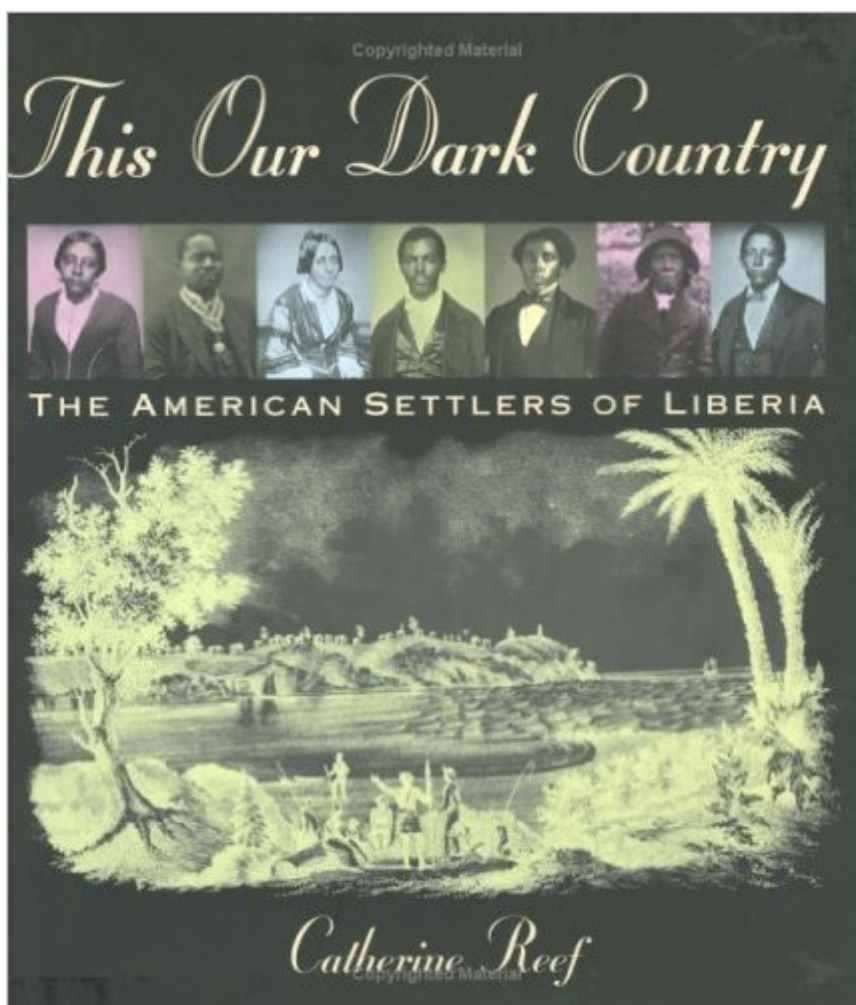


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# This Our Dark Country: The American Settlers Of Liberia



## Synopsis

In the early 19th century, the American Colonization Society was formed with the sole intent of creating a colony for free blacks and former slaves. Both blacks and whites took passionate stands either for or against this proposal. Despite the controversy, the first group of settlers landed on the west coast of Africa in 1822. They faced numerous problems arising from the unfamiliar climate, hostile encounters with the indigenous people, and the failure of other nations to recognize their independence, but they managed to build a nation, naming it Liberia, for liberty. Today, partly because of these difficult beginnings, Liberia is a country plagued by unrest. In this accessible and well-written book, award-winning author Catherine Reef presents a significant but as of yet relatively unexplored chapter in African American history. Her account is filled with excerpts from diaries and letters of the settlers and richly illustrated with period photographs and prints, many of which have never been published before. Photo gallery, endnotes, bibliography, index.

## Book Information

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Age Range: 10 - 12 years

Grade Level: 5 - 7

## Customer Reviews

Nice and fast

I just received the book today, so I have not yet read the book. But I did leaf through it and was happy to find quite a number of historical photographs that I had never seen before (and I have a large collection of books about Liberia.) There was one photograph of Monrovia "taken from a

distance" in 1986. The caption said partially that Monrovia "looked like a peaceful, thriving city." I was very pleased to see that photograph. I was there in 1986 and it was mostly peaceful and thriving then. Although I took many pictures up country where I lived, photography was discouraged in Monrovia, and I took very few photographs there because I did not want to take the chance that my camera would be confiscated. The people and the country of Liberia are beautiful and my heart has been broken by what they have suffered since I left there in 1988. When I look now at the photographs taken since then and the destruction of the city, I am heartsick. I am hopeful that they will be able to come together to heal and rebuild their lives and their country.

Our family began to research our African Heritage. This book includes a wealth of information regarding how and why slavery ended and what it was like for the "Americo Liberian" settlers. This is a must read for anyone with Liberian Heritage.

A beautiful modern history of the African American settlers just freed from slavery and try to improve their lives in a country they founded on the west coast of Africa; highly recommended for African Americans who should have a complete understanding of their past besides slavery. African Americans founded three settlements in Africa: Monrovia, Liberia; Freetown, Sierra Leone; and Libreville, Gabon.

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