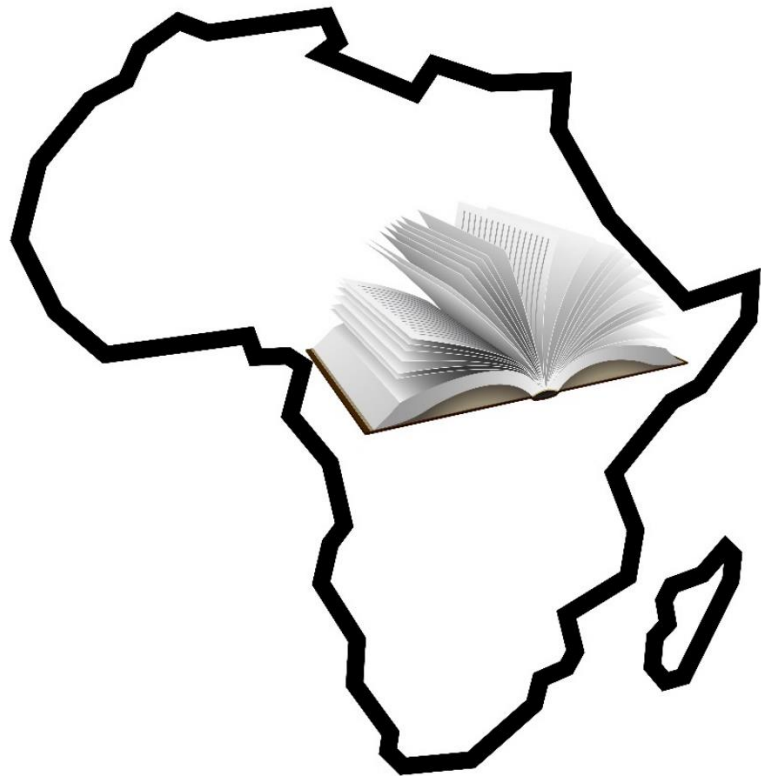




AFRICAN LITERATURE

READINGS ON TRUTH AND RECONCILIATION

Gambia
Ghana
Kenya
Liberia
Mauritius
Morocco
Nigeria
Rwanda
Sierra Leone
South Africa
Tunisia
Uganda



Dr. Melike YILMAZ

- Gambia - Truth, Reconciliation and Reparations Commission
- Ghana – National Reconciliation Commission Report
- Kenya – Truth, Justice and Reconciliation
- Liberia – Truth and Reconciliation Commission Report
- Mauritius – Truth and Justice Commission Report
- Morocco – Equity and Reconciliation Commission (IER)
- Nigeria – Human Rights Violations Investigations Commission (HRVIC) Report
(Unofficial)
- Rwanda – International Commission of Investigation of Human Rights Violations
in Rwanda
- Sierra Leone – Truth and Reconciliation Commission Report
- South Africa – Truth and Reconciliation Commission
- Tunisia – Truth and Dignity Commission Report
- Uganda – Commission of Inquiry into Disappearances

You can find more information about Truth Commission Reports on this link:

<https://truthcommissions.humanities.mcmaster.ca/>

“I dedicate this
to all those who did not live
to tell it.
And may they please forgive me
for not having seen it all
nor remembered it all,
for not having divined all of it.”
-Alexander Soljenitsin
from The Gulag Archipelago **

INTRODUCTION

This study is a literature review based on the “Truth, Justice and Reconciliation Commission” set up in twelve African countries; Morocco, Nigeria, Ghana, Gambia, Mauritius, South Africa, Liberia, Sierra Leone, Kenya, Rwanda, Uganda, and Tunisia. Fiction and non-fiction books written on the subject by African authors were detected and the following text was prepared, which consists of brief summaries of the books, their cover pages and related comments*. This study will be of assistance to readers and researchers of both fiction as well as non-fiction. This study is dedicated “to all those who did not live to tell [their stories]”** therefore, all the chosen books are authored by natives to the subject country. Our aim is to listen to the qualified locals telling their own stories; the opinions of inexperienced outsiders are of no concern to us.

First of all, the text briefly focuses on the meaning of literature and the extent to which some works reflect real life.

Generally, literature is defined as the art of language. It consists of how emotions, thoughts and dreams are expressed in a written or oral way through the use of language. Since Ancient Greek, literature has been considered one of the five fine art branches with the others being music, art, architecture, and sculpting. It is known to be the art branch that enables the broadest and widest expression opportunities. Literature works (novels, stories, plays, essays, memoirs, travel narratives, etc.) are the memory storages constructing a society.

Literature is the path through which reality, regardless of time or place, can be expressed with the aid of art. Because it is impossible to overlook something that is concrete and tangible (something

that can be experienced through the use of senses) along with events. Handling reality and real events in a number of varying ways results in the creation of varying texts. The relation between literature works and reality has always been a problem that was managed and approached in different ways. However, it is not possible to declare that a literature work can go outside the boundaries of reality because the most inclusive definition of art would be commentary on reality; endeavor to bring value and meaning to reality.

Since the end of 1960s, social sciences have shifted their interest towards literary works. Due to this development, inter-discipline approach has been widely spread in social sciences, gaining great importance. Although studies attempting to assemble a bridge between literature and social sciences have to deal with rigid judgements that declare establishing a relationship between the world of imagination and science is pointless, the number of studies that use literature in differing ways to better understand people and society is increasing.

For example, for the last couple of years, John Wigmore has been the first person to come to mind when a united movement of law and literature is mentioned. The article he published in 1907, “A List of Legal Novels” (Wigmore, 1907-1908: 574-593), consisted of a list of imperative literary works for legists to read because he believed that they must read literary works on law (Wigmore, 1907-1908: 576). Eugene Wambaugh also carried similar ideas (Wambaugh, 1891-1893). However, Wambaugh took a more moderate stance. He had indicated in his article that if they wish to, law students can read the works he suggests and went on to add that a good legist would never be apathetic towards literature (Wambaugh, 1891-1893: 31).

Sources:

Wigmore, John H., “A List of Legal Novels”, *Illinois Law Review*, c. 2, nr. 9, 1907-1908 (574-593).

Wambaugh, Eugene, “Light Reading for law Students”, *Law Bulletin of the State University of Iowa*, c. 2, nr. 28-31, 1891-1893.

* Summaries and cover photos of all books were taken from Amazon online.

Note: The chosen books can be found on Amazon. There were some books that we wanted to choose but were unable to add to the list because they could not be found on Amazon (or other major online bookstores) and were not easily accessible. An example of such locally popular yet internationally inaccessible books are *Cobwebs and Other Stories* by Zaynab Alkali, *Witness to Justice An Insider's Account of Nigeria's Truth Commission* by Matthew Hassan Kukah, *Verses of Unchartered Heaven: The Second Coming of Nigeria* by James Onyebuchi Ile.

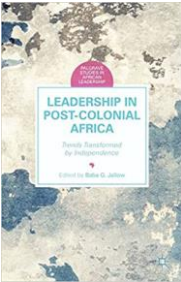
Most visual representations and imagery maps of Africa consist of animal symbols and nature figures associated with the specific area, such as elephants, giraffes, zebras and cheetahs. However, Africa is the “Cradle of Humankind”, which means it is the home of everything “ubuntu (humanity)” related, including wisdom, intellect, and harmony. Therefore, I created the cover image according to this belief. It is made up of images of the Africa map and a book, taken from the following web pages:

- Africa map: <https://www.vecteezy.com>
- Book symbol: <https://clipartart.com>

GAMBIA

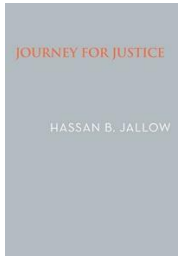
<p>Pierre Gomez and Malang Fanneh <i>Baaba Sillah: Reclaiming the Mantle</i> 2015 Nonfiction</p> 	<p>Time travelling through the annals of history, Baaba Sillah stands tall as a literary giant for whom the communication of historical insights constitute both a passion and preoccupation. In this book, Gomez and Fanneh have used a holistic thematic approach to examine a myriad of historical, political, socio-economic and cultural themes that are explored in the works of Sillah. Reclaiming the Mantle offers startling revelations about the role of the colonial enterprise in the transformation of the socio-economic lives of Gambian society. It explores the dynamics of gender, culture and power relations in both the colonial and post-colonial Gambian society. Therefore, Gomez and Fanneh have set the pace for historians, political scientists, literary critics and other scholars interested in understanding the socio-political history of The Gambia.</p>
<p>Baba Galleh Jallow <i>Defying Dictatorship: Essays on Gambian Politics, 2012 - 2017</i> Nonfiction</p> 	<p>Defying Dictatorship is an illuminating account of the nature and patterns of the 22-year autocratic rule of a former Gambian leader - Yahya Jammeh. In these pacy and pungent essays, the author exudes optimism in the redemptive power of knowledge to liberate The Gambia from the vice-like grip of tyranny and usher in an era of national renewal marked by liberty and egalitarianism.</p>
<p>Baba Galleh Jallow <i>Angry Laughter: A Biting Satire On An Inept African Civilian Government And Its Brutal Military Successor</i> 2004 Nonfiction</p> 	<p>Written in the Orwellian tradition of Animal Farm, Angry Laughter is one of the most biting political satires to come out of Africa. In this tale of dark political intrigue and betrayal, Baba Jallow ridicules the absurd antics of an inept and corrupt civilian government and its removal and replacement by a group of semi-illiterate military saviors', who turn out to be far more absurd, corrupt and brutal than their predecessors. While exceedingly funny and often lighthearted, Angry Laughter awakens us to the cruel excesses of Africa's power-crazed despots, the sorry plight of her oppressed peoples, the very real dangers of civil war and the continent's nauseating politics of brutality. This book is essential reading for anyone interested in the nature and dynamics of contemporary African politics and why, in particular, the continent is riddled with bloody civil wars.</p>

Baba Jallow
Leadership in Postcolonial Africa: Trends Transformed by Independence
2014
Nonfiction



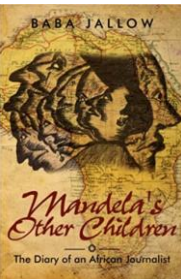
Leadership in Post-Colonial Africa examines the leadership concepts and lessons that emerged during and after the attainment of independence with insightful studies of Africa's first female presidents, gangster elitism, Nelson Mandela, and beyond.

Hassan B. Jallow
Journey for Justice
2012
Nonfiction



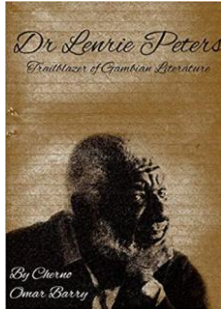
Journey for Justice combines autobiography with law and political memoirs to provide a fascinating account of growing up in rural Gambia and of the authors recollections of, involvement in, and reflections on some of the major social, legal, and political issues in the Gambia during his tenure of public office in that country. This is valuable reading for all those with a serious interest in the history, politics, governance, and development of law and legal institutions in the Gambia, and indeed beyond.

Baba Jallow
Mandela's Other Children: The Diary of an African Journalist
2007
Nonfiction



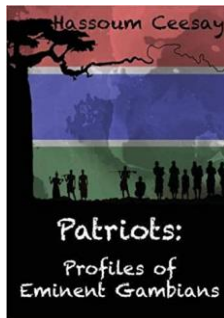
In Mandela's Other Children, Baba Jallow invokes the intriguing concept of a Pan-African struggle against oppression. As he narrates his personal ordeals as a journalist working in an oppressive "shadow state" since 1994, Baba skillfully comments on some complex issues related to the African condition that are not readily obvious to the non-African observer. The pages of this book are littered with chilling accounts of how "orders from above" lead to arbitrary arrests and detentions, nocturnal arson attacks on media houses, the promulgation of unjust laws, the murder of prominent citizens, the Soweto-like massacre of school children holding a peaceful demonstration, and the forcible closure of radio stations and newspapers critical of the government. But Mandela's Other Children is also a story of heroic resistance, stubborn defiance, and a steely determination to assert and preserve endangered sovereignties by threatened social entities. This is a truly worthy addition to the growing corpus of works on the postcolony. Students of comparative journalism will also find much that is useful in these charged pages.

Cherno Omar Barry
Lenrie Peters: Trailblazer of Gambian Literature
2019
Nonfiction



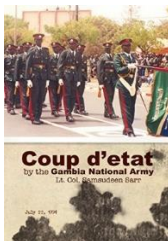
Dr Lenrie Peters is without doubt the trailblazer of Gambian literature. His poetry has been studied in several schools across Africa yet many Gambian researchers have little or no knowledge of who Peters really was and where his conviction laid. This book is an exploration of Peters' origins, convictions, ideologies and writings. It is an attempt to help understand who Peters truly was through this rare collection of his statements, essays and short stories. Peters represented the nagging paradox of the poet/writer whose major academic orientation was in the medical sciences. He also reflected the new emerging writer who placed more emphasis on the African woes and challenges rather than restricting himself to the nationalistic approach taken by the counterparts of his era. Through this collection of his works, we discover vividly who Peters truly was and how his orientation was different from the colonial and post-colonial African writers of his time. We will discover that Peters has taken so much from his father, especially the sharp criticism against the coloniser, but a much sharper attack against the post independent leaders who truly failed Africa. This first ever published book on Peters will illuminate him as the pathfinder ushering a new era of writers of his time.

Hassoum Ceesay
Patriots: Profiles of Eminent Gambians
2015
Nonfiction



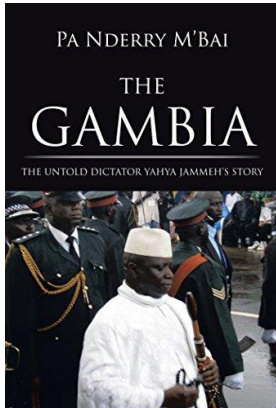
This book seeks to capture the history of The Gambia over the past three hundred years through the life stories of men and women who have helped to shape the destiny of their country. The people profiled in this book were ordinary and unassuming Gambians; little could they have known that their actions would be counted one day by historians as central to the evolution of this country. A journey through this volume will lead to a critical understanding of Gambian history, spanning the pre-colonial slave trade to the resistance to European penetration, to the era of high colonial rule; to fermentations and nationalist awakening as precursors to independence. This book is a unique approach to interpreting history as it uses individual profiles to reveal the cartography of The Gambia. Patriots: Profiles of Eminent Gambians is therefore a monumental contribution to Gambian historiography. It sets a new paradigm in understanding and writing Gambian history. It is a well researched and packaged work which should be core reading for all persons interested in the history of this country.

Lt. Col. Samsudeen Sarr
Coup D'etat by the Gambia National Army: July 22, 1994
2007
Nonfiction



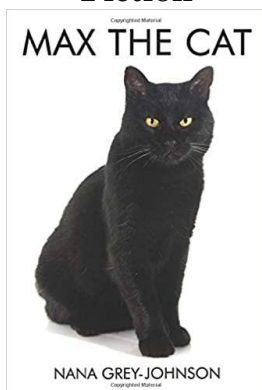
Coup de tat by the Gambia National Army, July 22nd 1994 is the authors autobiography chronicling the events of the title and its impact in his life. It is a story filled with lessons about Gambian history with a special focus on the genesis of the Gambian Military. For complexity, Lt. Col. Sarr alternated his story in the early chapters between scenes in the Gambia and his struggles to obtain political asylum in the United States of America. The book also revealed recollections from his childhood to educate his readers about certain social and spiritual beliefs and traditions in the Gambia. After the first few chapters, which set up the coup and established his thoughts about it, he further provided a detailed history of his personal life up to the time of his enlistment in the Gambia National Army. There he discussed his first days in the USA in the early 80s sequentially focusing on life in the Gambia before, during and after the coup.

