‘A very welcome contribution both to the historiography of late Ottoman Egypt and Ethiopian regional and urban history in the context of the ‘Scramble for Africa.’ *Emirate, Egyptian, Ethiopian* bolsters efforts to collapse traditional academic regional categories and bring Middle Eastern and African history into conversation.’

—Jonathan Miran, Western Washington University

‘A well-researched, theoretically informed, and nuanced investigation of this important but neglected topic that adds to the growing literature on Ottoman and Egyptian imperial ventures in Africa.’

—James De Lorenzi, John Jay College of Criminal Justice

‘The research is solid and deep, and draws on British government records, French missionary archives, Arabic sources, oral histories, and more. This book contains abundant material and forges new ground.’

—Heather J. Sharkey, University of Pennsylvania

In October 1875, two months after the takeover of the Somali coastal town of Zeila, an Egyptian force numbering 1,200 soldiers departed from the city to occupy Harar, a prominent Muslim hub in the Horn of Africa. In doing so, they turned this sovereign emirate into an Egyptian colony that became a focal meeting point of geopolitical interests, with interactions between Muslim Africans, European powers, and Christian Ethiopians.

In *Emirate, Egyptian, Ethiopian*, Ben-Dror tells the story of Turco-Egyptian colonial ambitions and the processes that integrated Harar into the global system of commerce that had begun enveloping the Red Sea. This new colonial era in the city’s history inaugurated new standards of government, society, and religion. Drawing on previously untapped Egyptian, Harari, Ethiopian, and European archival sources, the author reconstructs the political, social, economic, religious, and cultural history of the occupation, which included building roads, reorganizing the political structure, and converting many people to Islam. He portrays the complexity of colonial interactions as an influx of European merchants and missionaries settled in Harar. By shedding light on the dynamic historical processes, Ben-Dror provides new perspectives on the important role of non-European imperialists in shaping the history of these regions.

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