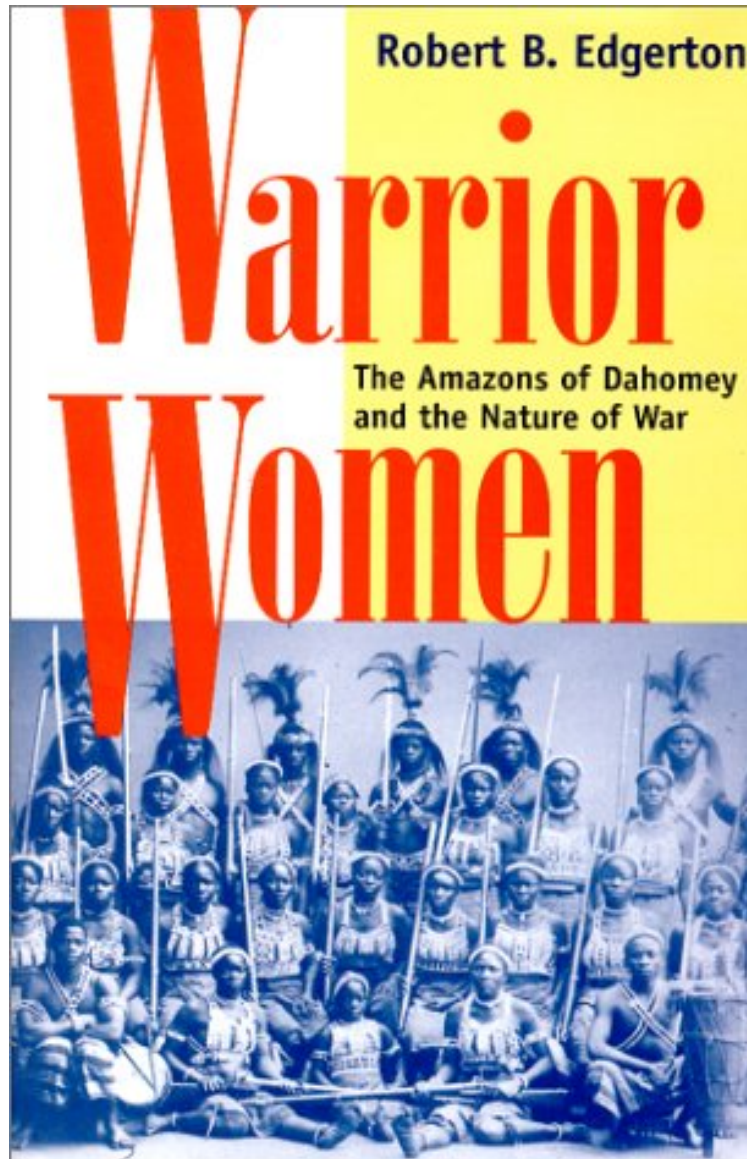


Warrior Women: The Amazons Of Dahomey And The Nature Of War

Robert Edgerton

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Robert Edgerton : Warrior Women: The Amazons Of Dahomey And The Nature Of War before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Warrior Women: The Amazons Of Dahomey And The Nature Of War:

2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. Dont get itBy N. BarbourThe picture on the front is not actually of

the Dahomey s. They are instead the "knock off versio"n that was developed for tourists who were curious about the culture. The s were well within their decline when that picture was taken. I recommend reading Stanley Alpern's book if you want to read about these warrior women.28 of 32 people found the following review helpful. Terribly Researched BookBy A CustomerRobert B. Edgerton's book is probably the worst book on the s of Dahomey. Unsubstantiated (and wrong) accounts of lesbianism, ill-researched 'facts', and sweeping generalisations abound, not only of the women themselves, but of other African cultures, most notably the Kikuyu and the bride-price custom he writes about. Anyone seeking a concise history of these women warriors should see Stanley B. Alpern's 's of Black Sparta'. The reviews of Alpern's work point to the book's excellence and worth.

Some prominent anthropologists have been joined by an eminent military historian in declaring that military combat - at all times and in all places - has been a male activity. They advance many reasons for this pattern, some more plausible than others. In fact, although warfare is typically conducted by men, in various places and at various times, women have fought bravely and well, and in the West African kingdom of Dahomey during the nineteenth century, they formed the elite corps of a successful army. Many European visitors to Dahomey commented favorably on their military bearing, finding them more impressive in discipline and maneuver than male Dahomean soldiers. When France invaded Dahomey in the early 1890s, their superior weapons won the war but all those French officers and men who wrote about their bloody battles against Dahomey declared not only that these women warriors were superior to male Dahomean soldiers, but that they were the equal of the French. Edgerton describes the history of these Amazon, as they became known, their recruitment, training, and battle experience. Of particular interest to scholars interested in culture and gender today, these women believed that in order for them to carry out their martial roles, they had to transform themselves into men. How this was done, how the Amazons lived and fought, and what their experiences might mean for the understanding of women and warfare both in the past and present day are the subjects of this book.

From the Inside FlapAlthough warfare is typically conducted by men, in various places and at various times women have fought bravely and well, and in the West African kingdom of Dahomey during the 19th century, they formed the elite corps of a successful army. Many European visitors to Dahomey commented favorably on their military bearing, finding them more impressive in discipline and maneuver than male Dahomean soldiers. When France invaded Dahomey in the early 1890s, their superior weapons won the war, but all those French officers and men who wrote about their bloody battles against Dahomey declared not only that these women warriors were superior to male Dahomean soldiers, but also that they were the equals of the French. Robert B. Edgerton describes the history of these "s" (as they became known) and their recruitment, training, and battle experience. Of particular interest to scholars interested in culture and gender today, these women believed that in order for them to carry out their martial roles, they had to transform themselves into men. How this was done, how the s lived and fought, and what their experiences might mean for the understanding of women and warfare both in the past and the present are the subjects of Warrior Women. About the AuthorAuthor of over twenty books on sociology and anthropology, including *The End of the Asante Empire* and *The Cloak of Competence*, Robert B. Edgerton teaches at the UCLA School of Medicine.