Pa Nderry M'Bai
The Gambia: The Untold
Dictator Yahya Jammeh's
Story
20102
Nonfiction



This book is a masterpiece. It is a non-fictional book. It contains firsthand account information of some of the alleged murders, tortures, and disappearances that had taken place under the administration of Gambias iron fist dictator President Yahya Jammeh. The author had interviewed a wide range of sources some of whom are still serving in Mr. Jammehs administration, while some of the sources have parted company with the Gambian dictator. You will be missing out a great wealth of information by not buying a copy of Mr. MBais book titled: The Untold Dictator Yahya Jammehs Story. This book contains fascinating and horrific stories that one could ever imagined that it is taking place in an impoverished country which received less international press coverage largely due to its size. The Gambia is less than the size of Delaware. It has been transformed as a murder land under dictator Jammehs watch. Grab a copy of Mr. MBais book and learn firsthand information about what it means to live under a dictatorship in Africa. This is one of the most informative books ever written so far about the Gambia, and its delusional leader Yahya Jammeh, who claims to have discovered the cure for HIV/AIDS, asthma, diabetes, high blood pressure, Infertility, among other diseases. You will be amazed by the amount useful information contained in this book. Mr. MBais book also featured American history, and the role Washington could play in helping to bailout countries under going dictatorship in the African region. The author talked about the growing presence of Hezbollah financiers in Africa, and its threat to the United States national security. The author also stressed about the need for countries to help the United States government in implementing and enforcing the United States Treasury Department sanctions directed at terrorist groups and their financiers. This, Mr. MBai says, is crucially imperative on the global war on terror.

Nana Grey-Johnson
Max the Cat
2019
Fiction



Max, the son of a district officer, returns to his provincial home town after qualifying as a teacher. However, Max returns under a cloud. His father is unhappy with reports of Max's radical political activities at college. This sets the tone of a one-sided relationship: while the son loves his father and holds him in the highest regard, the ambitious old politician plots for Max's removal, by fair means or foul. The young man's crusade against official corruption does not sit well with some of the skeletons that his father would rather keep hidden to maintain his privilege and protect his friends. Between these two men is a woman - a loving stepmother, and faithful wife - who tries to reconcile her stepson and her husband. With quiet faith and patience, she lives with the great irony in their differences arising from the son's firm belief in the moral principles that his father taught him, while her husband's faith in his early teachings has been eroded by complacency and compromise after years in office. Father and son are set on a collision course. Behind the scenes in this struggle, the spirits of their ancestors are at work.

Saul Saidykhan
The Memoir of Mamadi
Jankoba
2018
Fiction

SAUL SAIDYKHAN



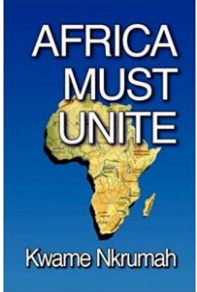
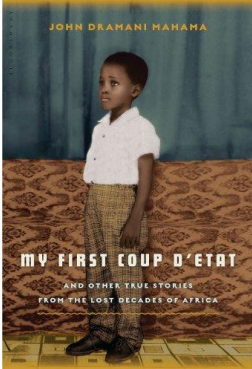
The Memoir of Mamadi Jankoba

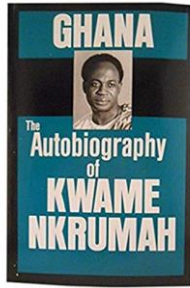
When the Toubabo (Europeans) imposed themselves permanently on Africans in the late 19th century, their intrusion upset the order of things. And even after they physically left decades later, the effects of their intrusion remain notable in most areas of African life, not the least of which is in native peoples' attitude and how they relate to each other. When Africans took over their own affairs, some things didn't change at all, and though some changed somewhat, many others have become even more confusing. The Memoir of Mamadi Jankoba is a story told from the perspective of an old and barely-literate African man who lived through the daily indignities of European colonialism, and got drafted and sent to fight a strange people in a war, and for a cause he knows nothing about. Cognizant of the injustice and fraud of colonialism, he became active in the struggle to get rid of the unjust system and those locals he considered its enablers to install the type of native leadership he thought would be sensitive to the plight of people like him. Only to be disappointed in those native leaders. Despite everything, Old Mamadi remains faithful to his people's ways – beliefs, history, and culture. The story is set in Bakau, a town overlooking the Atlantic in The Gambia. The book is inspired by actual persons and events. The story is written in fictional novel format for drama and entertainment. It takes us back to what was: – a synopsis of a people's way of life, belief system, and history; what makes them tick; their hopes and fears; growing up in their typical traditional village environment; coming of age; working under colonial rule; discovering and experiencing ethnic differences, prejudice, and misunderstandings that sometimes emanate from such.

Mamadi Jankoba elaborates in his peculiar way on his experience as one who was used and dumped by selfish politicians, the effect of the Inferiority Complex he noticed about those politicians, and how what started with great promise ended in a fiasco. Not to mention the even more deleterious consequences of that reality. The novel starts with Old Jankoba talking about his observation of events in the immediate, then he takes us back with him to recall his experiences from childhood and earlier life. Through Old Mamadi, we learn the history of both his people and country before and after colonialism. We are able to see life and politics from the perspective of an observant self-described Little (unimportant) Person.

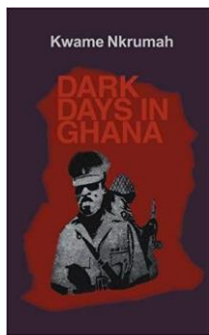
However, the novel also unveils the not-so-subtle internal conflict and self-contradiction that Mamadi Jankoba himself unwittingly struggles with in his life: he wants to be wholly African nationalist, yet he flirts with cultural nationalism whenever circumstances seem confounding; he sees the country as one and the same but disowns some people and things when their behavior contravene his cultural beliefs; he decries the specter of unscrupulousness prevalent in contemporary society, yet sees no fault in accepting gifts from people he suspects to be part of that problem.

GHANA

<p>Kwame Nkrumah <i>Africa Must Unite</i> 1963 Nonfiction</p> 	<p>This book, by a great PanAfricanist leader, sets out the case for the total liberation and unification of Africa. It is essential reading for all interested in world socio-economic developmental processes. Those who might have considered in 1963, when Africa Must Unite was first published, that Kwame Nkrumah was pursuing a 'policy of the impossible', can now no longer doubt his statesmanship. Increasing turmoil through the succession of reactionary military coups and the outbreak of needless civil wars in Africa prove conclusively that only unification can provide a realistic solution for Africa's political and economic problems. In the words of the author, "To suggest that the time is not yet ripe for considering a political union of Africa is to evade facts and ignore realities in Africa today. Here is a challenge which destiny has thrown . to the leaders of Africa."</p>
<p>John D. Mahama <i>My First Coup D'etat</i> 2012 Nonfiction - Biography</p> 	<p>MY FIRST COUP D'ETAT is a literary nonfiction account that charts the coming of age of John Dramani Mahama in Ghana during the dismal post-independence "lost decades" of Africa. He was seven years old when rumors of that first coup reached his boarding school in Accra. His father was suddenly missing. "It is sometimes incorrectly referred to in texts as a bloodless coup, yet it was anything but," Mahama writes. "They tried, as best they could, with smiles and toffee, to shield me from their rising anxiety but I could feel it bouncing off the quick sideways glances they shot one another and taking flight like some dark, winged creature." John's father, a Minister of State, was in prison for more than a year. MY FIRST COUP D'ETAT offers a look at the country that has long been considered Africa's success story--from its founding as the first sub-Saharan nation to gain independence, to its current status as the only nation on the continent to have, thus far, met the majority of targets on hunger, poverty, and education set by the U.N. But these stories work on many levels--as fables, as history, as cultural and political analysis, and of course as the memoir of a young man who, unbeknownst to him or anyone else, is destined to become a leader in his own land. These are stories that rise above their specific settings and transport the reader--much like the stories of Isaac Bashevis Singer and Nadine Gordimer--into a world all their own, one which straddles a time lost and explores the universal human emotions of love, fear, faith, despair, loss, longing, and hope despite all else.</p>
<p>Ghana: The <i>Autobiography of Kwame</i> <i>Nkrumah</i> 1970 Nonfiction</p>	<p>Nkrumah's 1957 account of his years in the United States and England and his leading role in the Gold Coast revolt against colonialism</p>

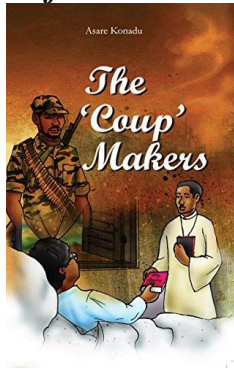


Kwame Nkrumah
Dark Days in Ghana
1968
Nonfiction

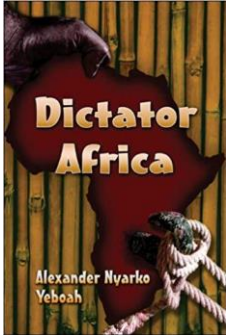


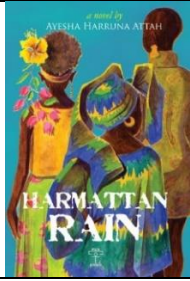
It is an expression of Kwame Nkrumah's view of the Ghana Coup of 24 February 1966.

Asare Konadu
The Coup Makers
1994
Nonfiction- Diary



Engaging, moving, and very effective, this is the diary of a thirty seven year old widow whose record of the coups through thirty years of independence remains as fresh and immediate as when the author first experienced them. Usually frank, it represents a vivid and convincing picture of the day to day suffering of the people in coups and recaptures the grim atmosphere of the hard and bitter struggle.

<p>Alexander N. Yeboah <i>Dictator Africa</i> 2005 Fiction</p> 	<p>Dictator Africa is a novel seeking to portray the excesses of African governments since independence, and how their misrule has gravely affected the efforts to build the continent. Dictator Africa, the first in a series of three, places a critical eye on the military, which has played a central role in forwarding the dreams and aspirations of most of the dictators that the continent has encountered. General Ikpeba took power in a bloody coup in a young republic that was struggling to practice democracy that they had inherited from the British. Initially, he was hailed and welcomed as a messiah that had come to deliver the people from what they thought was an unreasonable government. However, events thereafter made the citizens wonder who they had accepted to govern them. But it was too late. His hands were firmly in control.</p>
<p>Amu Djoletto <i>Hurricane of Dust</i> 1987 Fiction</p> 	<p>Doe Hevi, small-time hustler and thief, fully supports the revolution that promises to give everyone a chance. But the confusions of the post-revolutionary society complicate Doe's political gerrymandering and he finds himself imprisoned, even facing the firing squad. Double standards in both public and private life are exposed in this novel. This book is suitable for the general reader and also for students at schools, colleges and universities.</p>
<p>Ayi Kwei Armah <i>The Healers</i> 1979 Fiction</p> 	<p>THE HEALERS tells a story of the conflict and regeneration focused on replacing toxic ignorance with the healing knowledge of African unity.</p>
<p>Ayesha Haruna Attah <i>Harmattan Rain</i> 2009 Fiction</p>	<p>Harmattan Rain, shortlisted for the 2010 Commonwealth Writers' Prize, Best First Book, follows three generations of women as they cope with family, love and life. A few years before Ghana's independence, Lizzie-Achiaa's lover disappears. Intent on finding him, she runs away from home. Akua Afriyie, Lizzie-Achiaa's first daughter, strikes out on her own as a single parent in a country rocked by successive coups. Her daughter, Sugri grows up overprotected. She leaves home for university in New York, where she learns</p>



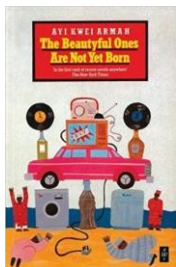
that sometimes one can have too much freedom. In the end, the secrets parents keep from their children eventually catch up with them.

Amma Darko
Faceless
2007
Fiction



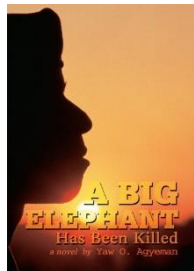
Street life in the slums of Accra is realistically portrayed in this socially-committed, subtle novel about four educated women who are inspired by the plight of a 14-year old girl, Fofo. As the main characters convert their library center into a practical street initiative, the novel invokes the squalor, health risks, and vicious cycles of poverty and violence that drive children to the streets and women to prostitution; and, from which, ultimately, no one in the society is free.

Ayi Kwei Armah
The Beautiful Ones Are Not Yet Born
1968
Fiction



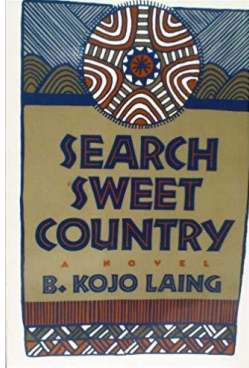
It tells the story of a nameless man who struggles to reconcile himself with the reality of post-independence Ghana.

Yaw O. Agyeman
A Big Elephant Has Been Killed
2003
Fiction



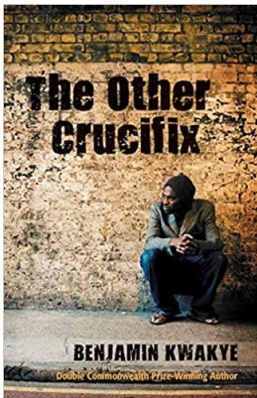
A Big Elephant Has Been Killed is a deeply moving and gripping narrative that interweaves stories of ordinary friendships and love's lost promises with a discussion of society and politics in contemporary Ghana. Although Ghana provides the setting, the novel foregrounds a range of issues relevant to Africa and the black Diaspora as a whole. Badly disillusioned from their years of youthful idealism, a group of friends clings with fleeting solace to their vision for their country through their discussions on poverty, pan-Africanism, underdevelopment, religious identity, social revolution and Africa's relationship with the West. But the challenges of their daily existence compel them to question the ethics and relevance of their idealism, and eventually lead to the desperate decision to steal from the "Big Elephant" in the penultimate gamble to empower themselves as agents of social transformation

B. Kojo Laing
Search Sweet Country
1986
Fiction



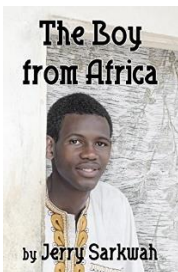
Describes the experience of a corrupt government official, an idealistic professor, a bishop, a witch, and other characters living in Accra, Ghana, in 1975

Benjamin Kwakye
The Other Crucifix
2010
Fiction



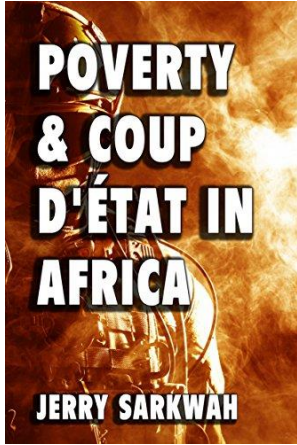
A unique and epic novel describing the African Diasporic immigrant experience conveyed through the protagonist's immersion in American college life, which leads to his alienation from home. Kwakye covers substantial breadth of narrative, from the transformation from youth to recollections of memories of his birthplace, Ghana, which fade as years pass - only to be disturbed by the passing of his uncle in a coup d'etat.

Jerry Sarkwah
The Boy from Africa
Growing Up in Ghana
2016
Fiction



“I am a man of many names, names given to me by the people I have met, names I have taken to honor them, and this is my story.” So THE BOY FROM AFRICA begins, the story of Kwame Peter Matthew “Black-Photo” Mac-White Blackteng, a young man in Ghana growing up in a world where orphans are left to the tender ministrations indifferent adults. From his early years where he served as a hired hand on a farm, missing school due to the costs and the requirements too steep to bear, to his later years when he was befriended by a man in a collar, his story relates the adventures of a boy who is wise in his heart and careful with his words...

Jerry Sarkwah
Poverty and Coup d'État
in Africa
2017
Fiction



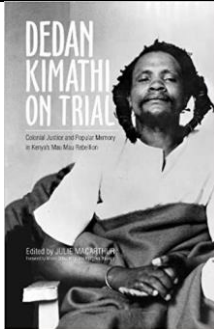
WHAT WOULD YOU DO? Your nation is rife with corruption in the highest places and in the most important government institutions—the Ministries, the Police, Parliament, the Technocrats, and even the President and his Vice-President. Do you wait them out, or do you take action?

In Ghana, many citizens from all walks of life see the detrimental effects on the vulnerable and the poor—corruption that bungles up commerce, diverts funds to thieves in high places, and prevents those most in need of help from getting that help. And the resulting rise in unemployment and chaos leads to rebellion in the nation and on the continent, where some take the law into their own hands in a time when everyone does right in their own eyes.

