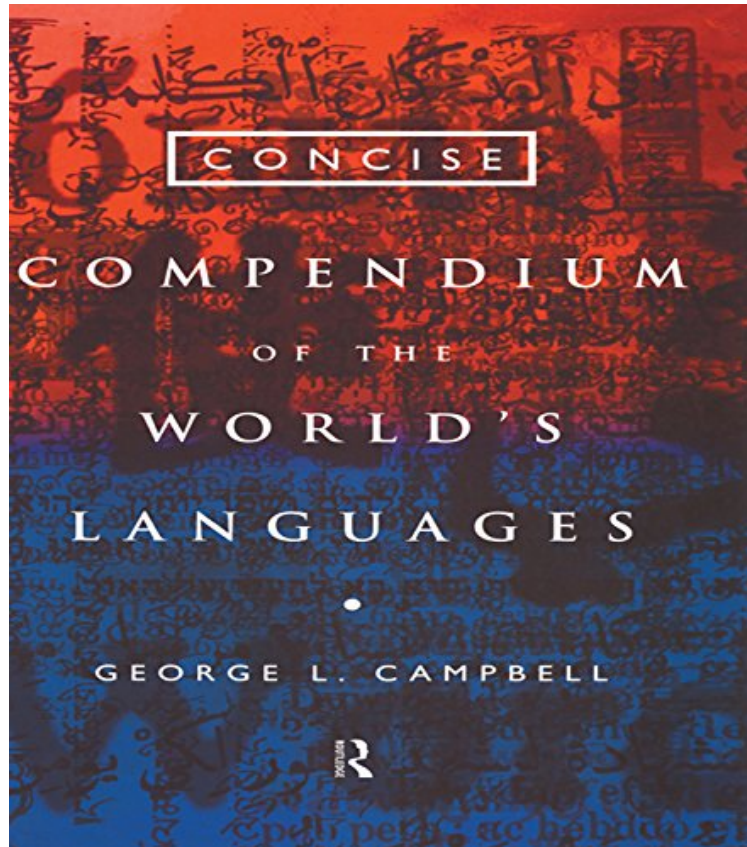


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Concise Compendium of the World's Languages

Von George L. Campbell

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Von George L. Campbell : Concise Compendium of the World's Languages before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Concise Compendium of the World's Languages:

Kundenrezensionen Hilfreichste Kundenrezensionen 3 von 3 Kunden fanden die folgende Rezension hilfreich. Utterly fascinating, but with minor problems. Von Mary V The bulk of this book is a set of 4-5 page capsule summaries of over 100 languages. It is written clearly, in language that is very accessible to the layman. Though one would not think it possible, the brief language descriptions really do capture many important aspects of the languages. A must-read for those who want to know how many different ways there are for humans to arrange their thoughts. Yet there are some problems. This book is a digest of a much larger (and frightfully expensive) hardcover original. Unfortunately, several of this book's internal references are to languages or topics that appear only in the larger original. Phonology is discussed in a variant of IPA that is nowhere described. Languages written in non-Latin alphabets are transliterated according to inconsistent and unexplained methods. In some cases, the connection between a language's phonology and its orthography is poorly documented. Since few of the reading audience are familiar with many of the languages discussed, it behooves the editor to be quite careful about errors. Unfortunately, a few minor errors have crept in -- just enough to be annoying. For instance: in the essay on Semitic languages, Arabic is erroneously classified as South

Semitic; in the essay on Japanese, words are transliterated using two incompatible methods, seemingly at random; Zulu numerals greater than 5 are given in an antique form that is no longer in use. In spite of its minor problems, I recommend this book highly.

Kurzbeschreibung From Afrikaans to Zulu, almost 100 languages from the comprehensive Compendium of the World's Languages are featured in this new concise version. Many articles have been revised. The Concise Compendium presents a detailed comparative study of the major and many of the lesser known languages of the world. Included are representatives of all language families, with samples of Amerindian, such as Navajo and of African languages, such as Fulani and Nama; languages of politically independent groups in the former USSR, like Uzbek and Belorussian; those of political pressure groups, such as Breton and Catalan and significant community/ethnic languages, including Amharic and Vietnamese. Throughout, the treatment is factual and jargon-free. Articles are ordered alphabetically and each has a standard structure for ease of reference: * general historical and sociolinguistic introduction * writing system * sound system * grammatical system A passage from the Gospel of St. John illustrates each language with a written tradition. These scripts are explained in an appendix at the end of the book. Presents 100 of the world's major languages and representatives of different language groups, politically significant languages and particularly interesting ones. Pressestimmen "This remarkable work sets a new standard for single source linguistic profiles-- Campbell's excellent survey will be an invaluable "vade mecum for the linguist, as well as forming a valuable addition to larger collections." From reviews of the "Compendium of the World's Languages-" Library Association Record "This book will be a lifelong delight." -Anthony Burgess, "The Observer Kurzbeschreibung From Afrikaans to Zulu, almost 100 languages from the comprehensive Compendium of the World's Languages are featured in this new concise version. Many articles have been revised. The Concise Compendium presents a detailed comparative study of the major and many of the lesser known languages of the world. Included are representatives of all language families, with samples of Amerindian, such as Navajo and of African languages, such as Fulani and Nama; languages of politically independent groups in the former USSR, like Uzbek and Belorussian; those of political pressure groups, such as Breton and Catalan and significant community/ethnic languages, including Amharic and Vietnamese. Throughout, the treatment is factual and jargon-free. Articles are ordered alphabetically and each has a standard structure for ease of reference: * general historical and sociolinguistic introduction * writing system * sound system * grammatical system A passage from the Gospel of St. John illustrates each language with a written tradition. These scripts are explained in an appendix at the end of the book. Presents 100 of the world's major languages and representatives of different language groups, politically significant languages and particularly interesting ones.