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A B S T R A C T

This paper attempts to reconstruct certain aspects of the Boran past through the use of oral traditions. It is the story of Boran society from the beginning of the 19th century down to the dawn of this century. In order to give an intelligible account of the period, it was found necessary to preface it with a rather long introduction dealing with certain important aspects of Boran environment, economy, social structure and origins. In a sense, this was an attempt to understand the internal developments of that society,

Certain conclusions are reached. It is suggested that the Boran expansion was the cause of warday Galla movement out of Ethiopia into the Jubaland region of Somalia. It is also suggested that the development of shegat (client) relationship with the Somali groups of Gurreh and Ajuran was the outcome of this expansion. It is observed that the effects of Amhara annexation of Boran country was to accelerate Boran expansion as far south as Marsabit, and that this expansion was also dependent on a prior movement of the Samburu and Rendille in that direction. The spate of Somali expansion from the east at the end of the 19th century altered the traditional dynamics of ethnic migrations and led

the history of the Pastoral Boran of Northern Kenya. Although
to Boran settlement in Isiolo. Finally, it is suggested
that the imposition of British rule over this region shaping the
course of Boran history. In this regard, the Somali and in
and the policy of restricting tribal migrations ensured
particular the Gurreh (Garre) and Ajuran Sub-tribes of the
the survival of the Boran against the Somali threats and
possibly that of the Samburu and Rendille from the dangers
posed to them by Boran expansion to the south.
For Boran life and their social and political organization
remained and still remain centred on the plains of Diga and
Liban in Southern Ethiopia. Nor is it possible to restrict
the subject to the 19th century only. Admittedly, it would appear
that the 19th Century, and especially the second half of that
period represents a time of a high inter-tribal