



# Oral Traditions in Tanzania: A Scholarly Review of "Oral Traditions as Historical Sources in Southern African Communities"

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## Abstract

This review focuses on a book that explores how oral traditions serve as historical sources in southern African communities within Tanzania. The methodology involves an analysis of existing literature on oral traditions and their use as historical sources, with a focus on specific communities in Tanzania. A key theme identified is the reliability of oral accounts in recounting events that occurred over centuries, particularly concerning communal histories and migrations. The review concludes by emphasising the importance of integrating oral traditions into formal historical records to provide more comprehensive narratives of southern African communities in Tanzania. Researchers should consider the use of oral history as a primary source when studying pre-colonial Africa, especially for understanding long-term social and cultural developments.

**Keywords:** *Tanzania, Oral Traditions, Southern Africa, Historiography, Ethnography, Folklore Studies, Cultural Memory*

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