

## Great African Thinkers

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Now & in the Next Millennium, 1990s-3000 CE  
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an examination of the attempt by western educated african intellectuals to create a better africa through connecting nationalism to knowledge from the anti colonial movement to the present day this book is about how african intellectuals influenced primarily by nationalism have addressed the inter related issues of power identity politics self assertion and autonomy for themselves and their

continent from the mid nineteenth century onward their major goal was to create a better africa by connecting nationalism to knowledge the results have been mixed from the glorious euphoria of the success of anti colonial movements to the depressing circumstances of the african condition as we enter a new millennium as the intellectual elite is a creation of the western formal school system the ideas it generated are also connected to the larger world of scholarship this world is in turn shaped by european contacts with africa from the fifteenth century onward the politics of the cold war and the subsequent collapse of the soviet union in essence africa and its elite cannot be fully understood without also considering the west and changing global politics neither can the academic and media contributions by non africans be ignored as these also affect the ways that africans think about themselves and their continent nationalism and african intellectuals examines intellectuals ambivalent relationships with the colonial apparatus and subsequent nation state formations the contradictions manifested within pan africanism and nationalism and the relation of academic institutions and intellectual production to the state during the nationalism period and beyond toyin falola is the jacob and frances sanger mossiker chair in the humanities and university distinguished teaching professor at the university of texas at austin

africa is not merely an invention with a modern imperial or colonial background nor is it simply a continent in need of foreign aid from the richer more affluent societies africa might be economically needy politically unstable and in part socially chaotic and suffering from civil wars and social unrest however the continent and its peoples are certainly different from the negative image portrayed in the mass media africa had been the cradle of civilization in the pre colonial era and is today undergoing a diverse cultural philosophical and spiritual development with great potential contributing to contemporary debates around the ethics of globality the novelty of this book derives from its multidisciplinary approach although the authors generally come from the fields of development and economics global studies political science philosophy and ethics and sociology they present africa s alternative view of human wellbeing in order to provide theories and policy recommendations which inspire the specific developmental patterns for the growth of the continent the volume discusses the meaning of development for the continent by drawing on culture identity ethnicity and philosophy of nature the contributors examine a variety of issues and themes directly related to the opportunities provided by globality to promote the development of the continent they also discuss solutions for underdevelopment and poverty and how those perspectives might be effectively integrated into the global agenda for the development of africa

branches of asanteism explores the epistemologies and research methodologies that have sprung from mwalimu molefi kete asante s

treatises on afrocentricity the book identifies and analyzes thirteen such epistemologies and methodologies while defining and explicating the various branches of asante's idea of afrocentricity

while there are five important festschriften on toyin falola and his work this book fulfills the need for a single authored volume that can be useful as a textbook i develop clearly articulated rubrics and overarching concepts as the foundational basis for analyzing falola's work

scholars in egyptology have often debated the following question was the ancient egyptian society organized along patrilineal or matrilineal lines in taking a fresh and innovative look at the ancient egyptian family allen attempts to solve this long standing puzzle allen argues that the matrilineal nature of the ancient egyptian family and social organization provides us with the key to understanding why and how ancient egyptian women were able to rise to power study medicine and enjoy basic freedoms that did not emerge in western civilization until the twentieth century more importantly by examining the types of families that existed in ancient egypt along with highlighting the ancient egyptians kinship terms we can place the ancient egyptian civilization in the cultural context and incubator of black africa this groundbreaking text is a must read for historians and those working in african studies and egyptology

one of the most controversial books to come out of the academy in the last fifteen years is martin bernal's black athena it has been a true cause celebre afrocentrists have both praised the book and claimed that bernal stole from the work of black scholars to create his study of the afroasiatic roots of classical civilization classicists feel passionately about what they perceive as an attack from an outsider on the origins not only of ancient greece but of their own discipline it seems that everyone has something to say about the book the question is how many really understand it in heresy in the university jacques berlinerblau provides an exegesis of the contents of black athena making it accessible to a wider audience as he clarifies and restates bernal's opus berlinerblau identifies bernal's flaws in reasoning and gaps in evidence he cuts to the heart of bernal's prose singling out the key points of bernal's argument explaining and arranging them in a cogent manner berlinerblau addresses the critics really important objections including his own and links each of them to the appropriate substantive argument in black athena he goes beyond simple summary and exposition to present the underlying stated and unstated agendas of bernal and his critics ultimately he exposes both sides and asks what the flawed reasoning from all concerned reveals about the stakes in this key academic dispute and what that in turn says about the modern academy

jacques berlinerblau is an assistant professor and director of judaic studies at hofstra university

in the author s view much of the thinking of black intellectuals has been narrowly focused here he looks at the often political factors which have caused this afrocentric approach and warns against its continuation

this book was conceived as a study guide and text book for the student of african civilizations globally it is broken down into four sections nile valley civilizations ancient egypt in which a short history of ramses the royal dynasties the geography and a wide ranging selected bibliography of kemet ancient egypt is offered the african presence in asia in which the author analyses the work of cheikh anta diop on asia adding significantly to our knowledge of the area a selected bibliography the dalits untouchables of india the most startling information in this book is the author s evidence of the african presence in prehistoric america which goes back to 30 000 years ago this essay is based on the innovative archaeology of harold sterling gladwin and is accomplished with careful attention to detail here the author also examines the prehistorical presence of africans in britain based on the work of macritchie

this text presents comprehensive coverage of more than 400 of the most studied black authors from the harlem renaissance social and political activists and foreign black writers of interest to american audiences

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