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Documents from the world’s first international courts of humanitarian justice illuminate the fates of former slaves

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Cover image from At the Crossroads: Nigerian Travel Writing and Literary Culture in Yoruba and English by Rebecca Jones (Photo by Joshua Oluwagbemiga on Unsplash www.unsplash.com).
Liberated Africans and the Abolition of the Slave Trade, 1807-1896
Edited by Richard Anderson & Henry B. Lovejoy
Interrogates the development of the world’s first international courts of humanitarian justice and the subsequent “liberation” of nearly 200,000 Africans in the nineteenth century. In 1807, Britain and the United States passed legislation limiting and ultimately prohibiting the transoceanic slave trade. As world powers negotiated anti-slave trade treaties, British, Portuguese, Spanish, Brazilian, French, and US authorities seized ships, raided slave barracoons, and detained newly landed slaves. Liberated Africans and the Abolition of the Slave Trade, 1807-1896 makes use of an extensive archive of documents to illuminate the fates of former slaves, many of whom were conscripted into extended periods of indentured servitude. Essays in this collection explore a range of topics related to those often referred to as “Liberated Africans” – a designation that should be met with skepticism. Contributors share an emphasis on the human consequences for Africans of the abolitionist legislation. The collection is deeply comparative, looking at conditions in British colonies such as Sierra Leone, the Gambia, and the Cape Colony as well as slave-plantation economies such as Brazil, Cuba, and Mauritius. Scholars and students alike will welcome this groundbreaking intervention in the study of slavery, abolition, and emancipation. $125.00/£95.00(s) January 2020
978 1 84701 242 5, Library ebook 978 1 78744 578 9
20 b/w illus.; 221 pp, 23.4 x 15.6 cm, HB
Rochester Studies in African History and the Diaspora
University of Rochester Press

Disability in Africa
Inclusion, Care, and the Ethics of Humanity
Edited by Toyin Falola & Nic Hamel
A multidisciplinary approach to disability issues throughout Africa, charting new avenues for disability studies research about the continent. While the disability rights movement of recent decades has a rich and well-documented history, it has focused on the Global North. Disability in Africa presents an interdisciplinary approach to cultural, health, and policy challenges that disability issues have raised throughout the African continent. The groundbreaking approach taken in this edited collection draws from the achievements of disability studies while also acknowledging the demands and challenges of particular African contexts. The authors bring diverse methodological approaches to bear on these issues, ranging from anthropology and bioethics to special education and community rehabilitation. Essays consider indigenously African definitions of disability as well as exploring disability at the intersection of poverty, geography, and globalized biopolitics. Contributors analyze the difficulties of implementing disability policy across the continent while also being mindful of successful approaches taken at local, national, and international levels. In all these ways, Disability in Africa charts new avenues for disability studies research in and about Africa. $135.00/£110.00(s) June 2020
978 1 58046 971 5, Library ebook 978 1 78744 655 7
4 b/w illus.; 478 pp, 9 x 6 in, HB
Rochester Studies in African History and the Diaspora
University of Rochester Press

Nairobi in the Making
Landscapes of Time and Urban Belonging
Constance Smith
Examines the making and remaking of Nairobi, one of Africa’s most fragmented, vibrant cities, contributing to debates on urban anthropology, the politics of the past and postcolonial materialities. What does it mean to make a life in an African city today? How do ordinary Africans, surrounded by collapsing urban infrastructures and amid fantastical promises of hypermodern, globalized futures, try to ensure a place for themselves in the city’s future? Nairobi, like many cities across the globe, is on the cusp of radical urban change. Yet in a city born of British colonialism, Nairobians also live amongst the dilapidated vestiges of imperial urban planning: spaces designed to regulate urban subjects. Focusing on life in a dilapidated, colonial-era public housing project now slated for demolition as part of state-led urban renewal, this book explores six intersecting challenges facing contemporary urban Africa: making a home amidst the remains of colonial urban planning; the management of urban decay and renewal; the politics of the past and the making of urban history; the generative relationship of the urban to the rural; terror and the construction of security; and how to belong to the future. Published in association with the British Institute in Eastern Africa.
$99.00/£75.00(s) October 2020
978 1 84701 233 3, Library ebook 978 1 78744 579 9
20 b/w illus.; 221 pp, 23.4 x 15.6 cm, HB
Eastern Africa Series

