This book presents the results of a large study on the health and nutritional status of a significant sample of a southern Sudanese population belonging to three Nilotic tribes (Dinka, Nuer and Shilluk), realized between 1979 and 1984, in the Upper Nile State. Three studies were carried out: a cross-sectional study, a longitudinal study of 364 pregnant women and their newborn child until age 3, as well as a survey concerned the traditional way of life and believes and the socio-cultural aspects.

In 1979, this population still lived in a very traditional way and were subject to rapid changes due to the construction of the 365 km long Jonglei canal.

The study was interrupted by the civil war, in February 1984.

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