degree of upward mobility in a society that was hostile to their ambitions. Though relatively few in numbers and not rich by colonial standards, this comparatively better class of Africans challenged individual and social barriers imposed by colonialism to become the locus of protest against European domination. "The Rise of an African Middle Class" explores the origin, identity, and consciousness of the new 'elite' as well as their educational and residential patterns, political and social affiliations, and the community associations that provided structure and strength to their numbers. Eventually becoming the political and social leaders of their country, West points to Zimbabwe's African middle class and their roles, interests, aspirations, and unity of purpose...



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