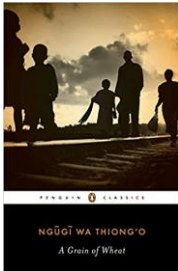
Many aggrieved citizens feel they have been cheated by their government and believe only a coup d'état would fix the system in Ghana and elsewhere in Africa. To end thievery of the nation's wealth and corruption of the nation's government, brilliant and brave young soldiers take the bold decision to band together in calm patriotism and right thinking, and take steps to remove corrupt politicians and technocrats to create an atmosphere of peace, freedom, and renewed patriotism in the continent.

KENYA

<p>Koigi wa Wamwere <i>I Refuse to Die: My Journey for Freedom</i> 2002 Nonfiction - Biography</p> 	<p>An extraordinary account of how a laborer's son rose to challenge the power of despots, <i>I Refuse to Die</i> is both the autobiography of one gifted man who rose above the horrors of colonization, and an uncensored history of modern Kenya. The book is infused with the freedom songs of the Kenyan people, as well as dream prophecy and folk tales that are part of Kenya's rich storytelling tradition. Tracing the roots of the Mau Mau rebellion, wa Wamwere follows the evolution and degeneration of Jomo Kenyatta and the rise of Daniel arap Moi.</p> <p>In 1979, wa Wamwere won a seat in the parliament, where he represented the economically depressed Nakuru district for three years. An outspoken activist and journalist, wa Wamwere was framed and detained on three separate instances, spending thirteen years in prison, where he was tortured but not broken. His mother and others led a hunger strike to free him and fellow political prisoners. Their efforts brought about a show trial at which Koigi was sentenced to four more years in prison and "six strokes of the cane," and escaped Kenya—and probably execution—only through the exertions of human rights groups and the government of Norway.</p>
<p>Wangari Maathai <i>Unbowed: A Memoir</i> 2006 Nonfiction – Biography</p> 	<p>In <i>Unbowed</i>, Nobel Prize winner Wangari Maathai recounts her extraordinary journey from her childhood in rural Kenya to the world stage. When Maathai founded the Green Belt Movement in 1977, she began a vital poor people's environmental movement, focused on the empowerment of women, that soon spread across Africa. Persevering through run-ins with the Kenyan government and personal losses, and jailed and beaten on numerous occasions, Maathai continued to fight tirelessly to save Kenya's forests and to restore democracy to her beloved country. Infused with her unique luminosity of spirit, Wangari Maathai's remarkable story of courage, faith, and the power of persistence is destined to inspire generations to come.</p>
<p>Ngugi wa Thiong'o (Foreword) Julie MacArthur (Editor) <i>Dedan Kimathi on Trial: Colonial Justice and Popular Memory in Kenya's Mau Mau Rebellion</i> 2017 Nonfiction</p>	<p>Perhaps no figure embodied the ambiguities, colonial fears, and collective imaginations of Kenya's decolonization era more than Dedan Kimathi, the self-proclaimed field marshal of the rebel forces that took to the forests to fight colonial rule in the 1950s. Kimathi personified many of the contradictions that the Mau Mau rebellion represented: rebel statesman, literate peasant, modern traditionalist. His capture and trial in 1956, and subsequent execution, for many marked the end of the rebellion and turned Kimathi into a patriotic martyr.</p> <p><i>Dedan Kimathi on Trial</i> unearths a piece of the colonial archive long thought lost, hidden, or destroyed. Its discovery and landmark publication unsettles an already contentious history and prompts fresh examinations of its reverberations in the present.</p>

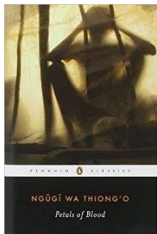


Ngugi wa Thiong'o
A Grain of Wheat
1967
Fiction



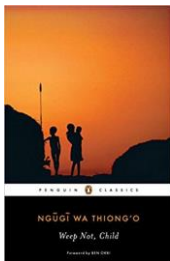
Barack Obama, via Facebook: “A compelling story of how the transformative events of history weigh on individual lives and relationships.” The Nobel Prize–nominated Kenyan writer’s best-known novel Set in the wake of the Mau Mau rebellion and on the cusp of Kenya's independence from Britain, *A Grain of Wheat* follows a group of villagers whose lives have been transformed by the 1952–1960 Emergency. At the center of it all is the reticent Mugo, the village's chosen hero and a man haunted by a terrible secret. As we learn of the villagers' tangled histories in a narrative interwoven with myth and peppered with allusions to real-life leaders, including Jomo Kenyatta, a masterly story unfolds in which compromises are forced, friendships are betrayed, and loves are tested.

Ngugi wa Thiong'o
Petals of Blood
1977
Fiction



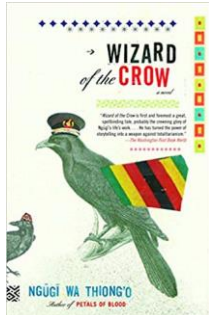
Ranging back and forth between satire, metaphor and stark realism, Ngugi unfolds a tangible landscape both beautiful and horrifying, as tribalism and village life are manipulated in the name of progress by the cynical bureaucrats.

Ngugi wa Thiong'o
Weep Not, Child
1964
Fiction



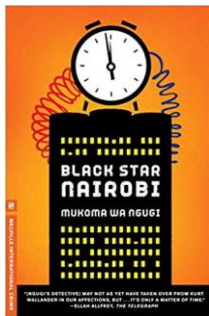
Two brothers, Njoroge and Kamau, stand on a garbage heap and look into their futures: Njoroge is to attend school, while Kamau will train to be a carpenter. But this is Kenya, and the times are against them: In the forests, the Mau Mau is waging war against the white government, and the two brothers and their family need to decide where their loyalties lie. For the practical Kamau, the choice is simple, but for Njoroge the scholar, the dream of progress through learning is a hard one to give up. The first East African novel published in English, *Weep Not, Child* is a moving book about the effects of the infamous Mau Mau uprising on the lives of ordinary men and women, and on one family in particular.

Ngugi wa Thiong'o
Wizard of the Crow
2006
Fiction



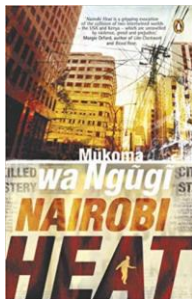
Set in the fictional Free Republic of Aburiria, *Wizard of the Crow* dramatizes with corrosive humor and keenness of observation a battle for the souls of the Aburirian people, between a megalomaniac dictator and an unemployed young man who embraces the mantle of a magician. Fashioning the stories of the powerful and the ordinary into a dazzling mosaic, in this magnificent work of magical realism, Ngugi wa'Thiong'o—one of the most widely read African writers—reveals humanity in all its endlessly surprising complexity.

Mukoma wa Ngugi
Black Star Nairobi
2013
Fiction



Two cops—one American, one Kenyan—team up to track down a deadly terrorist. It's December 2007. The Kenyan presidential elections have gotten off to a troubled start, with threats of ethnic violence in the air, and the reports about Barack Obama on the campaign trail in the United States are the subject of newspaper editorials and barstool debates. And Ishmael and O have just gotten their first big break for their new detective agency, Black Star. A mysterious death they're investigating appears to be linked to the recent bombing of a downtown Nairobi hotel. But local forces start to come down on them to back off the case, and then a startling act of violence tips the scales, setting them off on a round-the-globe pursuit of the shadowy forces behind it all. A thrilling, hard-hitting novel, from the author of *Nairobi Heat*, a major new crime talent.

Mukoma wa Ngugi
Nairobi Heat
2009
Fiction



"A young and beautiful white woman is murdered in the US, and the prime suspect is former Rwandan school headmaster Joshua - a hero who had risked his life to save the innocent during Rwanda's genocide. Ishmael, an African American detective, must investigate the case by plunging himself into Joshua's past. He travels to Kenya, where Joshua once lived as a refugee, and finds himself unearthing his own African identity as he uncovers this violent crime. Kenyan author Mukoma wa Ngugi's debut novel is a gripping and hard-hitting detective thriller that questions race, identity and class" --Publisher's website

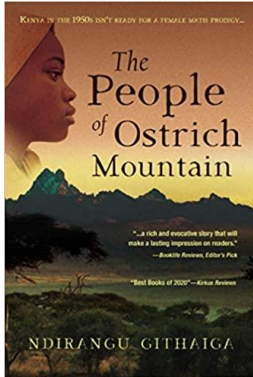
Mukoma wa Ngugi
Mrs. Shaw
2015
Fiction

In the fictional East African Kwatee Republic of the 1990s, the dictatorship is about to fall, and the nation's exiles are preparing to return. One of these exiles, a young man named Kalumba, is a graduate student in the United States, where he encounters Mrs. Shaw, a professor emerita and former British settler who fled Kwatee's postcolonial political and social turmoil. Kalumba's



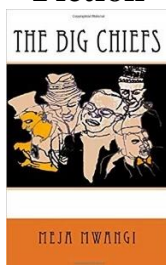
girlfriend, too, is an exile: a Puerto Rican nationalist like her imprisoned father, she is an outcast from the island. Brought together by a history of violence and betrayals, all three are seeking a way of regaining their humanity, connecting with each other, and learning to make a life in a new land. Kalumba and Mrs. Shaw, in particular, are linked by a past rooted in colonial and postcolonial violence, yet they are separated by their differing accounts of what really happened.

Ndirangu Githaiga
The People of Ostrich Mountain
2020
Fiction



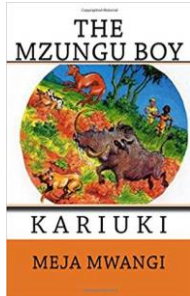
As the 1950s Mau Mau war breaks out in the foothills of Mt. Kenya, Wambũi, a fourteen-year-old girl leaves her besieged village to join a prestigious boarding school a half day's journey away by train. There, she becomes aware of her extraordinary mathematical abilities discovered by her teacher, Eileen Atwood. Initially, Wambũi views Eileen's attentions with suspicion and hostility, but over time, the two grow close and form a lifelong friendship. Unfortunately for Wambũi, the mid-twentieth century isn't ready for a female math prodigy, particularly in Kenya. But she quietly and defiantly takes on the obstacles seeking to define her, applying her unusual gifts in new directions, which ultimately benefits her impoverished family and inspires her siblings and their children to pursue their own dreams. After forty years in Kenya, Eileen unexpectedly loses her employment authorization and is forced to return to England, where she struggles to adjust to living in a country she barely recognizes. Meanwhile, Wambũi's son, Ray, a doctor, navigates a fraught visa application process and travels to America to begin residency training; however, his hospital becomes insolvent and shuts down a year later. He and his colleagues are assimilated into other programs where, as foreign-born physicians, they endure relentless prejudice. As a black man, he also discovers that the streets of Chicago are sometimes quick to judge, with serious consequences. A saga of family and friendship spanning five decades and three continents, 'The People of Ostrich Mountain' chronicles the interconnected lives of three outsiders as they navigate the vagaries of race, gender and immigration.

Meja Mwangi
The Big Chiefs
1974
Fiction



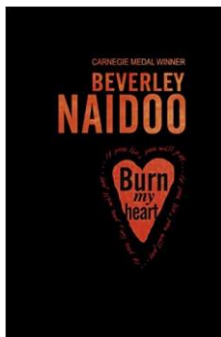
Men would talk, as men do, about love and money and power and politics and, acting learned, they would try to outdo one another with their knowledge and their understanding of the political realities and the absurd policies, that bred hate and poverty and genocides. They would ask themselves and one another questions that were often impossible to understand and even harder to answer. Did bad politics breed poverty or did poverty breed bad politics? Opinions were many and varied. Friends argued and sometimes came to blows over their views

Meja Mwangi
The Mzungu Boy
2017
Fiction



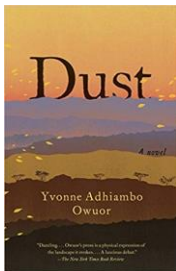
The Mzungu Boy is a work of fiction that takes place in Kenya, Africa, in the early 1950s. At that time the country, a British colony, was faced with an uprising that became known as the Mau Mau Rebellion. Much of Kenya, including the best farmland, was in the hands of European settlers. At best, native Kenyans were allowed to work on the land as tenant farmers, under exploitative and demeaning conditions. The rebels wanted the white settlers to leave the country so native Africans could have their independence. As the uprising gained momentum, British rulers declared a state of emergency. Troops set out to arrest Mau Mau leaders, and rebel groups took to hiding in the forests.

Beverly Naidoo
Burn My Heart
2007
Fiction



The Mau Mau – the name of a secret society that once struck terror into the hearts of British settlers in Kenya. An episode in history that ended in a State of Emergency, with violent and brutal acts dividing a nation. This is an intensely personal and vivid story of two boys: one black, one white. Once they were friends even though their circumstances are very different. But in a country riven by fear and prejudice, even the best of friends can betray one another . . . Internationally acclaimed and award-winning author Beverly Naidoo explores new territory in this beautifully realized and moving story set in Britain's colonial past.

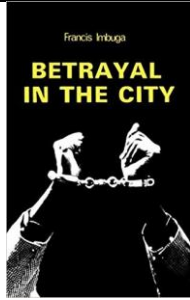
Yvonne A. Owuor
Dust
2013
Fiction



When a young man is gunned down in the streets of Nairobi, his grief-stricken father and sister bring his body back to their crumbling home in the Kenyan drylands. But the murder has stirred up memories long since buried, precipitating a series of events no one could have foreseen. As the truth unfolds, we come to learn the secrets held by this parched landscape, hidden deep within the shared past of a family and their conflicted nation. Spanning Kenya's turbulent 1950s and 1960s, *Dust* is spellbinding debut from a breathtaking new voice in literature.

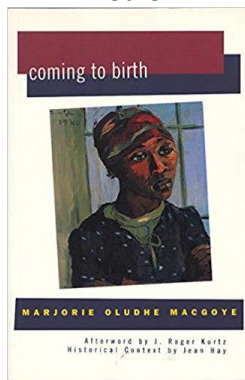
Francis Imbuga
Betrayal In The City
1976
Drama

First published in 1976, this play from one of Africa's foremost dramatists is in the classic cannon. It is an incisive examination of the problems of independence and freedom in post-colonial Africa states, where few believe they have a stake in the future. In the words of one of the characters: "It was



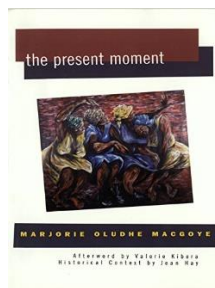
better while we waited. Now we have nothing to look forward to. We have killed our past and are busy killing our future." Francis Imbuga is a playwright and actor. He is the recipient of the Kenya National Academy of Sciences Distinguished Professional Award in Play Writing.

Marjorie O. Macgoye
Coming to Birth
1986
Fiction



In this quietly powerful and eminently readable novel, winner of the prestigious Sinclair Prize, Kenyan writer Marjorie Macgoye deftly interweaves the story of one young woman's tumultuous coming of age with the history of a nation emerging from colonialism. At the age of sixteen, Paulina leaves her small village in western Kenya to join her new husband, Martin, in the bustling city of Nairobi. It is 1956, and Kenya is in the final days of the "Emergency," as the British seek to suppress violent anti-colonial revolts. But Paulina knows little about, about city life, or about marriage, and Martin's clumsy attempts to control her soon lead to a relationship filled with silences, misunderstandings, and unfulfilled expectations. Soon Paulina's inability to bear a child effectively banishes her from the confines of traditional women's roles. As her country at last moves toward independence, Paulina manages to achieve a kind of independence as well: She accepts a job that will require her to live separately from her husband, and she has an affair that leads to the birth of her first child. But Paulina's hard-won contentment will be shattered when Kenya's turbulent history intrudes into her private life, bringing with it tragedy—and a new test of her quiet courage and determination.

