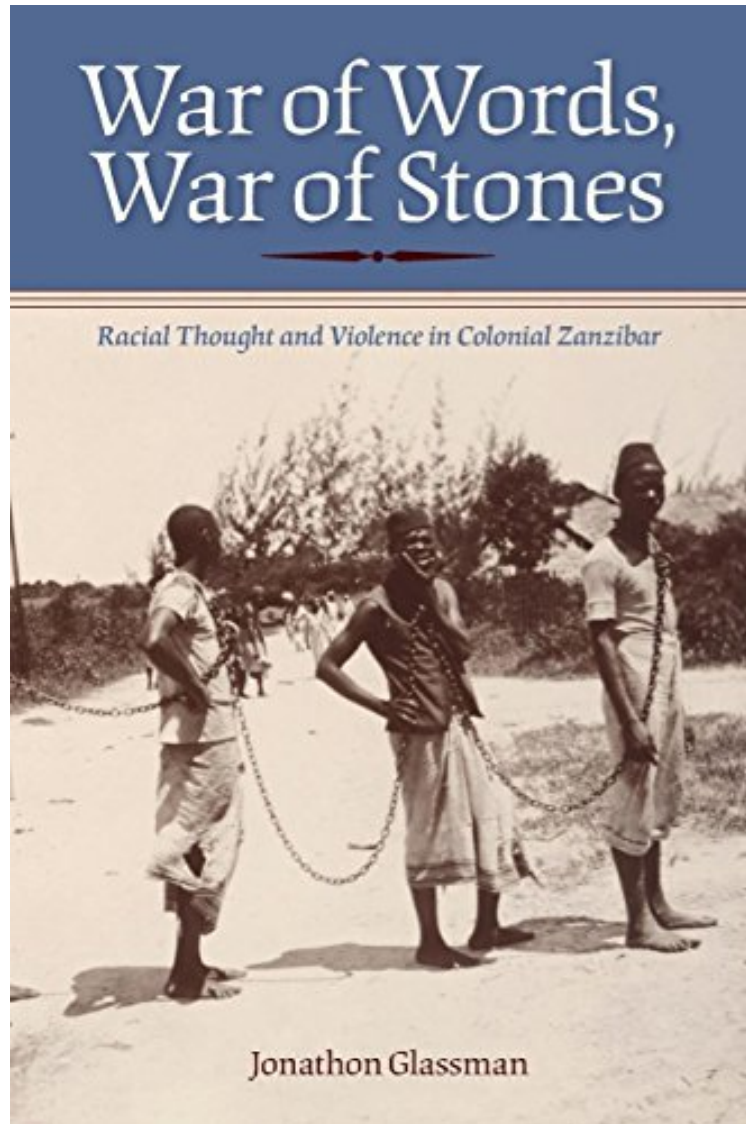


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War of Words, War of Stones: Racial Thought and Violence in Colonial Zanzibar

Jonathon Glassman

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Jonathon Glassman : War of Words, War of Stones: Racial Thought and Violence in Colonial Zanzibar before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised War of Words, War of Stones: Racial Thought and Violence in Colonial Zanzibar:

2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. Impressive Research By Anne M Chappel There is a dearth of information about Zanzibar history, about how a peaceful Muslim community could destroy itself in a violent

revolution. Some believe it must have been an invasion, the violence was so uncharacteristic of the people. Glassman shows how this is possible: rumour and fear in a time of politics can do this. His impressive book and research reveal the story of Zanzibar leading up to the January 1964 Revolution. It is an important story - perhaps we can say that a similar event of genocide happened in Rwanda in 1994. I recommend this book to anyone interested in the politics of Africa and the politics of violence.

The Swahili coast of Africa is often described as a paragon of transnational culture and racial fluidity. Yet, during a brief period in the 1960s, Zanzibar became deeply divided along racial lines as intellectuals and activists, engaged in bitter debates about their nation's future, ignited a deadly conflict that spread across the island. *War of Words, War of Stones* explores how violently enforced racial boundaries arose from Zanzibar's entangled history. Jonathon Glassman challenges explanations that assume racial thinking in the colonial world reflected only Western ideas. He shows how Africans crafted competing ways of categorizing race from local tradition and engagement with the Atlantic and Indian Ocean worlds.

[This] book is first and foremost a political and cultural history of the last decade before independence, whose detailed and finely-depicted intricacies, grounded in numerous archival sources and interviews, are explored . . . *War of Words, War of Stones* is of interest not only to historians but also to sociologists, political scientists, and anthropologists interested in unravelling the threads of wide-scale violence. *LIII* (4) 212 2013 (*Cahiers d'Etudes africaines*) This book is a towering achievement. Glassman has gone a long way toward setting the record straight about the sources of racial animosity in late colonial Zanzibar. . . . [T]his immeasurably brilliant book . . . will provide a new benchmark for understanding Zanzibari political history. (*Journal of Historical Geography*) [Achieves] a valuable contribution to the study of political discourse, violence, and the organization of space and social relationships in Zanzibar. More generally . . . provide[s] interesting discussions of colonialism, power, identity politics and the ideology of modernization. Nov. 2012 (*Africa*) This book is painstakingly researched, providing a compelling portrait of the intricacies of Zanzibari politics in the post-independence period and the historical legacies that shaped those politics. Glassman's theorizing of race in relation to memory, nationalism, and modernity is provocative, raising questions that will certainly stimulate debate. (*American Historical*) Highly recommended. (*Choice*) This book is a well organized and well written account of Zanzibar's 'time of politics,' a period spanning from the first elections in 1957 until independence in 1963. A critical political and intellectual history, this book is required reading for anyone interested in Tanzania's history. It, moreover, is a valuable contribution to literature on racial thought and relations in Africa that will appeal widely to both scholars and students. (*African Studies Quarterly*) This book is a well-researched and thorough history of the racial and nationalist discourse during the Time of Politics in the Zanzibar Islands. . . . It is highly recommended for graduate-level courses on race, nationalism, identity, politics, and Zanzibar. (*Islamic Africa*) On the whole, the book is well researched and written, and presents the most comprehensive and rigorous study of popular and intellectual discourses on nationalist politics on the islands. . . . It is strongly recommended to whoever wishes to understand Zanzibar's political history from colonial times to the present. (*H-Africa / H-net*) A boldly conceived and meticulously conducted study that throws down a challenge to the writing of African politics in the twentieth century. . . . sure to unsettle, provoke, and guide for years to come. (Pier M. Larson Johns Hopkins University) In this brave and powerful book Glassman shows that African thinking about nationhood wasn't abstract, but sometimes rooted in ideas about history, culture, and physical bodies. And while race and ethnicity were social constructions made on the ground, that ground itself was fissured by claims and disclaims of ancestry and birthplace and by weakened plantation economies and the evictions of squatters. With painstaking care and painful clarity Glassman maps that ground, on which ideas about race and ideas about nation were translated into terror and trauma. (Luise White University of Florida) About the Author Jonathon Glassman is Associate Professor of History at Northwestern University. He is author of *Feasts and Riot: Revelry, Rebellion, and Popular Consciousness on the Swahili Coast, 1856-1888*, which was awarded the Herskovits Prize in African Studies.