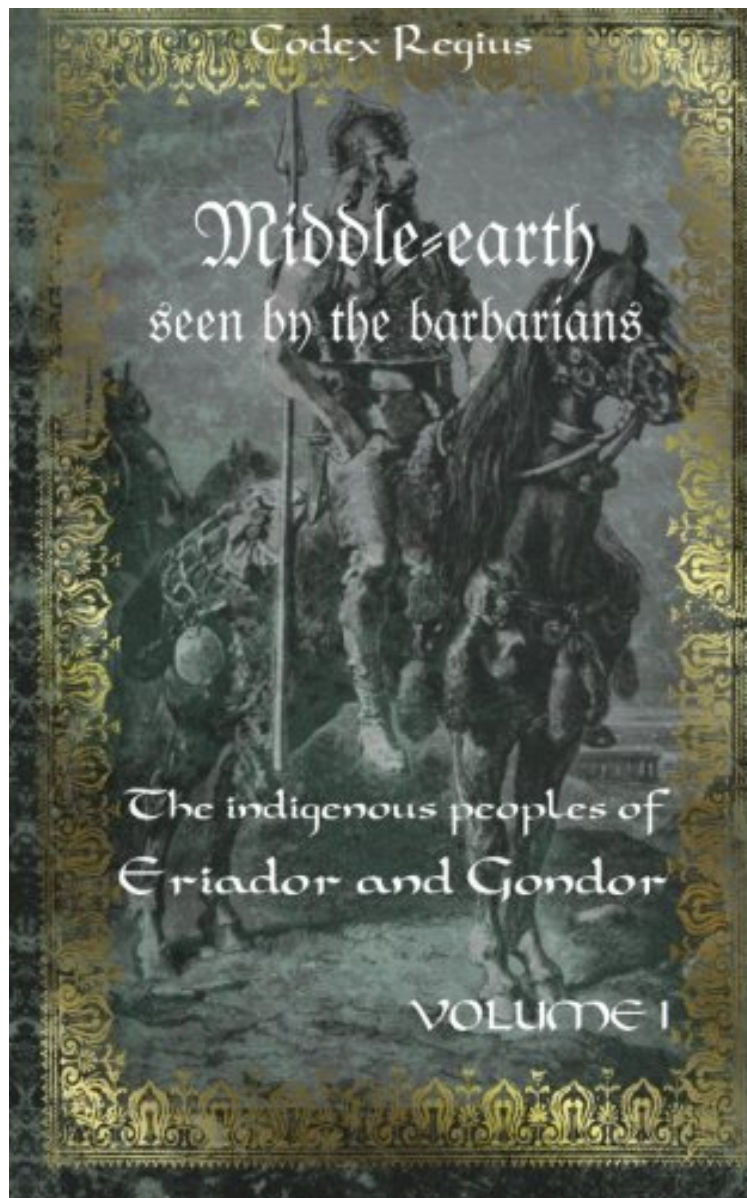


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## Middle-earth seen by the barbarians, Vol. 1: The indigenous peoples of Eriador and Gondor (Volume 1)

*Codex Regius*

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**Codex Regius : Middle-earth seen by the barbarians, Vol. 1: The indigenous peoples of Eriador and Gondor (Volume 1)** before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Middle-earth seen by the barbarians, Vol. 1: The indigenous peoples of Eriador and Gondor (Volume 1):

13 of 14 people found the following review helpful. For scholars and dedicated fans of the books of Lord of the Rings  
By Orson Scott Card  
This is a work by and for scholars and deeply dedicated fans of Lord of the Rings - not for people who have only watched the movies. Using the Silmarillion and even more obscure sources, the scholarship is impeccable and enlightening - to those who already know the books backward and forward. For casual readers, it does not offer a narrative of any particular interest, and it works best if you are adding to an already-deep familiarity with the events, landscapes, peoples, and languages of Middle Earth.  
3 of 4 people found the following review helpful. Solid content, weakness in editing, all-in-all the work of a devoted reader  
By Customer  
Any book that discusses Tolkien seems to sell. Hence, this labor of love by a Tolkien fan would appear to be a winner. On the plus side, it is accurate, and solidly-researched, with unusual but acceptable citations that list only the name or the book reference (RK for Return of the King) or section of the book, when referencing one of Christopher Tolkien's Histories. Nevertheless, no specific page numbers are cited.  
To approach historicity and summarize Tolkien's life work is a challenging endeavor; I've read and studied every book published by JRRT or his son, and can witness that the two volumes here are accurate. Nevertheless they occasionally fall into the trap of judging Tolkien by modern sensibilities. For example, on the back cover, the second 'grabber' sentence is, "J.R.R. Tolkien has frequently been accused of racist attitudes." --That may be true, and some readers may want to roll around in this as if it is important. I think such a focus smacks of modernist deconstructionism, where virtually everything written by previous generations is game to be picked at by lesser men and women who could never write such lofty prose, nor inspire a fraction of the roughly one billion persons who have enjoyed Tolkien's literature. Needless to say, I reject such faddish deconstructionism. But I do not want to be too harsh: The content of these books nevertheless do not veer often to judgmentalism, and primarily stick to the facts. Maybe that back cover quote is an attempt to troll (ahem) readers prone to looking for flaws in their heroes. Tolkien himself wrote with an understanding, as the back cover continues, that he knew that "the ethnic concepts even of the "good" Men of Middle-earth often led to tragic consequences." These are slim volumes. There are typos. The many illustrations are of varying quality; some plates are excellent, taken mostly from illustrations of the real world. The maps specifically are difficult to make out, and are the weak point I would ask to be improved. The maps are mostly poorly rendered scans with "Xs" and crosshatching to indicate locations that are difficult to make out in low-res black and white. They may be better rendered in the (color?) blog postings from which these books originated. If some question comes up in my reading, and I need a summary understanding of Tolkien's whole view on a subject, I would refer to these volumes again to point me to references. I'm glad I bought them.

This double volume compiles the updated and illustrated essays on the lesser Mannish peoples in J.R.R. Tolkien's Middle-earth books that one author of Codex Regius had previously published on Lalaith's Middle-earth Science Pages.  
J.R.R. Tolkien has frequently been accused of racist attitudes. But Tolkien was of course well aware of the consequences of racial politics, having passed through both World Wars, and there is much evidence in his texts that the ethnic concepts even of the "good" Men of Middle-earth often led to tragic consequences. This double volume incorporates many references to the lesser Mannish peoples of Middle-earth, dispersed through many of Tolkien's books, and analyses them to compile the history of the First, Second and Third Age as seen by the losers. In addition, the unknown history of Dorwinion is told, the mystery of king Bladorthin is discussed and a new interpretation of his name is given. This book was written for the fans of Middle-earth. Familiarity with the books of J.R.R. Tolkien is assumed.

About the Author  
Codex Regius is a pseudonym and label of a pair of two authors from Slovenia and Germany, respectively. One author is a university engineer of chemistry and, before both set up a freelance translation business, has spent her time trying to convey the wonders of the Periodic Table to mostly unreceptive students. The other is a graduate of physical engineering and former technical editor. Both are working from home, which the children find very convenient when they come from school. The two authors of Codex Regius are married to each other and still trying to find a common language.