

CULTURES OF THE WORLD

# ERITREA

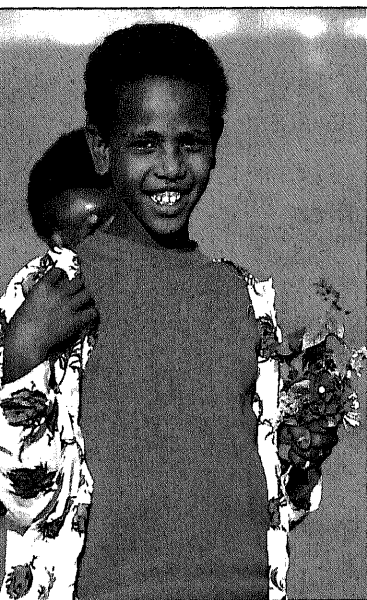


*Roseline NgCheong-Lum*

MARSHALL CAVENDISH

*New York • London • Sydney*

# CONTENTS



An Eritrean boy exudes the fresh spirit of freedom in his country.

## 3 INTRODUCTION

## 7 GEOGRAPHY

*Three regions • The Dahlak Islands • Mountains and rivers • Climate • Flora and fauna • Asmara • Other major towns*

## 21 HISTORY

*The kingdom of Axum • The Turko-Egyptian era • Italian colony • British protectorate • Federation • Fight for freedom • Independence*

## 31 GOVERNMENT

*The legislature • The constitution • The judiciary • Internal administration • National service • International relations*

## 39 ECONOMY

*Agriculture and pastoralism • Fishing • Industry • Minerals • Trade • Transportation and communication • Economic opportunities*

## 49 ERITREANS

*Tigray • Tigre • Afar • Beja • Ethnic minorities • Women • The diaspora*

## 59 LIFESTYLE

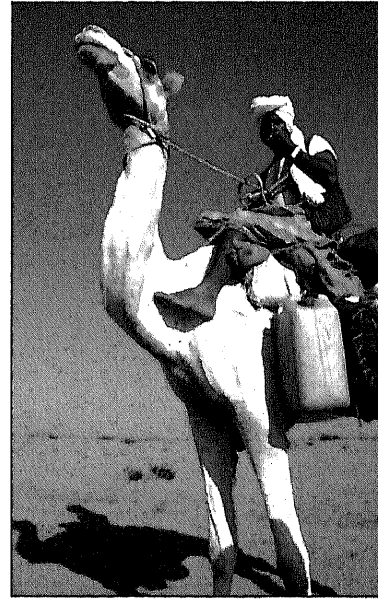
*The Eritrean family • Life in the village • Life in the city • Working hours • Education • Healthcare • Social problems*

## 69 RELIGION

*Islam • Orthodox Christianity • Roman Catholicism • Animism*

# CONTENTS

- 77** LANGUAGE  
*Tigrinya • Arabic • Common courtesies • Minority languages  
• Foreign influences • Mass media*
- 85** ARTS  
*Painting • Literature • Music, song, and dance • Handicrafts  
• Theater*
- 97** LEISURE  
*Relaxing in Asmara • Cinema • Youth clubs • Coffee • Cycling  
• Soccer and other sports*
- 105** FESTIVALS  
*Christian holidays • Islamic holidays • National holidays • Youth  
festivals • Family celebrations*
- 115** FOOD  
*Daily bread • Beverages • Table manners • The Eritrean kitchen  
• Fresh from the market • Eating out*
- 122** MAP OF ERITREA
- 124** QUICK NOTES
- 125** GLOSSARY
- 126** BIBLIOGRAPHY
- 126** INDEX



The camel is a traditional mode of transportation in rural Eritrea.