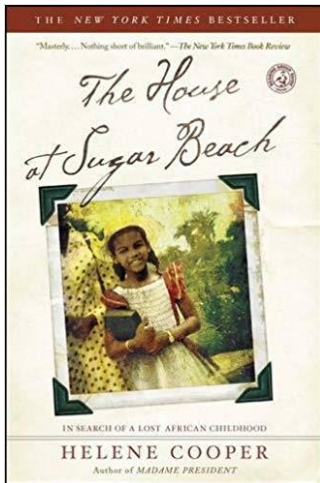
Marjorie Oludhe
Macgoye
The Present Moment
1987
Fiction



This contemporary African classic tells the story of seven unforgettable Kenyan women as it traces more than sixty years of turbulent national history. Like their country, this group of old women is divided by ethnicity, language, class, and religion. But around the charcoal fire at the Refuge, the old-age home they share in Nairobi, they uncover the hidden personal histories that connect them as women: stories of their struggles for self-determination; of conflict, violence, and loss, but also of survival. Each woman has found her way to the Refuge because of a devastating life experience—the loss of family and security to revolution, emigration, or poverty. But as they reflect upon their tragedies, they also become aware of the community they have formed—a community of collective history, strength, humor, and affection. And they learn that they are more connected than they know, as the murder of a student in the neighborhood reveals how their lives have intersected across generations, how securely the past is tied to the present—and to the future—of their young nation.

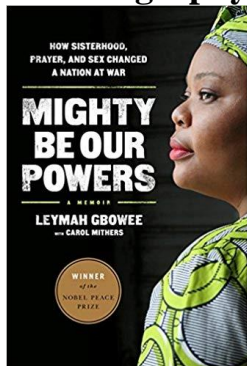
LIBERIA

Helene Cooper
The House at Sugar Beach: In Search of a Lost African Childhood
2008
Nonfiction –
Autobiography



Journalist Helene Cooper examines the violent past of her home country Liberia and the effects of its 1980 military coup in this deeply personal memoir and finalist for the 2008 National Book Critics Circle Award. Helene Cooper is “Congo,” a descendant of two Liberian dynasties—traced back to the first ship of freemen that set sail from New York in 1820 to found Monrovia. Helene grew up at Sugar Beach, a twenty-two-room mansion by the sea. Her childhood was filled with servants, flashy cars, a villa in Spain, and a farmhouse up-country. It was also an African childhood, filled with knock foot games and hot pepper soup, heartmen and neegee. When Helene was eight, the Coopers took in a foster child—a common custom among the Liberian elite. Eunice, a Bassa girl, suddenly became known as “Mrs. Cooper’s daughter.” For years the Cooper daughters—Helene, her sister Marlene, and Eunice—blissfully enjoyed the trappings of wealth and advantage. But Liberia was like an unwatched pot of water left boiling on the stove. And on April 12, 1980, a group of soldiers staged a coup d’état, assassinating President William Tolbert and executing his cabinet. The Coopers and the entire Congo class were now the hunted, being imprisoned, shot, tortured, and raped. After a brutal daylight attack by a ragtag crew of soldiers, Helene, Marlene, and their mother fled Sugar Beach, and then Liberia, for America. They left Eunice behind.

Leymah Gbowee
Mighty Be Our Powers: How Sisterhood, Prayer, and Sex Changed a Nation at War
2011
Nonfiction -
Autobiography



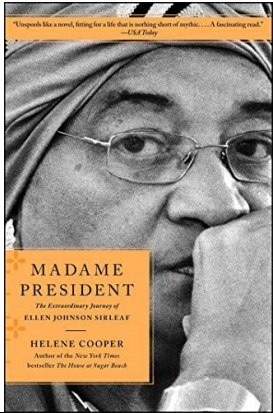
She winner of the Nobel Peace Prize shares her inspirational, powerful story of how a group of women working together created an unstoppable force that brought peace to Liberia.

As a young woman, Leymah Gbowee was broken by the Liberian civil war, a brutal conflict that destroyed her country and claimed the lives of countless relatives and friends. Propelled by her realization that it is women and girls who suffer most during conflicts, she found the courage to turn her bitterness into action.

She helped organize and then lead the Liberian Mass Action for Peace, which brought together Christian and Muslim women in a nonviolent movement that engaged in public protest, confronted Liberia's ruthless president and rebel warlords, and even held a sex strike.

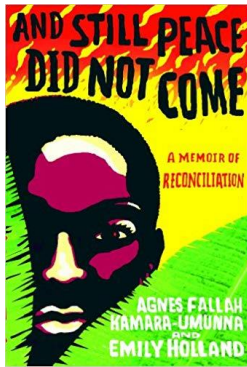
With an army of women, Gbowee helped lead her nation to peace-and became an international leader who changed history, won the Nobel Peace Prize for her work, and fiercely advocates for girls' empowerment and leadership. *Mighty Be Our Powers* is the gripping chronicle of a journey from hopelessness to liberation that will touch all who dream of a better world.

Helene Cooper
***Madame President: The
 Extraordinary Journey of
 Ellen Johnson Sirleaf***
2017
Nonfiction – Biography



The harrowing, but triumphant story of Ellen Johnson Sirleaf, leader of the Liberian women’s movement, winner of the Nobel Peace Prize, and the first democratically elected female president in African history. When Ellen Johnson Sirleaf won the 2005 Liberian presidential election, she demolished a barrier few thought possible, obliterating centuries of patriarchal rule to become the first female elected head of state in Africa’s history. *Madame President* is the inspiring, often heartbreaking story of Sirleaf’s evolution from an ordinary Liberian mother of four boys to international banking executive, from a victim of domestic violence to a political icon, from a post-war president to a Nobel Peace Prize winner. Pulitzer Prize–winning journalist and bestselling author Helene Cooper deftly weaves Sirleaf’s personal story into the larger narrative of the coming of age of Liberian women. The highs and lows of Sirleaf’s life are filled with indelible images; from imprisonment in a jail cell for standing up to Liberia’s military government to addressing the United States Congress, from reeling under the onslaught of the Ebola pandemic to signing a deal with Hillary Clinton when she was still Secretary of State that enshrined American support for Liberia’s future.

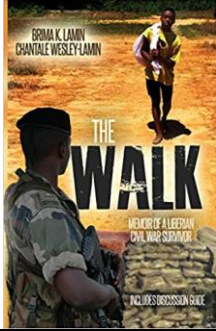
Agnes Kamara-Umunna
***And Still Peace Did Not
 Come: A Memoir of
 Reconciliation***
2011
Nonfiction - Memoir



When bullets hit Agnes Kamara-Umunna's home in Monrovia, Liberia, she and her father hastily piled whatever they could carry into their car and drove toward the border, along with thousands of others. An army of children was approaching, under the leadership of Charles Taylor. It seemed like the end of the world. Slowly, they made their way to the safety of Sierra Leone. They were the lucky ones. After years of exile, with the fighting seemingly over, Agnes returned to Liberia--a country now devastated by years of civil war. Families have been torn apart, villages destroyed, and it seems as though no one has been spared. Reeling, and unsure of what to do in this place so different from the home of her memories, Agnes accepted a job at the local UN-run radio station. Their mission is peace and their method is reconciliation through understanding and communication. Soon, she came up with a daring plan: Find the former child soldiers, and record their stories. And so Agnes, then a 43-year-old single mother of four, headed out to the ghettos of Monrovia and befriended them, drinking Club Beer and smoking Dunhill cigarettes with them, earning their trust. One by one, they spoke on her program, *Straight from the Heart*, and slowly, it seemed like reconciliation and forgiveness might be possible.

Brima K. Lamin
***The Walk: Memoir of a
 Liberian Civil War
 Survivor***
2016
Nonfiction- Memoir

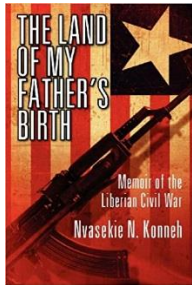
What is it like to be on the other side of the gun, running for your life and losing everything? What if you are only eleven years old? *The Walk* is a real life account of an adolescent boy, Brima Lamin, whose desperation for survival took him across several foreign countries ultimately seeking refuge in the United States. In this gripping memoir, the author tells how the entire course of his life was changed on one horrendous day, July 2, 1990 when rebel soldiers armed with AK-47s stormed his neighborhood. Over the course of four years to



follow, he witnessed brutal atrocities barely escaping death during what many call one of the most horrific wars of all time, the Liberian Civil War. In the midst of losing it all, he came of age, found God and was able to come to a country that he had always dreamed about. The Walk challenges the reader to wonder how they will “walk” in the midst of the storm.

Nvasekie N Konneh
The Land of My Father's Birth: Memoir of the Liberian Civil War
2013

Nonfiction - Memoir

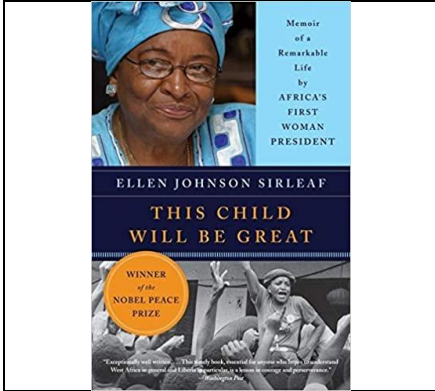


The Liberian civil war affected all Liberians, one way or the other. As a result, all Liberians have some stories of personal experiences of the war that lasted for 14 years. The war caused internal and external dislocation of thousands of people and so many lost loved ones, relatives, and friends. Every Liberian has stories to tell about how they got caught up behind warring faction lines or made it as refugees in other countries. There has not been enough books published telling stories of these experiences. Unlike Sierra Leone, Sudan, or Ivory Coast where books with stories of former child soldiers and survival of war have been published, not many personal stories in the form of memoir have been published by Liberians. Nvasekie Konneh's memoir, "The Land of My Father's Birth" will certainly set the pace to fill that void. This book the size of about 250 pages gives the panoramic views of the writer's experiences of growing up in pre-war Liberia, highlighting his multicultural heritage of Mandingo and Mano ethnicities; fleeing from the war doomed Monrovia, seeking refuge in Abidjan, Ivory Coast where he met and befriended a feature first daughter of the country's first military leader Robert Guei; cruising the Atlantic Ocean, the Mediterranean or Persian Gulf in the bellies of US Navy war ships deployed in Europe and Middle East, highlighting port visits to such far away places as Jerusalem/Bethlehem in Israel/Palestine; Suez Canal, Egypt, Dubai, United Arab Emirate, Paris, France, as well as "Looking for Fatim Diop in Dakar," Senegal. The book is a multicultural celebration of ethnic and religious diversity which will certainly generate lots of conversations with historical, socio-political, art and cultural dimensions in and out of Liberia. For those who have been following this prolific writer since the early 90s, he has diverse interests as a writer whose writings have been extensively published in newspapers, magazine, as well as countless websites.

Ellen Johnson Sirleaf
This Child Will Be Great: Memoir of a Remarkable Life by Africa's First Woman President
2010

Non-Fiction – Memoir

In January 2006, after the Republic of Liberia had been racked by fourteen years of brutal civil conflict, Ellen Johnson Sirleaf was sworn in as president, an event that marked a tremendous turning point in the history of the West African nation. In this stirring memoir, Sirleaf shares the story of her rise to power, including her early childhood; her experiences with abuse, imprisonment, and exile; and her fight for democracy and social justice. She reveals her determination to succeed in multiple worlds, from her studies in the United States to her work as an international bank executive, to campaigning in some of Liberia's most desperate and war-torn villages and neighborhoods. It is the tale of an outspoken political and social reformer who fought the oppression of dictators and championed change. By telling her story, Sirleaf encourages



women everywhere to pursue leadership roles at the highest levels of power, and gives us all hope that we can change the world.

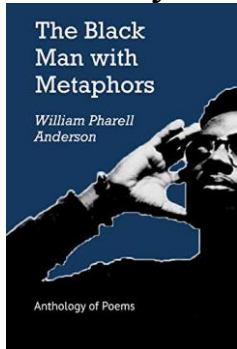
Wayetu Moore
She Would Be King
2018
Fiction

Wayétu Moore’s powerful debut novel, *She Would Be King*, reimagines the dramatic story of Liberia’s early years through three unforgettable characters who share an uncommon bond. Gbessa, exiled from the West African village of Lai, is starved, bitten by a viper, and left for dead, but still she survives. June Dey, raised on a plantation in Virginia, hides his unusual strength until a confrontation with the overseer forces him to flee. Norman Aragon, the child of a white British colonizer and a Maroon slave from Jamaica, can fade from sight when the earth calls him. When the three meet in the settlement of Monrovia, their gifts help them salvage the tense relationship between the African American settlers and the indigenous tribes, as a new nation forms around them. Moore’s intermingling of history and magical realism finds voice not just in these three characters but also in the fleeting spirit of the wind, who embodies an ancient wisdom. “If she was not a woman,” the wind says of Gbessa, “she would be king.” In this vibrant story of the African diaspora, Moore, a talented storyteller and a daring writer, illuminates with radiant and exacting prose the tumultuous roots of a country inextricably bound to the United States. *She Would Be King* is a novel of profound depth set against a vast canvas and a transcendent debut from a major new author.

Charles D. Lamadine
Through My Eyes: Poems of War. And Hope
2019
Wartime Poetry

Poems of War and hope.

**William Pharell
Anderson**
*The Black Man with
Metaphors: An Anthology
of Poems*
Poetry

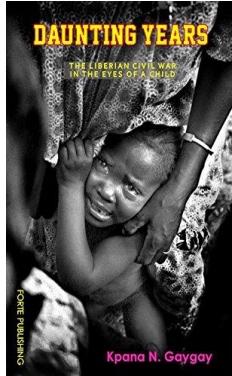


The 'Black Man with Metaphors' is an anthology of poems. Native Poet believes there is fire in his soul and this book is a solace for his wounds – the whole collection is a matchless compound of political, dark, spiritual, anger, self, and love poems.

In these years of desperate times, these poems are to mostly for all matter of literature.

This book presents the most essential poems whether you are feeling lonely, loved, heartbroken, sad, or hurt, there is something written in it for you.

Kpana N. Gaygay
*Daunting Years:
The Liberian Civil War in
the Eyes of a Child*
2017
Fiction



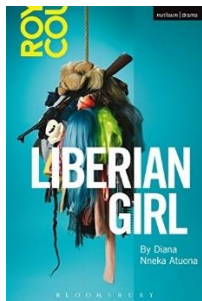
A little child wakes up starving. Her mother can't feed her because she's dying from hunger. Her village can't protect her because they are engulfed in the midst of a bloody civil war. They have the misfortune to live in a village that is a strategic spot on the map of warlords and government forces; both groups determined to take and or keep that little town at all cost. Their men have fled; left them unprotected. Their sons have been taken or killed.

But a small group of women must ensure the lives of their children, their elders and themselves.

What they do, how they do it and when they do it, will determine their fates. Who survives, who doesn't? Who turns on the other, who doesn't? Who holds the group together or who falls apart?

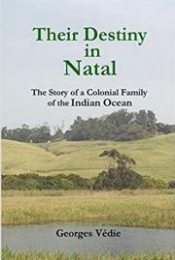
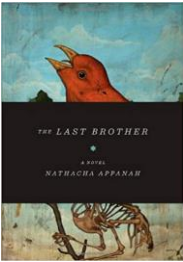
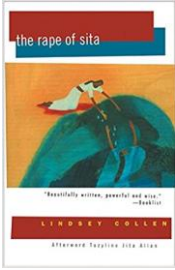
Kpana tells her story as a child trying to make sense of it all.

Diana Nneka Atuona
Liberian Girl
2015
Fiction - Drama

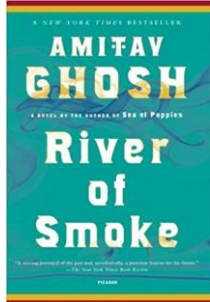


Set during the early years of the First Liberian Civil War (1989 – 1996), this startling debut play by Diana Nneka Atuona tells the story of fourteen-year-old Martha who flees her country, disguised as a boy, when it's invaded by rebels. Investigated and cruelly interrogated, she is separated from her grandmother as they attempt to escape the conflict under false identities and, convincing in her boy's apparel, Martha is forced to join the rebels' army. Exposed to the violence of this brutal and seemingly misguided conflict, both as victim and perpetrator, Martha's experience of the First Liberian Civil War is one of excessive cruelty and, in particular, abuse against female prisoners of war.