Reel Resistance - The Cinema of Jean-Marie Teno
Melissa Thackway & Jean-Marie Teno
Weaving together critical analysis and filmic conversation, this book journeys through Cameroonian filmmaker Jean-Marie Teno’s thematically and aesthetically challenging body of work, framed here as decolonial cinematic resistance. Both a monograph and a critical dialogue between academic Melissa Thackway and the Cameroonian filmmaker Jean-Marie Teno, this collaborative work takes the reader on a journey through Teno’s multifaceted filmic reflection on Cameroon and the wider African continent, its socio-political systems, history, memory and cultures. Contextualizing Teno’s cinema, it addresses the notion of political commitment in art and of cinema as a form of resistance. It also considers Teno’s filmmaking both in relation to the theoretical and aesthetic debates to have animated West and Central African filmmakers since the 1960s and 1970s, and in relation to documentary filmmaking practices on the continent and beyond. In so doing, the book offers an analysis of the predominant stylistic and thematic traits of Teno’s work, examines the individual films and the collective oeuvre, and highlights the evolutions of his film language and concerns. It identifies and explores the committed socio-political and historical themes at play, such as violence, power, history, memory, gender, trauma and exile. It also considers Teno’s unwavering focus on forms and instances of resistance, framing his cinema as a form of decolonial aesthetics.
$99.00/£65.00(s) March 2020
978 1 84701 245 6
55 b/w illus.; 256 pp, 24 x 17 cm, HB

University of Rochester Press
Consuls and Captives
Dutch-North African Diplomacy in the Early Modern Mediterranean
ERICA HEINSEN-ROACH

Analyzes how negotiations between Dutch consuls and North African rulers over the liberation of Dutch sailors helped create a new diplomatic order in the western Mediterranean. This important new work examines how the problem of captivity helped shape a new diplomatic order in the Mediterranean. Tracing how Dutch consuls and North African rulers negotiated the liberation of Dutch sailors, the book demonstrates how western diplomats adjusted to the norms of Maghribi diplomacy: consuls paid ransom, participated in Maghribi gift-giving practices, and began to pay tribute. Author Erica Heinsen-Roach shows that early modern diplomacy in the western Mediterranean was not a European invention but rather developed as a product of cultural encounters.

The Other Abyssinians
The Northern Oromo and the Creation of Modern Ethiopia
BRIAN J. YATES

Reframes the story of modern Ethiopia around the contributions of the Oromo people and the fluid union of communities that shaped the nation’s politics and society. Ethiopia, a nation without a colonial legacy, is home to diverse cultures, environments, and peoples. The Other Abyssinians tells the story of its largest ethnic group, the Oromo, and their contributions to modern Ethiopia. It traces Oromo history from the early nineteenth century and details the experiences of Oromo groups throughout the Ethiopian highlands. This study illuminates the cultural exchange between the communities that built modern Ethiopia and offers insights into how African nations might have developed without the legacies of colonialism.

Manhood, Morality & the Transformation of Angolan Society
MPLA Veterans & Post-war Dynamics
JOHN SPALL

A detailed examination of African war veterans that reveals the changes they wrought on post-war transition and society. Between 1975 and 2002 Angola underwent a civil war that conscripted most of the non-elite male population into the contending armies, rapidly urbanized the country, and radically reshaped colonial-era political and moral economies. This book examines the pronounced changes in Angolan society, particularly the impact on a generation of Angolan men recruited by the governing MPLA. Spall shows that masculinity was central to how Angolan soldiers experienced the social transformations of war and investigates the role of military service in constructing Angola’s post-war social, political and economic trajectories.

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The Crisis of Democratization in the Greater Horn of Africa Towards Building Institutional Foundations

Edited by KIDANE MENGISTEAB

Analyzes the structural and institutional obstacles to democratization in transitional societies and how to overcome them.

Despite establishing an election-centred, liberal approach to governance, true democratization remains elusive in transitional societies in the Greater Horn of Africa. Why should this be? Bringing together experts on the Greater Horn from diverse disciplines, this book looks at the reasons behind the failure – fragmented economies, deep-rooted ethnic divisions, complex adjudication of property and land, and diverse resource allocation systems. The authors suggest that any attempt to build democracy must be compatible with the socioeconomic realities in transitional societies and look at whether there are social forces that can spearhead an alternative, more effective, approach.

$90.00/£50.00(s) May 2020
978 1 84701 247 0
252 pp, 23.4 x 15.6 cm, HB
Eastern Africa Series

Cyril Ramaphosa The Road to Presidential Power ANTHONY BUTLER

Commanding biography that tells the full story of this enigmatic political leader from township youth to president of the post-apartheid state.

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A very good biography. NEW YORK TIMES
$39.95/$30.00 May 2019, 978 1 84701 229 6
30 b/w illus.; 528 pp, 23.4 x 15.6 cm, HB

JAMES CURREY

All territories except UK, Europe, North America: Jacana
A comparative, whole-of-society approach to the Boko Haram insurgency that offers a nuanced understanding of the risks, resilience and resolution of violent radicalization in Nigeria and beyond.
ALT 37
African Literature Today
Edited by ERNEST N. EMENYONU

AFRICAN LITERATURE TODAY was established at a time of uncertainty and reconstruction but for 50 years it has played a leading role in nurturing creativity and criticism on the African continent and beyond.

