

The most examples for VNS originate from body parts. The largest list of VNS is connected with the noun *ākh* – the eye. Quite a long list of VNS can also be found in conjunction with noun *mūh* – mouth, *sir* – head, *nāk* – nose etc.

At the very end of this study a list of simple verbs used in VNS is attended.

The purpose of this book is to serve as a complex view on Hindī idiomaticity. It provides the reader with a punctual list of particular phrases and easy search through them. Other collections of Hindī idioms are rather unsystematic and inconsistent. Therefore the contribution of this publication is indisputable.

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GOMBÁR, Eduard. *Dějiny Libye*. [The History of Libya] Prague: Lidové noviny Publishing House, 2015. 249 p. (In Czech). ISBN 978-80-7422-363-1

Professor Eduard Gombár, working in the Institute of Near East and Africa at the Faculty of Philosophy in Charles' University in Prague, set himself a difficult task in writing the history of Libya. This comprehensive history of this North African country covers the development since prehistoric times to present day. It is undoubtedly the result of many years of successful symbiosis of the author's teaching and research work at the university.

The reader can also witness his intimate acquaintance with the region under consideration due to his frequent shorter and longer stays in many Middle Eastern countries. The book is very thoughtfully divided into sixteen chapters.

The core of the work is the exposition of the political, social and economic development of this region that was mostly colonised and dominated by different outside powers (e.g. Greeks and Romans) since the end of the seventh century A.D. and after Muslim conquests part of the Arab caliphate with its different dynasties. With the Ottoman conquest of Egypt in the sixteenth century the territory of Cyrenaica and Tripolitania was also included into the Ottoman Empire (p. 64). The process of the decline of the Ottoman Empire starting in the seventeenth century is seen as irreversible despite sincere efforts of different rulers to introduce reforms or modernisation. The author skilfully pointed to the crucial reasons for this unwelcome development. The situation had been worsened by what had happened to the country during the first half of the twentieth century. Between 1911 and 1927, the country had been ravaged by war, as Italy tried to impose colonial rule (p. 83). Despite modest British and French aid when they jointly administered Libya after 1943, the country's essentially subsistence economy was still trying to recover from the three decades of Italian Fascist colonisation and the damage caused by three years of warfare during the Second World War.

Within ten years, however, the economic picture had completely changed, as Libya entered the oil era at the beginning of the 1960s. The political situation was also

transformed at the end of the decade, when the Idrisī monarchy, which had ruled the country since independence, was suddenly overthrown by an army coup. The plotters were junior army officers lead by captain Mu‘ammar al-Qaddāfi, powerfully affected by the pan Arab ideology of Egypt’s president Jamāl ‘Abdannāsir. The leader, raised to the rank of Colonel, has since created one of the world’s most peculiar political systems and, aided by the country’s oil wealth, has also attempted to carve out an international role for Libya in the modern world (p. 139). However, this époque was stopped in 2011, when during the “Arab spring” disaffected elements rose against the existing order and with the aid of Western powers crushed the regime.

The book is divided into sixteen chapters: 1. Prehistory and Antiquity; 2. Roman and Byzantine Era; 3. Beginnings of Arab Rule; 4. The Era of Early Middle Ages; 5. Libyan Territory during the High Middle Ages; 6. Cyrenaica and Tripolitania under Ottoman rule; 7. Italian Tripolitania and Cyrenaica; 8. Libya and the Great Italy Project; 9. British-French Occupation and Independence of Libya; 10. Libyan Monarchy, 1951 – 1969; 11. Dictatorship of Mu‘ammar al-Qaddāfi; 12. Foreign Policy of al-Qaddāfi; 13. The Economy and Culture under al-Qaddāfi; 14. Libyan Civil War of 2011; 15. Czech-Libyan Relations; 16. Conclusions; Notes and Appendices. In his explanation Professor Gombár delicately brought together problems concerning internal development (nationalism and modernisation) with external pressures influencing that development for example the policy of European Powers, into a smooth and balanced text. The author casts light on many neglected topics, for instance, the project of “Greater Italy” during the governorship of Marshall Italo Balbo, who in 1933 became Governor General of Libya (p. 97). Professor Gombár combined the requirement for a straightforward, factual account of the history in this part of Africa, with the desirability of providing an introduction to various ideas about the nature of the regional development during the period. The author’s evaluation of historical events is unbiased and he sharply reveals overt and covert interests of the Powers which their own historiography (e.g. British, French or Italian) often tactfully keep silence on, or try to improve it by modifying the facts.

The book is furnished with very useful appendices containing basic statistical data, chronological survey of important events, survey of dynasties, rulers, governors and prime ministers during different historical periods, maps and reliable register. Although the bibliography is limited to a list of selected works, it shows a creative and wide-ranging use of primary and secondary sources and can serve both historians and those interested in history as a sufficient guide. Keeping in mind that a synthetic work of this type cannot answer every question it suggests, it gives a sound basis for further reading. The reader finishes this substantial book with a firm grasp of the main tendencies of the historical development. The impressive part of it is its comprehensiveness. The book is an excellent stimulus for students of Islamic history and a significant contribution to the history of Middle East and North Africa for Czech and Slovak readers. The author has put together a fascinating account of continuity and change and succeeded on every score.

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