MAURITIUS

<p style="text-align: center;">Georges Védie <i>Their Destiny in Natal - The Story of a Colonial Family of the Indian Ocean</i> 2015 Nonfiction</p> 	<p>In 1877 Hippolyte and Pauline Lavoipierre arrived at the British Colony of Natal in South Africa. With limited capital and some experience gained in Mauritius Hippolyte set about establishing himself as a sugar planter in the Inanda District, then the developing agricultural heart of the colony. They also came burdened with a number of family secrets. This book examines the couple's complex FrancoMauritian backgrounds from their origins in France, their grandfathers and fathers experiences in the various colonies of India, Mauritius and the Seychelles and their own struggle to make a success of their lives in Natal. It examines the roles of trade, slavery and indentured labour in their ventures and in the development of 19th century Mauritius and Natal. The surprising disregard of conventions in conservative colonial societies, the financial risks of plantation agriculture and the hidden issue of miscegenation come to light through the experiences of a particular family.</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">Natasha Appanah <i>The Last Brother</i> Fiction 2011</p> 	<p>As 1944 comes to a close, nine-year-old Raj is unaware of the war devastating the rest of the world. He lives in Mauritius, a remote island in the Indian Ocean, where survival is a daily struggle for his family. When a brutal beating lands Raj in the hospital of the prison camp where his father is a guard, he meets a mysterious boy his own age. David is a refugee, one of a group of Jewish exiles whose harrowing journey took them from Nazioccupied Europe to Palestine, where they were refused entry and sent on to indefinite detainment in Mauritius.</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">Lindsey Collen <i>The Rape of Sita</i> 2004 Fiction</p> 	<p>Banned upon its first publication in Mauritius, winner of the prestigious Commonwealth Prize for Best Novel in Africa, this stylistically radical novel is both starkly modern in its conception and reminiscent of ancient myth in its captivating narrative and allegorical power. Deftly blending oral and literary traditions, Collen has crafted a short epic that evokes legacies of oppression and resistance—of women, of cultures, and of nations. Through the intersecting frames of Indian, African, and European cultures that make up the tiny African island nation of Mauritius emerges Sita—a living legend in her country and activist in the national struggle for independence. She is also a strong woman who has buried a secret that threatens to overwhelm her. As Sita makes terrifying plunges into the black hole of her fragmented memory, her painful and angry search to come to terms with her past extends beyond her own violation. Echoing ancient folk tales and religious prophecies, Sita's modern-day struggle to remember her own history and rape comes to symbolize all rapes, all violations, and all colonizations.</p>

Amitav Ghosh
River of Smoke
 2012
 Fiction



The former slave ship flounders in the Bay of Bengal, caught in the midst of a deadly cyclone. The storm also threatens the clipper ship Anahita, groaning with the largest consignment of opium ever to leave India for Canton. Meanwhile, the Redruth, a nursery ship, carries horticulturists determined to track down the priceless botanical treasures of China. All will converge in Canton's Fanqui-town, or Foreign Enclave, a powder keg awaiting a spark to ignite the Opium Wars. A spectacular adventure, but also a bold indictment of global avarice, *River of Smoke* is a consuming historical novel with powerful contemporary resonance.

Shenaz Patel (Author), Jeffrey Zuckerman (Translator)
Silence of the Chagos
 2019
 Fiction
 French Edition, 2005



Le silence
 des Chagos
 Shenaz
 Patel



Édition de l'Œuvre

Based on a true, still-unfolding story, *Silence of the Chagos* is a powerful exploration of cultural identity, the concept of home, and above all the never-ending desire for justice. Shenaz Patel draws on the lives of uprooted Chagossian activists in this tragic example of 20th century political oppression.

Every afternoon a woman in a red headscarf walks to the end of the quay and looks out over the water, fixing her gaze “back there”: to the small island in the Indian Ocean that she and her people have been deported from. But the island is “closed,” there is no going back. Charlesia waits in vain for a ship to take her and her fellow Chagossians back to their home on Diego Garcia. With no explanation, and only an hour to pack, the Chagossians are deported from Diego Garcia and relocated to Mauritius. Charlesia mourns the loss of her life on Diego Garcia, where she spent her days working on a coconut plantation and her nights listening to séga music with her family and friends. But most urgently, Charlesia seeks answers for how and why this injustice happened to her people.

As Charlesia struggles to come to terms with her life on Mauritius, she crosses paths with Désiré, a young man born on the one-way journey to Mauritius. Désiré has never set foot on Diego Garcia, but as Charlesia unfolds the dramatic story of his people, he learns of the home he never knew, taken from him before he was born and transformed into a military base.

Shenaz Patel artfully reconstructs the lives of the Chagossians, whose cries for a return to their homeland are no longer being silenced. With the sovereignty of Chagos currently being debated on an international judiciary level, *Silence of the Chagos* is an important and timely examination of the rights of individuals in the face of governmental corruption.

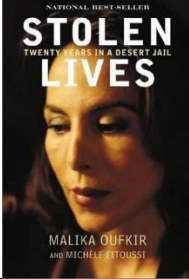
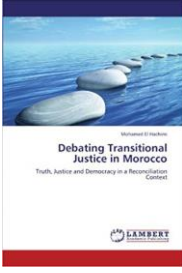
Ananda Devi (Author), Jeffrey Zuckerman (Translator)
Eve Out of Her Ruins
 2016
 Fiction

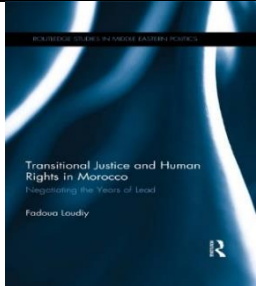
With brutal honesty and poetic urgency, Ananda Devi relates the tale of four young Mauritians trapped in their country's endless cycle of fear and violence: Eve, whose body is her only weapon and source of power; Savita, Eve's best friend, the only one who loves Eve without self-interest, who has plans to leave but will not go alone; Saadiq, gifted would-be poet, inspired by Rimbaud, in love with Eve; Clélio, belligerent rebel, waiting without hope for his brother to send for him from France. *Eve out of Her Ruins* is a



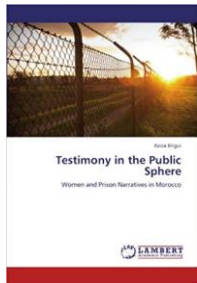
heartbreaking look at the dark corners of the island nation of Mauritius that tourists never see, and a poignant exploration of the construction of personhood at the margins of society. Awarded the prestigious *Prix des cinq continents* upon publication as the best book written in French outside of France, *Eve Out of her Ruins* is a harrowing account of the violent reality of life in her native country by the figurehead of Mauritian literature.

MOROCCO

<p>Malika Oufkir, Michèle Fitoussi <i>Stolen Lives: Twenty Years in a Desert Jail</i> Nonfiction – Memoir 2001</p> 	<p>A gripping memoir that reads like a political thriller--the story of Malika Oufkir's turbulent and remarkable life.</p>
<p>Mohamed El Hachimi <i>Debating Transitional Justice in Morocco: Truth, Justice and Democracy in a Reconciliation Context</i> 2012 Nonfiction</p> 	<p>The aim of this book is twofold: on the one hand it seeks to examine the relation between different policies of backward-looking truth and justice and the quality of democracy established in the aftermath of violence through the analysis of the Moroccan transitional experience. On the other hand, while much of transitional justice literature tends to be state-centric often focusing on intra-state issues of truth-seeking, retribution and reconciliation after mass atrocity, this book tries to explore the role of civil society in the reconciliation processes. In doing so, it aims to push the discussion beyond a normative perspective and to examine the full spectrum of roles played by civil society actors including supporting dialogue and reconciliation as well as breeding discord and intolerance. Based on a comparison between Morocco, Spain and Cyprus, the book tries to address questions such as: To what extent can the mode of accountability for past human rights violations determine the outcome of the transition from authoritarianism to democracy? What is the relationship between state and civil society actors engaged in the transitional process?</p>
<p>Fadoua Loudiy (Author) <i>Transitional Justice and Human Rights in Morocco: Negotiating the Years of Lead</i> 2014 Nonfiction</p>	<p>This book examines the Moroccan experience of transitional justice, more specifically the negotiation of the legacy of the period commonly referred to as the Years of Lead. This period of Moroccan history roughly spans from the early 1960s to 1999 during which thousands of citizens were arbitrarily detained, tortured and killed because of their political opinions.</p>

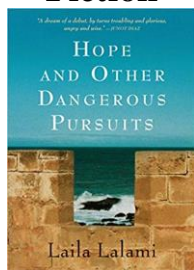


Aziza Brigui (Author)
Testimony in the Public Sphere: Women and Prison Narratives in Morocco
2012
Nonfiction



The ultimate objective of the present book is to highlight the problematic of gender in transitional justice in Morocco through an understanding of the specificities of women's sufferings during the period of grave human rights violations, in an attempt to highlight the healing process that women go through when they narrate their exposure to violence. The book will basically shed light on women's testimonies as witnesses and subjects of human rights violations during the years of lead in Morocco. These women unveil their sufferings as prisoners, mothers, wives, and sisters of ex-political detainees. Through written narratives and public testimonies, women narrate how they have lived these painful experiences as a female gender; their testimonies are a kind of gendered historical account. Through their narratives, they epitomize a compensation for their dramatic past. They also exorcise the agonizing experience of human rights violations out of their memory.

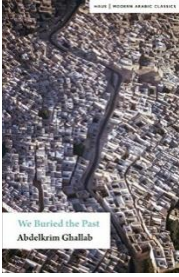
Laila Lalami
Hope and Other Dangerous Pursuits
2005
Fiction



Hope and Other Dangerous Pursuits evokes the grit and enduring grace that is modern Morocco. As four Moroccans illegally cross the Strait of Gibraltar in an inflatable boat headed for Spain, author Laila Lalami asks, What has driven them to risk their lives? And will the rewards prove to be worth the danger? There's Murad, a gentle, unemployed man who's been reduced to hustling tourists around Tangier; Halima, who's fleeing her drunken husband and the slums of Casablanca; Aziz, who must leave behind his devoted wife in hope of securing work in Spain; and Faten, a student and religious fanatic whose faith is at odds with an influential man determined to destroy her future. Sensitively written with beauty and boldness, this is a gripping book about what propels people to risk their lives in search of a better future.

Abdelkrim Ghallab (Author), Roger Allen (Translator)
We Have Buried the Past
1966
Fiction

Abdelkrim Ghallab's postcolonial *We Buried the Past*, originally published in 1966, was the first breakthrough Moroccan novel written in Arabic instead of French. Newly translated into English, this edition brings Ghallab's most widely read and lauded work to a new audience. Written after the country gained independence, the historical novel follows two generations of al-Tihamis, a well-to-do family residing in Fez's ancient medina. The family members' lives reflect the profound social changes taking place in Morocco



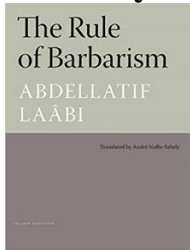
during that time. Bridging two worlds, *We Buried the Past* begins during the quieter days of the late colonial period, a world of seemingly timeless tradition, in which the patriarch, al-Haj Muhammad, proudly presides over the family. Here, religion is unquestioned and permeates all aspects of daily life. But the coming upheaval and imminent social transition are reflected in al-Haj's three sons, particularly his second son, Abderrahman, who eventually defies his father and comes to symbolize the break between the old ways and the new.

Tahar Ben Jelloun (Author), Linda Coverdale (Translator)
This Blinding Absence of Light
2006
Fiction



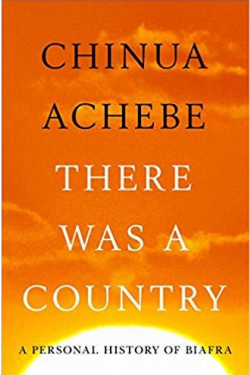
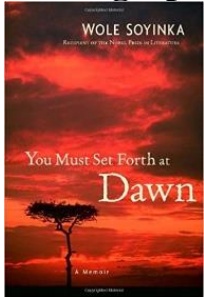
An immediate and critically acclaimed bestseller in France, **This Blinding Absence of Light** is the latest work by internationally renowned author Tahar Ben Jelloun, the first North African winner of the Prix Goncourt and winner of the Prix Mahgreb. Crafting real life events into narrative fiction, Ben Jelloun reveals the horrific story of the desert concentration camps in which King Hassan II of Morocco held his political enemies in underground cells with no light and only enough food and water to keep them lingering on the edge of death. Working closely with one of the survivors, Ben Jelloun narrates the story in the simplest of language and delivers a shocking novel that explores both the limitlessness of inhumanity and the impossible endurance of the human will.

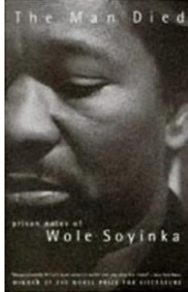
Abdellatif Laabi (Author), Andre Naffis-Sahely (Translator)
The Rule of Barbarism:
Pirogue Poets Series
2012
Poetry



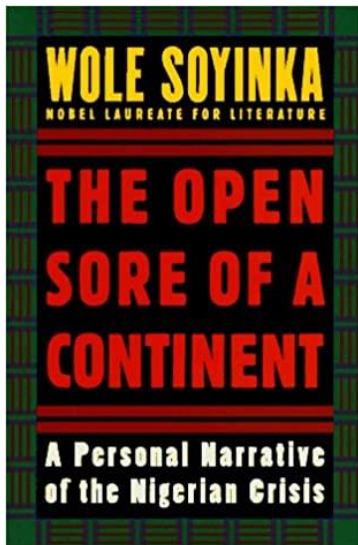
Finally available in English, *Le Règne de la barbarie* by Abdellatif Laâbi is one of the most daring poetic visions of the second half of the twentieth century. First published in 1976 when Laabi was serving an eight-year prison sentence (1972-1980) for 'crimes of opinion' against the Moroccan State, *The Rule of Barbarism* is a devastating flight through consciousness, acquainting the reader with the trials of a society caught between a colonial past and the tragic realities of a brutal dictatorship. Analysing the presence of 'barbarism' inherent in all of us, and yet deepening our capacity for compassion despite the allure of revenge, this stunning debut from a writer on the threshold of a groundbreaking career can be read as an epic of love, empathy, anger and despair—and is as resonant today as when composed nearly fifty years ago.