Contemporary African creative writers have taken strides which resonate all over the world. Writers in Africa and the diaspora are speaking with collective and individual voices that compel attention and admiration and are read in numerous world languages. This volume’s contributors recognize foundational African literary pioneers, contemporary writers who move African imaginative creativity forward with utmost integrity, and critics who continue to respond with unyielding tenacity.

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African Literature Today

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At the Crossroads
Nigerian Travel Writing and Literary Culture in Yoruba and English
REBECCA JONES

A path-breaking contribution to the critical literature on African travel writing.

Since the early twentieth century, Nigerians have been writing about travel using a range of genres and media – from travelogues to diaries, autobiographies and internet narratives. This cultural history focuses on travel writing from the Yoruba-speaking region of southwestern Nigeria, home to a well-established writing and print culture in Yoruba and English. The author argues that we can read these texts both as the products of local print culture, and through their articulations with global travel writing traditions. [S]ucceeds in reframing research on travel writing by drawing attention to the multifaceted history of travel writing by African authors which scholars have long ignored.

THOMAS G. KIRSCH, UNIVERSITY OF KONSTANZ

$99.00/£60.00(s) September 2019
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5 b/w illus.; 312 pp. 23.4 x 15.6 cm, HB

African Articulations

JAMES CURREY
Nigeria: Premium Times Books

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Experiments with Truth
Narrative Non-fiction and the Coming of Democracy in South Africa
HEDLEY TWIDLE

Unusable pasts; scandalous lives; political betrayal, confession and collaboration: reading narrative non-fiction across South Africa’s unfinished transition.

South Africa has seen an outpouring of life-writing and narrative non-fiction. Authors like Panashe Chigumadzi, Jacob Dlamini, Mark Gevisser, Pumla Gobodo-Madikizela, Antjie Krog, Sisonke Msimang, Nugbulo Ndebele, Jonny Steinberg and Ivan Vladisavljevic have produced compelling and often controversial work. This first book-length account traces the ethnically complex process by which real people, places and events are patterned and plotted in long-form prose narrative, and places southern African materials in dialogue with other non-fictional traditions.

$99.00/£60.00(s) April 2019
978 1 84701 188 6

African Articulations

JAMES CURREY
Africa-only paperback edition: £10.99(s), 978 1 84701 189 3, April 2019

NEW IN PAPERBACK

Written under the Skin
Blood and Intergenerational Memory in South Africa
CARLI COETZEE

The author uses the image of blood under the skin as a way of understanding cultural and literary forms in contemporary South Africa. Chapters deal with the bloodied histories of apartheid and blood as trope for change.

Coetzee argues that a younger generation of South Africans is developing innovative ways of thinking about South Africa’s past that challenge the dominance of skin, and that acknowledge intergenerational transfer and continuity. The chapters each concern blood, dealing with Mandela’s prison cell as laboratory for creating bloodless freedom; the kinship relations in accounts of mass murderer Eugene de Kock; Ruth First’s prison accounts; the first human-to-human heart transplant and racialised medicine; the artists and activists of the #FAlstall moment, and Abantu book festival.

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JAMES CURREY
Southern Africa (South Africa, Namibia, Lesotho, Zimbabwe and Swaziland). Wits University Press

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CHEGE GITHIORA

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West African Masking Traditions and Diaspora Masquerade Carnivals

History, Memory, and Transnationalism

RAHIEL CHIJOIKE NJOKU

A revisionist account of African masquerade carnivals in transnational context that offers readers a unique perspective on African cultural trends and African American cultural artifacts

The Igbo people and their Bight of Biafra neighbors played a dominant role in the trans-Atlantic slave trade. Deeper understanding of their masquerade traditions demonstrates that the African Diaspora's reenactment of these traditions continued a process of reimagining African cultural identities and the migrations several millennia before the trans-Atlantic exchanges. This book looks closely at masquerade narratives and transnationalism over four centuries, showing how enslaved Africans modeled their traditions in alien societies.

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244 pp, 12 b/w illus.; 326 pp, 23.4 x 15.6 cm, HB
African Articulations

Nigeria's Digital Diaspora

Citizen Media, Democracy, and Participation

FAROOQ A. KPEROGI

In a disruptive media landscape characterized by the relentless death of legacy newspapers, Nigeria's Digital Diaspora shows that a country's transnational elite can shake its media ecosystem through distant online citizen journalism.

Nigeria's Digital Diaspora historicizes the growth and development of the online citizen journalism of Nigeria’s exilic elites in the US. It shows how the activist journalism of geographically distant diasporic elites has influenced online journalism in the homeland, reinvigorated traditional journalism, and inspired deliberative democracy on the Internet, especially on social media.

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African Articulations

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