

THE BARBARIANS OF MOROCCO

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The Barbarians of Morocco by Adalbert Sternberg & Ethel Peck

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ADALBERT STERNBERG & ETHEL PECK

**THE BARBARIANS
OF MOROCCO**



SULTAN AB-DEI-AZIZ RECEIVES THE TRIBES AT FEZ

THE BARBARIANS OF MOROCCO

BY

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PREFACE

I ACCOMPANIED Count Sternberg on this little journey to Fez, not for the purpose of wringing concessions from the Sultan, but to learn something of the people and the country.

To speak with authority and true understanding of Morocco and its people requires sympathy and a life long residence amongst them. Although we cannot claim to have lived amongst the Moors for more than a few months, we started on our journey in a sympathetic mood, and returned with still more sympathy for these misunderstood people. To say that we thoroughly understood the Moorish character would be to adopt a presumptuous attitude.

Tourists flock to Tangier, and, after a conversation with a low-caste guide and a donkey-ride on the sands, take boat to England or America, and speak with the authority of ignorance on Morocco and its mysteries.

Sternberg. 25 Aug. 1909 - 180

To be in sympathy with the Moors, we must put ourselves in their place, and ask whether we should like our own country to be overrun by needy adventurers. Can it be wondered at that the Moors are not impressed by European civilization as exhibited in their midst, and more especially at Tangier? Concession-mongers, usurers, and absinthe vendors jostle each other in the narrow street which leads to the quay. These pioneers of civilization all wear a hungry look, bred of greed, and they are all on the "money-make," mostly at the expense of the natives.

It is the habit of those who do not understand this sympathy for a race who do not wear tall hats to say, But surely, if France does not annex Morocco, Germany will, and you do not want to see the Germans there! Never for a moment can they attune their minds to the idea of Morocco for the Moors.

Because Morocco has not fallen into line with Europe and made a fetish of gold and commerce, are we to condemn the Moors as savages? These followers of Mahomet have as much right to exist as a nation as those who haunt the precincts of La Place de la Bourse.

Has modern civilization been such a success

that we Europeans are prepared to thrust it on the Moors at the point of the bayonet? Are not the Moors, living a pastoral life, incomparably better off than we are in the midst of the stench and smoke of factories?

Let Morocco remain as she is—a land inhabited by naturally peaceful people, unspoilt by modern inventions—an artistic reserve for all those who prefer the beauties of Nature to the throb of an iron piston.

DOUGLAS FOX-PITT.

THE BARBARIANS OF MOROCCO

CHAPTER I

TANGIER

I

AFTER many weeks spent in Tunis, Biskra, and Algiers, the voyage to Tangier came next upon the programme. Once a month a ship, one of the "Adria" Company, makes a voyage between Algiers and Tangier. The "Adria" is a Hungarian company, and I was pleased at the thought of gliding across the waves under my native flag. I had to wait some time for that pleasure, for the ship *Adria* had not come in, and the agents had no news as to the cause of her delay. Finally, she appeared in the harbour on the day after Good Friday. She was to have steamed off again on the Sunday, but it proved to be impossible to leave the harbour of Algiers till Tuesday night.

The *Adria* was no ocean leviathan of thousands