NIGERIA

<p style="text-align: center;">Chinua Achebe <i>There Was a Country: A Personal History of Biafra</i> 2012 Nonfiction- Autobiography</p> 	<p>The defining experience of Chinua Achebe’s life was the Nigerian civil war, also known as the Biafran War, of 1967–1970. The conflict was infamous for its savage impact on the Biafran people, Chinua Achebe’s people, many of whom were starved to death after the Nigerian government blockaded their borders. By then, Chinua Achebe was already a world-renowned novelist, with a young family to protect. He took the Biafran side in the conflict and served his government as a roving cultural ambassador, from which vantage he absorbed the war’s full horror. Immediately after, Achebe took refuge in an academic post in the United States, and for more than forty years he has maintained a considered silence on the events of those terrible years, addressing them only obliquely through his poetry. Now, decades in the making, comes a towering reckoning with one of modern Africa’s most fateful events, from a writer whose words and courage have left an enduring stamp on world literature.</p> <p>Achebe masterfully relates his experience, both as he lived it and how he has come to understand it. He begins his story with Nigeria’s birth pangs and the story of his own upbringing as a man and as a writer so that we might come to understand the country’s promise, which turned to horror when the hot winds of hatred began to stir. To read <i>There Was a Country</i> is to be powerfully reminded that artists have a particular obligation, especially during a time of war. All writers, Achebe argues, should be committed writers—they should speak for their history, their beliefs, and their people.</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">Wole Soyinka <i>You Must Set Forth at Dawn</i> 2006 Nonfiction - Autobiography</p> 	<p>The first African to receive the Nobel Prize in Literature, as well as a political activist of prodigious energies.</p> <p>In the tough, humane, and lyrical language that has typified his plays and novels, Soyinka captures the indomitable spirit of Nigeria itself by bringing to life the friends and family who bolstered and inspired him, and by describing the pioneering theater works that defied censure and tradition. Soyinka not only recounts his exile and the terrible reign of General Sani Abacha, but shares vivid memories and playful anecdotes—including his improbable friendship with a prominent Nigerian businessman and the time he smuggled a frozen wildcat into America so that his students could experience a proper Nigerian barbecue. More than a major figure in the world of literature, Wole Soyinka is a courageous voice for human rights, democracy, and freedom. <i>You Must Set Forth at Dawn</i> is an intimate chronicle of his thrilling public life, a meditation on justice and tyranny, and a mesmerizing testament to a ravaged yet hopeful land.</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">Wole Soyinka <i>The Man Died: Prison Notes of Wole Soyinka</i> 1971 Nonfiction - Biography</p>	<p>A record of 27 months of imprisonment of a Nigerian writer held as a political prisoner in 1967-1969 at a time of civil war and secession of the state of Biafra.</p>



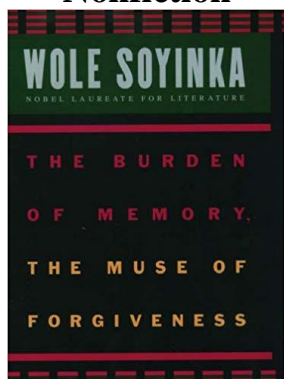
Wole Soyinka
***The Open Sore of a
Continent: A Personal
Narrative of the Nigerian
Crisis***
1996
Non-fiction



On November 10, 1995, the Nigerian military government under General Sani Abacha executed dissident writer Ken Saro-Wiwa along with eight other activists, and the international community reacted with outrage. From the Geneva based International Commission of Jurists (who called the executions a criminal act of state murder) to governments around the world (including the United States) who recalled their ambassadors, to the Commonwealth of Former British Colonies, who suspended Nigeria from the group, the response was quick, decisive, and nearly unanimous: Nigeria is an outcast in the global village. The events that led up to Saro-Wiwa's execution mark Nigeria's decline from a post-colonial success story to its current military dictatorship, and few writers have been more outspoken in decrying and lamenting this decline than Nobel Prize laureate and Nigerian exile Wole Soyinka.

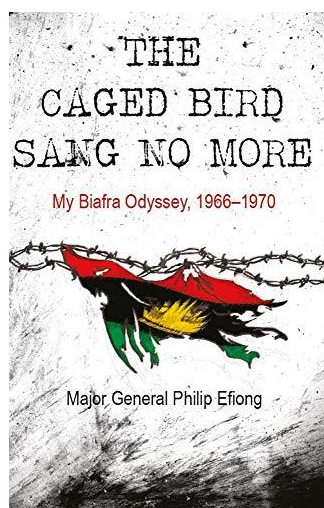
In *The Open Sore of a Continent*, Soyinka, whose own Nigerian passport was confiscated by General Abacha in 1994, explores the history and future of Nigeria in a compelling jeremiad that is as intense as it is provocative, learned, and wide-ranging. He deftly explains the shifting dramatis personae of Nigerian history and politics to westerners unfamiliar with the players and the process, tracing the growth of Nigeria as a player in the world economy, through the corrupt regime of Babangida, the civil war occasioned by the secession of Biafra under the leadership of Chief Odumegwu Ojukwu, the lameduck reign of Ernest Sonekan, and the coup led by General Sani Abacha, arguing that "a glance at the mildewed tapestry of the stubbornly unfinished nation edifice is necessary" to explain where Nigeria can go next. And, in the process of elucidating the Nigerian crisis, Soyinka opens readers to the broader questions of nationhood, identity, and the general state of African culture and politics at the end of the twentieth century. Here are a range of issues that investigate the interaction of peoples who have been shaped by the clash of cultures: nationalism, power, corruption, violence, and the enduring legacy of colonialism. In a world tormented by devastation from Bosnia to Rwanda, how do we define a nation: is it simply a condition of the collective mind, a passive, unquestioned habit of cohabitation? Or is what we think of as a nation a rigorous conclusion that derives from history? Is it geography, or is it a bond that transcends accidents of mountain, river, and valley? How do these varying definitions of nationhood impact the people who live under them? Soyinka concludes with a resounding call for international attention to this question: the global community must address the issue of nationhood to prevent further religious mandates and calls for ethnic purity of the sort that have turned Algeria, Rwanda, Bosnia, and Sri Lanka into killing fields.

Wole Soyinka
***The Burden of Memory,
the Muse of Forgiveness***
1998
Nonfiction



When Nobel laureate Wole Soyinka's *The Open Sore of a Continent* appeared in 1996, it received rave reviews in the national media. Now comes Soyinka's powerful sequel to that fearless and passionate book, *The Burden of Memory*. Where *Open Sore* offered a critique of African nationhood and a searing indictment of the Nigerian military and its repression of human and civil rights, *The Burden of Memory* considers all of Africa--indeed, all the world--as it poses the next logical question: Once repression stops, is reconciliation between oppressor and victim possible? In the face of centuries long devastations wrought on the African continent and her Diaspora by slavery, colonialism, Apartheid and the manifold faces of racism what form of recompense could possibly be adequate? In a voice as eloquent and humane as it is forceful, Soyinka examines this fundamental question as he illuminates the principle duty and "near intolerable burden" of memory to bear the record of injustice. In so doing, he challenges notions of simple forgiveness, of confession and absolution, as strategies for social healing. Ultimately, he turns to art--poetry, music, painting--as one source that may nourish the seed of reconciliation, art as the generous vessel that can hold together the burden of memory and the hope of forgiveness. Based on Soyinka's Stewart-McMillan lectures delivered at the Du Bois Institute at Harvard, *The Burden of Memory* speaks not only to those concerned specifically with African politics, but also to anyone seeking the path to social justice through some of history's most inhospitable terrain.

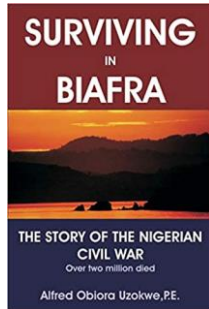
Philip Efiog
***The Caged Bird Sang No
More: My Biafra Odyssey***
1966 – 1970
2019
Non-fiction



This is Philip Efiog's account of the Nigeria-Biafra Civil War (1967-70). He was a key player during the event and second-in-command to the Biafran leader, General Chukwuemeka Odumegwu-Ojukwu. The story begins with the coup d'états of January and July 1966, and recounts ensuing ethnic and regional conflicts. After the first coup, Efiog is posted to State House as Principal Staff Officer and then to Kaduna as Acting Commander of the First Brigade. But the second coup is executed shortly after and he is forced to escape from Kaduna following a failed attempt on his life. He makes his way back to the East where he also relocates his family after officers have been directed by the new military government to return to their regions of origin. Efiog is in Enugu when talks break down between the new military head of state, then Lieutenant Colonel Yakubu Gowon and the Governor of the Eastern Region, Lieutenant Colonel Ojukwu. The result is a declaration of secession by the Eastern Region (Biafra), which leads to the outbreak of war in July 1967. In Biafra, after holding a number of positions, Efiog ends up as Chief of General Staff and second-in-command to the Biafran leader. With each incursion and onslaught by the enemy, the author moves his family to a new town or village until they arrive in Owerri, their last place of refuge before Biafra's collapse. Ojukwu then flees and hands over power to Efiog who performs the final task of leading a delegation to Lagos to negotiate peace and deliver Biafra's surrender. The war formally comes to an end on 15 January 1970, after which former Biafran officers, including Efiog, receive punishments ranging from dismissal to imprisonment.

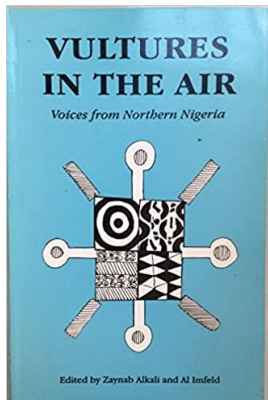
Alfred Obiora Uzokwe
Surviving in Biafra: The
Story of the Nigerian
Civil War
2003

Nonfiction- Memoir



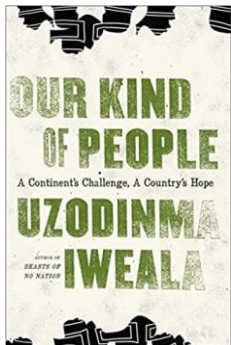
In 1966, several waves of rioting in northern Nigeria culminated in the brutal massacre of thousands of easterners by their northern Nigerian counterparts. Sensing that their safety could no longer be guaranteed, the easterners fled to the eastern region and established an independent nation called Biafra.

Zaynab Alkali
Vultures in the Air
Nonfiction



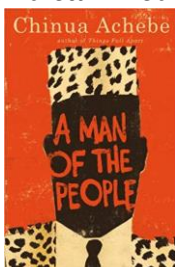
Uzodinma Iweala
Our Kind of People: A
Continent's Challenge, A
Country's Hope
2012

Nonfiction



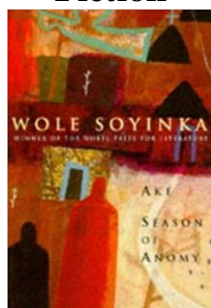
In 2005, Uzodinma Iweala stunned readers and critics alike with *Beasts of No Nation*, his debut novel about child soldiers in West Africa. Now his return to his native continent has produced *Our Kind of People*, a nonfiction account of the AIDS crisis that is every bit as startling and original. Iweala embarks on a remarkable journey in his native Nigeria, meeting individuals and communities that are struggling daily to understand both the impact and meaning of the disease. He speaks with people from all walks of life—the ill and the healthy, doctors, nurses, truck drivers, sex workers, shopkeepers, students, parents, and children. Their testimonies are by turns uplifting, alarming, humorous, and surprising, and always unflinchingly candid. Beautifully written and heartbreakingly honest, *Our Kind of People* goes behind the headlines of an unprecedented epidemic to show the real lives it affects, illuminating the scope of the crisis and a continent's valiant struggle.

Chinua Achebe
A Man of the People
2010
Political Fiction



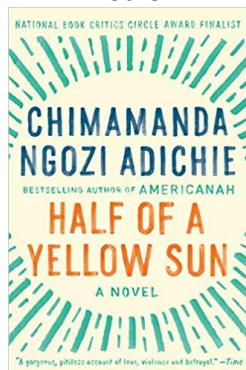
This novel foreshadows the Nigerian coups of 1966 and shows the color and vivacity as well as the violence and corruption of a society making its own way between the two worlds. In the landscape of Western Africa, two political traditions collide: the old bush politicians against the new intellectual generation, and a mentor and his protegee must wage the war. Achebe details one society's struggle with the inner turmoil created in the wake of the new-found freedom from the colonial order. This is a story about national identity and political unity.

Wole Soyinka
A Season of Anomy
1994
Fiction

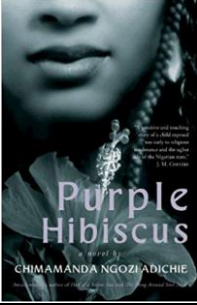

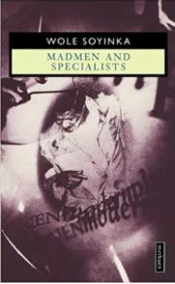


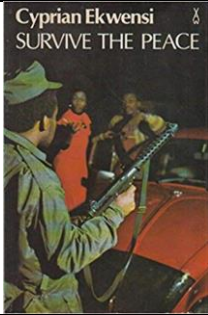
A Season of Anomy - The landscape of *A Season of Anomy* is harsh and unsparing. A forgotten commune, Aiyero, is pitted against the frenzy of exploiters and the stranglehold of corrupt power. This effort to permeate the larger society with life-affirming values from Aiyero becomes an excuse for threatened interests to unleash a wave of terror. Ake - 'An exhilaratingly glad contribution to the literature of childhood...a marvelously rich and amusing book, with not a dull paragraph, let alone a dull page' *New Statesman*. 'A superb act of remembrance...dazzling reading...Ake has an enchanting effect...Soyinka's memoir makes everything seem wondrous' *Village Voice*. 'A classic' *Nlassew York Times Book Review*.

Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie
Half of a Yellow Sun
2006
Fiction

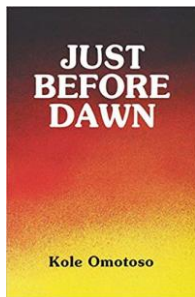


With her award-winning debut novel, *Purple Hibiscus*, Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie was heralded by the *Washington Post Book World* as the “21st century daughter” of Chinua Achebe. Now, in her masterly, haunting new novel, she recreates a seminal moment in modern African history: Biafra’s impassioned struggle to establish an independent republic in Nigeria during the 1960s. With the effortless grace of a natural storyteller, Adichie weaves together the lives of five characters caught up in the extraordinary tumult of the decade. Fifteen-year-old Ugwu is houseboy to Odenigbo, a university professor who sends him to school, and in whose living room Ugwu hears voices full of revolutionary zeal. Odenigbo’s beautiful mistress, Olanna, a sociology teacher, is running away from her parents’ world of wealth and excess; Kainene, her urbane twin, is taking over their father’s business; and Kainene’s English lover, Richard, forms a bridge between their two worlds. As we follow these intertwined lives through a military coup, the Biafran secession and the subsequent war, Adichie brilliantly evokes the promise, and intimately, the devastating disappointments that marked this time and place. Epic, ambitious and triumphantly realized, *Half of a Yellow Sun* is a more powerful, dramatic and intensely emotional picture of modern Africa than any we have had before.

<p>Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie <i>Purple Hibiscus</i> 2003 Fiction</p> 	<p>Fifteen-year-old Kambili's world is circumscribed by the high walls and frangipani trees of her family compound. Her wealthy Catholic father, under whose shadow Kambili lives, while generous and politically active in the community, is repressive and fanatically religious at home.</p> <p>When Nigeria begins to fall apart under a military coup, Kambili's father sends her and her brother away to stay with their aunt, a University professor, whose house is noisy and full of laughter. There, Kambili and her brother discover a life and love beyond the confines of their father's authority. The visit will lift the silence from their world and, in time, give rise to devotion and defiance that reveal themselves in profound and unexpected ways. This is a book about the promise of freedom; about the blurred lines between childhood and adulthood, between love and hatred, between the old gods and the new.</p>
<p>Buchi Emecheta <i>Destination Biafra</i> 1982 Fiction</p> 	<p>This novel dramatizes the painful birth of the republic of Biafra in the late 1960s.</p>
<p>Wole Soyinka <i>Madmen and Specialists</i> 1970 Play</p> 	<p><i>Madmen and Specialists</i> is one of Soyinka's most excoriating portrayals of abusers and abused in the new Nigeria ushered in by Biafra. Set in the "surgery" of a doctor, the play is populated by mendicants and the "insane," all fodder for "experimentation" by a shape-shifting doctor whose experiments may be more sinister than they at first appear.</p> <p>"Soyinka's Nobel Prize for Literature is a triumphant affirmation of the universality of this novelist, poet, filmmaker, and political activist."—<i>Guardian</i></p>
<p>Cyprian Ekwensi <i>Survive The Peace</i> 1976 Fiction</p>	<p>The novel takes place during the Nigerian Civil War.</p>

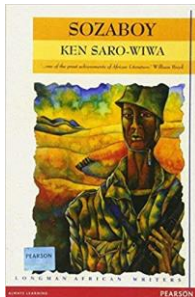


Kole Omotoso
Just Before Dawn
 1988
 Fiction



Kole Omotoso, one of Nigeria's major writers, is always provocative. His writing is informed by a passionate concern for society and politics in Nigeria. This major work is a blend of fact and fiction dramatizing the first one hundred years of Nigeria. Most of the characters and incidents in the book are real; the narrative is conceived and written as a novel. The story covers riots, uprisings, private hopes and griefs and coup d'etats - a history marred by violence, with an outcome satisfactory to none. The book was received as a major contribution to African writing, in its innovative style, and was awarded Special Commendation in the Noma Award for Publishing in Africa in 1989, which described it as providing a more profound understanding than is available in conventional history books and novels.

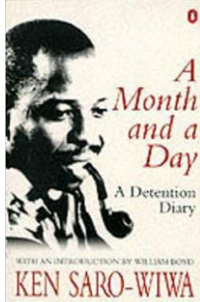
Ken Saro-Wiwa
Sozaboy
 1985
 Fiction



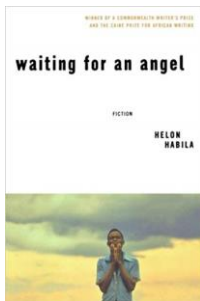
The novel takes place during the Nigerian Civil War.

Ken Saro-Wiwa
A Month and a Day: A Detention Diary
 1995
 Biography

This is the extraordinary and moving account of Ken Saro-Wiwa's period of detention in 1993, and is also a personal history of the man who gave voice to the campaign for basic human and political rights for the Ogoni people. It was fear of his success that made Saro-Wiwa the target of the despotic Nigerian military regime. Arrested on 21 June 1993, ostensibly for his part in election-day disturbances, he describes in harrowing detail the conditions under which he was held. He writes of his involvement with the Ogoni cause and his instrumental role in the setting up of the movement for the survival of the Ogoni people.

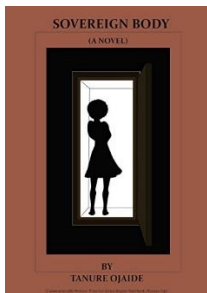


Helon Habila
Waiting for an Angel
2002
Political fiction



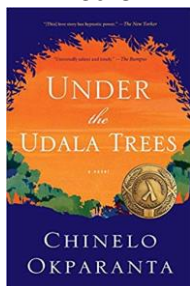
Lomba is a young journalist living under military rule in Lagos, Nigeria, the most dangerous city in the world. His mind is full of soul music and girls and the lyric novel he is writing. But his roommate is brutally attacked by soldiers; his first love is forced to marry a wealthy old man; and his neighbors on Poverty Street are planning a demonstration that is bound to incite riot and arrests. Lomba can no longer bury his head in the sand.

Tanure Ojaide
Sovereign Body
2004
Fiction



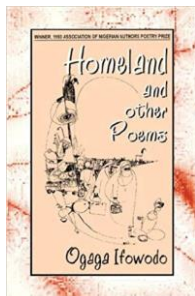
An educated African woman's effort to break free from patriarchal oppression and prejudices. Set in Nigeria of the military regime era, Anna's struggle against patriarchy parallels and highlights the people's contention against military dictatorship for freedom.

Chinelo Okparanta
Under the Udala Trees
2015
Fiction



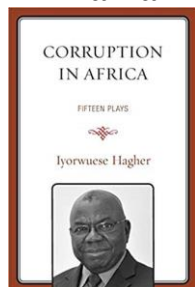
Ijeoma comes of age as her nation does. Born before independence, she is eleven when civil war breaks out in the young republic of Nigeria. Sent away to safety, she meets another displaced child and they, star-crossed, fall in love. They are from different ethnic communities. They are also both girls. But when their love is discovered, Ijeoma learns that she will have to hide this part of herself-and there is a cost to living inside a lie.

Ogaga Ifowod
Homeland and other
Poems
1998
Collection of Poems



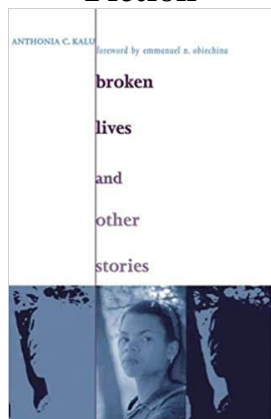
Ifowodo was a frontline student leader in the early eighties and is a lawyer and civil rights activist. In 1996 he was a writer-in-residence at the Heinrich Boell Foundation. He was imprisoned between 1997 and 1998 and was subsequently adopted by PEN. This is his first collection of poetry which won the 1993 Association of Nigerian Authors Poetry Prize. Many of the poems are responses to politics; or spring from the tensions between writing political poetry, or art for art's sake, and other competing subjects of poetry, such as romantic love. The poet, quoting Neruda, first asks the reader expecting a poetic celebration of his natural world to 'come see the blood in the streets'. In the section section he writes tributes to Tracey Chapman, Winnie and Nelson Mandela and Margeret Thatcher ('the butcher'). The subject of the third section is the rediscovery of romantic love, amidst and beyond turmoil and oppression.

Iyorwuese Hagher
Corruption In Africa:
Fifteen Plays
2017
Drama

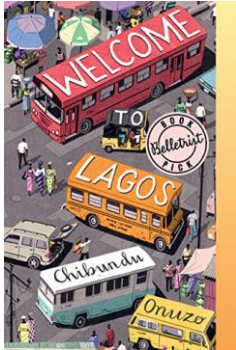
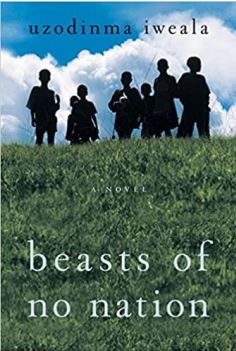
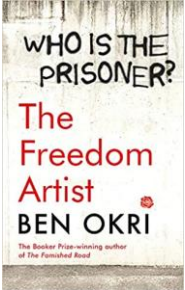


This book is a collection of fifteen plays that capture the very essence of politics in Africa: corruption, bad governance, identity politics and racial and ethnic discrimination are highlighted.

Anthonia C. Kalu
Broken Lives and Other
Stories
2003
Fiction



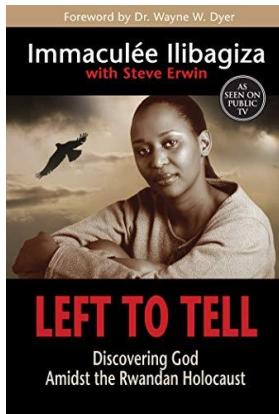
In her startling collection of short stories, *Broken Lives and Other Stories*, Anthonia C. Kalu creates a series of memorable characters who struggle to hold displaced but dynamic communities together in a country that is at war with itself. *Broken Lives and Other Stories* presents a portrait of the ordinary women, children, and men whose lives have been battered by war in their homeland. Written in response to the Nigerian Civil War, known on the Igbo side as Ogu Biafra—the Biafran War—this collection focuses on the everyday conditions of the local people and how their personal situations became entangled in national crises. The stories capture a diversity of issues, from the implications of self-rule and the presence of soldiers among civilians, to masquerades, air raids, and rape. Through her riveting narratives, Kalu draws the reader into the depths of some of Africa’s most troubling issues, such as the concern for safety during the frequent outbreaks of hostilities, which can range from civil unrest to armed combat. How do young people, women, and the elderly cope during those crises? Are the struggles for national political power greater than the everyday struggle for decent living by the person on the street? While conveying the vitality and joy of Africa's women and youth, *Broken Lives and Other Stories* also examines the impact of the brain drain caused by wars and

	<p>instability within the continent itself. Both the war against women and women’s constant war to survive in contemporary Africa are brought into sharp focus throughout these stories.</p>
<p>Chibundu Onuzo <i>Welcome to Lagos</i> 2018 Fiction</p> 	<p>When army officer Chike Ameobi is ordered to kill innocent civilians, he knows it is time to desert his post. As he travels toward Lagos with Yemi, his junior officer, and into the heart of a political scandal involving Nigeria’s education minister, Chike becomes the leader of a new platoon, a band of runaways who share his desire for a different kind of life. Among them is Fineboy, a fighter with a rebel group, desperate to pursue his dream of becoming a radio DJ; Isoken, a 16-year-old girl whose father is thought to have been killed by rebels; and the beautiful Oma, escaping a wealthy, abusive husband. Full of humor and heart, <i>Welcome to Lagos</i> is a high-spirited novel about aspirations and escape, innocence and corruption. It offers a provocative portrait of contemporary Nigeria that marks the arrival in the United States of an extraordinary young writer.</p>
<p>Uzodinma Iweala <i>Beasts of No Nation</i> 2005 Fiction</p> 	<p>The harrowing, utterly original debut novel by Uzodinma Iweala about the life of a child soldier in a war-torn African country—now a critically-acclaimed Netflix original film directed by Cary Fukunaga (<i>True Detective</i>) and starring Idris Elba (<i>Mandela, The Wire</i>). As civil war rages in an unnamed West-African nation, Agu, the school-aged protagonist of this stunning debut novel, is recruited into a unit of guerilla fighters. Haunted by his father’s own death at the hands of militants, which he fled just before witnessing, Agu is vulnerable to the dangerous yet paternal nature of his new commander. While the war rages on, Agu becomes increasingly divorced from the life he had known before the conflict started—a life of school friends, church services, and time with his family, still intact. As he vividly recalls these sunnier times, his daily reality continues to spin further downward into inexplicable brutality, primal fear, and loss of selfhood. In a powerful, strikingly original voice, Uzodinma Iweala leads the reader through the random travels, betrayals, and violence that mark Agu’s new community</p>
<p>Ben Okri <i>Who is the Prisoner?</i> 2019 Fiction</p> 	<p>In a world uncomfortably like our own, a young woman called Amalantis is arrested for asking a question. Her question is this: Who is the Prisoner? When Amalantis disappears, her lover Karnak goes looking for her. He searches desperately at first, then with a growing realization. To find Amalantis, he must first understand the meaning of her question. Karnak's search leads him into a terrifying world of lies, oppression and fear at the heart of which lies the Prison. Then Karnak discovers that he is not the only one looking for the truth. <i>The Freedom Artist</i> is an impassioned plea for justice and a penetrating examination of how freedom is threatened in a post-truth society. In Ben Okri's most significant novel since the Booker Prize-winning <i>The Famished Road</i>, he delivers a powerful and haunting call to arms</p>

RWANDA

Immaculee Ilibagiza
*Left to Tell: Discovering
 God Amidst the Rwandan
 Holocaust*
 2014

Non-Fiction



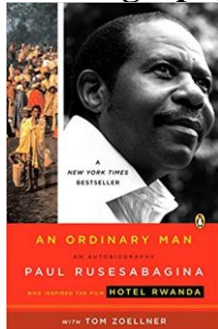
Immaculee Ilibagiza grew up in a country she loved, surrounded by a family she cherished. But in 1994 her idyllic world was ripped apart as Rwanda descended into a bloody genocide. Immaculee’s family was brutally murdered during a killing spree that lasted three months and claimed the lives of nearly a million Rwandans.

Incredibly, Immaculee survived the slaughter. For 91 days, she and seven other women huddled silently together in the cramped bathroom of a local pastor while hundreds of machete-wielding killers hunted for them. It was during those endless hours of unspeakable terror that Immaculee discovered the power of prayer, eventually shedding her fear of death and forging a profound and lasting relationship with God.

She emerged from her bathroom hideout having discovered the meaning of truly unconditional love—a love so strong she was able seek out and forgive her family’s killers. The triumphant story of this remarkable young woman’s journey through the darkness of genocide will inspire anyone whose life has been touched by fear, suffering, and loss.

Paul Rusesabagina
*An Ordinary Man: An
 Autobiography*
 2006

**Non-Fiction -
 Autobiography**

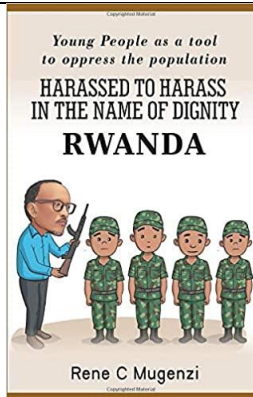


A remarkable account of the amazing life story of the man who inspired the film Hotel Rwanda

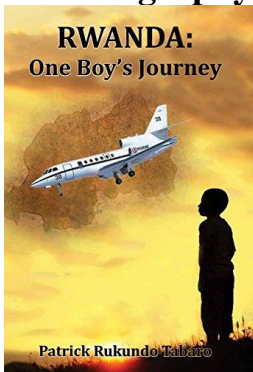
Readers who were moved and horrified by Hotel Rwanda will respond even more intensely to Paul Rusesabagina’s unforgettable autobiography. As Rwanda was thrown into chaos during the 1994 genocide, Rusesabagina, a hotel manager, turned the luxurious Hotel Milles Collines into a refuge for more than 1,200 Tutsi and moderate Hutu refugees, while fending off their would-be killers with a combination of diplomacy and deception. In An Ordinary Man, he tells the story of his childhood, retraces his accidental path to heroism, revisits the 100 days in which he was the only thing standing between his “guests” and a hideous death, and recounts his subsequent life as a refugee and activist.

Rene C. Mugenzi
*Harassed to Harass in the
 Name of Dignity: Young
 People as a Tool to
 Oppress the Population*
 2020
Nonfiction

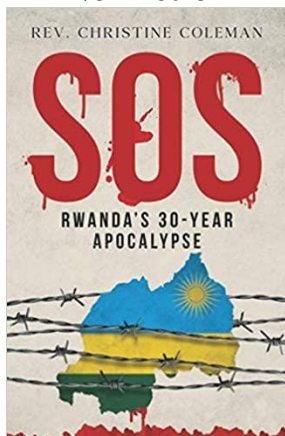
The post-genocide regime led by Kagame has been criticised by various regional and international human rights organisations and observers to be oppressive with limited respect of human rights. This book describes how Kagame regimes train young people and uses them in various ways as tool to oppress people.



Patrick Rukundo Tabaro
RWANDA: One Boy's
Journey
2017
Non-Fiction -
Autobiography



Rev. Christine Coleman
SOS - Rwanda's 30-Year
Apocalypse
2020
Nonfiction



A first-person account of the 1994 events

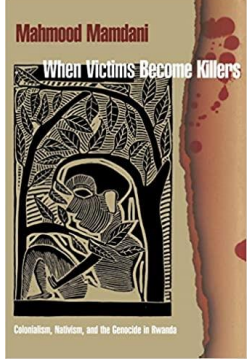
Patrick Rukundo Tabaro was twelve years old when the aircraft in which Rwandan president, Juvénal Habyarimana, and Burundian president, Cyprien Ntaryamira were travelling, was shot down. He recalls that day as though it were yesterday.

In this autobiography, *RWANDA: One Boy's Journey*, the author recalls the events that led up to the assassination, as well as some of the bloodiest events that followed in the late 20th century. He relives the plane crash, the Rwandan Genocide and the First Congo War through the eyes of a child, standing amidst the bodies of his friends.

Many have heard of Rwanda's 1994 genocide, but few know that the organized slaughter of Christian, Hutu, and Tutsi critics is still happening today. The insidious bloodlust began the moment one man with a horrific agenda stepped foot onto Rwanda in 1990. This man, who the world sees as Rwanda's protector, is now exposed for who he really is. Millions have died during the 30-year apocalypse that turned an innocent and peaceful country into one with blood soaking into every inch of soil. In this book, Christine brings us the other side of the Rwanda story which the mastermind perpetrators have killed to keep the international community from finding out. As a survivor of the Rwanda and DRC Congo genocides, wars, and dictatorship, Christine shares her experiences, showing you the real Rwanda, the one that is never advertised nor shown to the outside world. Help free the voices of those who have been silenced before their time. Understand today's Rwanda and give freedom to those trapped by a regime that is only interested in power. Remove the blinds placed on the west by a cruel dictator who hates his own people. **INSIDE:**• Kizito Mihigo's persecution and martyrdom• Silent, yet real, persecution of the clergy, Christians, and the people of Rwanda•

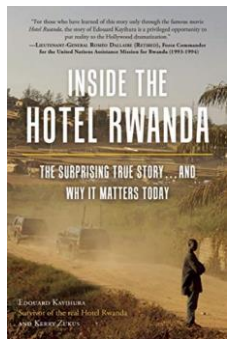
Stories of victims and survivors of massive and systematic killings • Details inside Rwanda prisons, safe houses, and torture chambers • Leaked conversation between RPF top officials• Targeting and pursuing dissidents abroad
This book is an appeal to the whole world. Renounce this evil! Come to the rescue of the helpless beautiful people who have had their basic human rights stripped from them by force.

Mahmood Mamdani
When Victims Become Killers: Colonialism, Nativism, and the Genocide in Rwanda
2002
Nonfiction



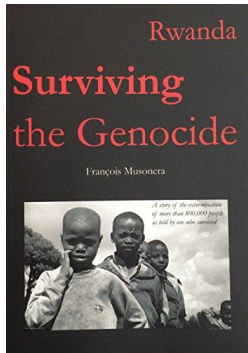
"When we captured Kigali, we thought we would face criminals in the state; instead, we faced a criminal population." So a political commissar in the Rwanda Patriotic Front reflected after the 1994 massacre of as many as one million Tutsis in Rwanda. Underlying his statement is the realization that, though ordered by a minority of state functionaries, the slaughter was performed by hundreds of thousands of ordinary citizens, including even judges, human rights activists, and doctors, nurses, priests, friends, and spouses of the victims. Indeed, it is its very popularity that makes the Rwandan genocide so unthinkable. This book makes it thinkable. Rejecting easy explanations of the genocide as a mysterious evil force that was bizarrely unleashed, one of Africa's best-known intellectuals situates the tragedy in its proper context. He coaxes to the surface the historical, geographical, and political forces that made it possible for so many Hutu to turn so brutally on their neighbors. He finds answers in the nature of political identities generated during colonialism, in the failures of the nationalist revolution to transcend these identities, and in regional demographic and political currents that reach well beyond Rwanda. In so doing, Mahmood Mamdani usefully broadens understandings of citizenship and political identity in postcolonial Africa.

Edouard Kayihura
Inside the Hotel Rwanda: The Surprising True Story . . . and Why It Matters Today
2014
Nonfiction – Memoir



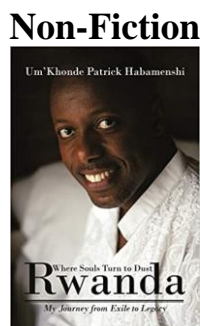
A survivor of the 1994 Rwandan genocide reveals what really went on at the famed Hôtel des Mille Collines. In 2004, the Academy Award–nominated movie Hotel Rwanda lionized hotel manager Paul Rusesabagina for single-handedly saving the lives of all who sought refuge in the Hôtel des Mille Collines during the genocide against the Tutsi in 1994. Because of the film, the real-life Rusesabagina has been compared to Oskar Schindler. In this first-person account, survivor Edouard Kayihura tells his own personal story of what life was really like during those harrowing days within the walls of that infamous hotel, and offers the testimonies of others who survived there, from Hutu and Tutsi to UN peacekeepers. In the wake of Hotel Rwanda’s international success, the author reveals, Rusesabagina is one of today’s most well-known Rwandans—but has become the face of the very Hutu Power groups who drove the genocide. He is accused by the Rwandan prosecutor general of being a genocide negationist and funding the terrorist group Democratic Forces for the Liberation of Rwanda (FDLR). This book exposes the Hollywood hero as a profiteering and politically ambitious Hutu Power sympathizer who extorted money from those who sought refuge, threatening to send those who did not pay to the génocidaires, despite pleas from the hotel’s corporate ownership to stop.

Francois Musonera
Rwanda: Surviving the Genocide
2012
Non-fiction – Memoir



Then I heard another big voice say, “Don’t worry; don’t worry,” and suddenly the enemy started shooting from behind us. I saw fire in the air; I saw bodies being torn apart. I heard women and children screaming, but I didn’t see or hear my friend. I thought he was one of the victims. With no hope for survival, I hid underneath an abandoned truck that was next to me. As I crouched underneath that truck, listening to the gunfire all around me, I laughed to myself when I realized that four years earlier, when I was only twenty, I had never seen a gun since even soldiers did not carry them before the war. Soon my reverie changed as things went from bad to worse. Suddenly, they started shooting the truck. At that moment, I thought I was going to die. I said my “last prayer” for God to receive me into his hands. But He did not receive me then, and I AM ALIVE. Each morning when I look at myself in the mirror and see the scar on my head from the bullet which grazed my skull, I marvel that I am alive. Over 800,000 people from my country of Rwanda were killed in 1994 during the genocide, while numerous others continued to be exterminated through 2000--but I survived.

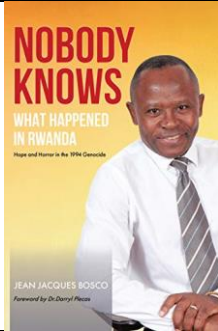
Um'khonde Patrick Habamenshi
Rwanda, Where Souls Turn to Dust: My Journey from Exile to Legacy
2009



The author, Um'Khonde Patrick Habamenshi, was appointed Minister of Agriculture in Rwanda in October 2003, two days after his thirty-fifth birthday. It started as a dream but rapidly became a nightmare marked by constant threats, insults, and unfounded accusations. He resigned in May 2005 and sought refuge in the Canadian Embassy in Kigali. The following year was a slow downward spiral to the same hell that decimated Rwanda in 1994, a hell of injustice and senseless persecution. The experience left him broken beyond words. He was left with the demons and ghosts of his broken country and with tortured experiences that would surely destroy him if he succumbed to them. Rwanda, Where Souls Turn to Dust is the remarkable story of his healing path to rebuilding his mind, body and spirit. He had to move away from the negative things that had been dominating his life, the loss of his loved ones, and the loss of his previous dreams. He rebuilt his life from the ashes of his old life in Rwanda, a life free of hatred, free of prejudice, and free of fears.

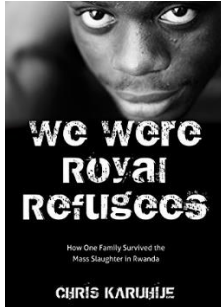
Jean Jacques Bosco
Nobody Knows What Happened in Rwanda: Hope and Horror in the 1994 Genocide
2019
Non-Fiction

April 6, 1994. That date would be seared forever in the memory of Jean Jacques Bosco, a university student in Rwanda at the beginning of the genocide. In just a few days, he and his fellow students saw the end of the world they knew. Friends turned against friends. Innocent students were massacred. Desperate to save all he could, Bosco led a group of students in a dangerous escape through an unfriendly civil war zone, risking everything to find safety and freedom. No One Else Knows What Really Happened in Rwanda is the searing account from one who grew up there, who intimately knew the political tensions that birthed the civil war and the ensuing genocide. Bosco's account is an important addition to the stories of the Diaspora, and sheds light on the suffering of a people who lived through war, fled as refugees, and now live with the identity of traitors in their homeland. For him and many others, the war never really ended. As they continue to struggle to



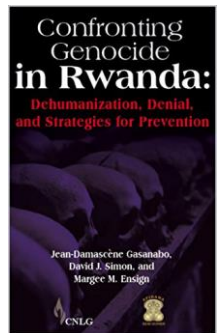
clear their names, they hope for justice and a new beginning in the much-loved land of their birth. This book speaks not just to the horror of war, but to the unquenchable human spirit that rises above racial division to see the humanity in one another. It is a tribute to courage in the darkest of times. It speaks to the importance of faith in one another, and to the love for one's homeland in the midst of political chaos and destruction.

Chris Karuhije
We Were Royal Refugees: How One Family Survived the Mass Slaughter in Rwanda
2018
Non-Fiction

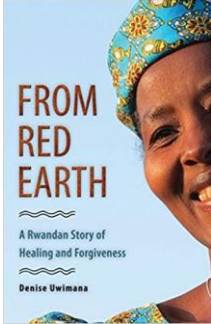
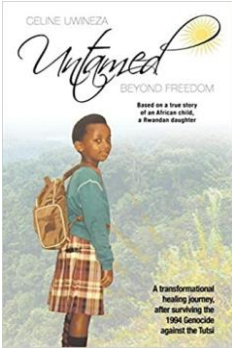


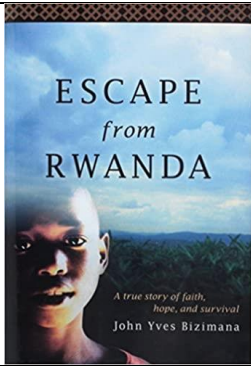
Six. That was the number of people killed every minute of every hour of the day, for one hundred days. The dead lay there mutilated, raped, disfigured, and dismembered. They were strewn across the African countryside, piled up in empty churches, and thrown in the lakes and rivers. Alphonse and Thacienne had their dream life. They were in love, they had five children, and they pastored a great church in Rwanda's capital city of Kigali. But in 1994 it all came to a cataclysmic end as almost one million people were slaughtered in an eruption of violence that lasted three months. As Alphonse is trapped in his church fighting to stay alive, Thacienne embarks on a courageous journey to get her children to safety, holding hope that she will be reunited with her husband. Written by one of the survivors, We Were Royal Refugees is the gripping and heart-wrenching true story of the horror, loss, forgiveness, and triumph of a family in one of the worst tragedies in modern history, the Rwandan genocide.

Jean-Damascène Gasanabo
Confronting Genocide in Rwanda: Dehumanization, Denial, and Strategies for Prevention
2014
Non-fiction

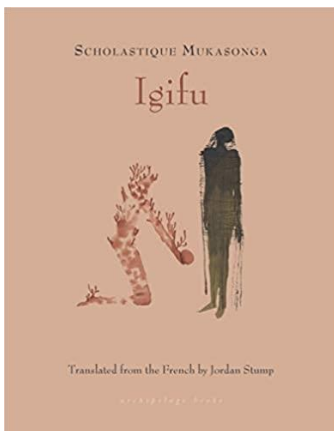


To recognize an event as filled with human pain and suffering as the Genocide against the Tutsi in Rwanda comes with a certain obligation. That obligation foremost is to document, analyze, and learn from the events that led to the genocide as well as to consider and to understand its legacy. Ultimately these efforts should help the world community act to prevent and intervene at all levels to forever assure that such events do not repeat themselves. The scholars and activists who have contributed to these chapters have taken that important first step of reflecting upon the events of 1994 and upon that which has happened since. Practical, evidence-based conclusions that build upon the solid analytical framework can provide guidance for a better future.

<p>Denise Uwimana <i>From Red Earth: A Rwandan Story of Healing and Forgiveness</i> 2019 Non-Fiction – Memoir</p> 	<p>A Hundred Days of Carnage, Twenty-Five Years of Rebirth In the space of a hundred days, a million Tutsi in Rwanda were slaughtered by their Hutu neighbors. At the height of the genocide, as men with bloody machetes ransacked her home, Denise Uwimana gave birth to her third son. With the unlikely help of Hutu Good Samaritans, she and her children survived. Her husband and other family members were not as lucky. If this were only a memoir of those chilling days and the long, hard road to personal healing and freedom from her past, it would be remarkable enough. But Uwimana didn't stop there. Leaving a secure job in business, she devoted the rest of her life to restoring her country by empowering other genocide widows to band together, tell their stories, find healing, and rebuild their lives. The stories she has uncovered through her work and recounted here illustrate the complex and unfinished work of truth-telling, recovery, and reconciliation that may be Rwanda's lasting legacy. Rising above their nation's past, Rwanda's genocide survivors are teaching the world the secret to healing the wound of war and ethnic conflict.</p>
<p>Celine Uwineza <i>Untamed: Beyond Freedom</i> 2019 Non-Fiction – Memoir</p> 	<p>For ten-year-old Celine Uwineza, the 7th of April, 1994 was supposed to start out like any other day. By nightfall, the horrors of the Genocide against the Tutsi in Rwanda had begun, claiming the lives of her family and one million others who were brutally massacred to death. Celine miraculously survived. Severely traumatized, she spent months on end being shunted from one refugee camp to another, eventually being rescued and reunited with the surviving members of her family. Although the emotional and psychological scars of the brutality she witnessed and experienced tore her apart on the inside, Celine, with her untamed spirit, was determined to rise above her circumstances and use her God-given talents to help rebuild her country. Now a successful entrepreneur and advocate for human development, this deeply-personal and heart-wrenching book chronicles Celine's journey of coming face-to-face with her traumatic past, healing from almost two decades of suppressed emotional and psychological wounds, to becoming the inspirational leader she is today.</p>
<p>John Bizimana <i>Escape from Rwanda: A True Story of Faith, Hope, and Survival</i> 2010 Non-Fiction-Memoir</p>	<p>Incredible survival story of John Bizimana as he and his siblings escape Rwanda in the 1990's during the Rwandan genocide. The children spend many years being shuttled from country to country, never seeming to find a completely permanent home. John shares it all in a pragmatic and yet faith-filled voice.</p>

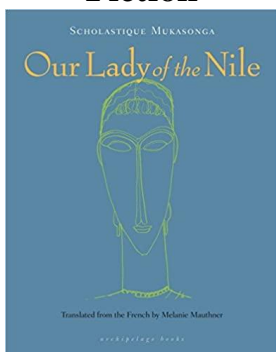


Scholastique Mukasonga
Igifu
2020
Non-Fiction - Memoir



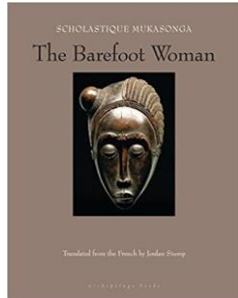
The stories in *Igifu* summon phantom memories of Rwanda and radiate with the fierce ache of a survivor. From the National Book Award finalist who Zadie Smith says, "rescues a million souls from the collective noun genocide." Scholastique Mukasonga's autobiographical stories rend a glorious Rwanda from the obliterating force of recent history, conjuring the noble cows of her home or the dew-swollen grass they graze on. In the title story, five-year-old Colomba tells of a merciless overlord, hunger or *igifu*, gnawing away at her belly. She searches for sap at the bud of a flower, scraps of sweet potato at the foot of her parent's bed, or a few grains of sorghum in the floor sweepings. *Igifu* becomes a dizzying hole in her stomach, a plunging abyss into which she falls. In a desperate act of preservation, Colomba's mother gathers enough sorghum to whip up a nourishing porridge, bringing Colomba back to life. This elixir courses through each story, a balm to soothe the pains of those so ferociously fighting for survival. Her writing eclipses the great gaps of time and memory; in one scene she is a child sitting squat with a jug of sweet, frothy milk and in another she is an exiled teacher, writing down lists of her dead. As in all her work, Scholastique sits up with them, her witty and beaming beloved.

Scholastique Mukasonga
Our Lady of the Nile
2014
Fiction



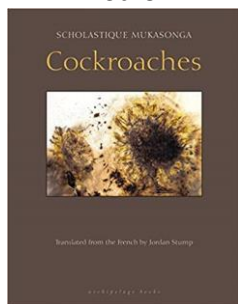
For her most recent work and first novel - *Notre-Dame du Nil*, originally published in March 2012 with Gallimard in French - Mukasonga immerses us in a school for young girls, called "Notre-Dame du Nil." The girls are sent to this high school perched on the ridge of the Nile in order to become the feminine elite of the country and to escape the dangers of the outside world. The book is a prelude to the Rwandan genocide and unfolds behind the closed doors of the school, in the interminable rainy season. Friendships, desires, hatred, political fights, incitation to racial violence, persecutions... The school soon becomes a fascinating existential microcosm of the true 1970s Rwanda.

Scholastique Mukasonga
The Barefoot Woman
2018
Fiction



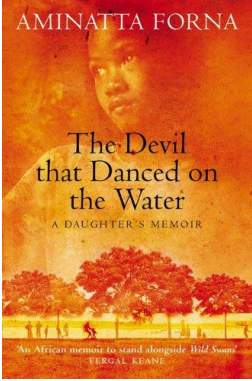
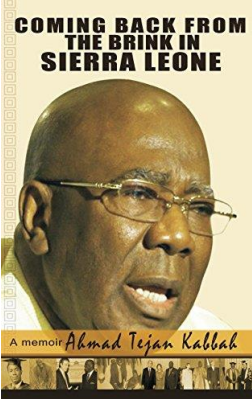
A moving, unforgettable tribute to a Tutsi woman who did everything to protect her children from the Rwandan genocide, by the daughter who refuses to let her family's story be forgotten. The story of the author's mother, a fierce, loving woman who for years protected her family from the violence encroaching upon them in pre-genocide Rwanda. Recording her memories of their life together in spare, wrenching prose, Mukasonga preserves her mother's voice in a haunting work of art.

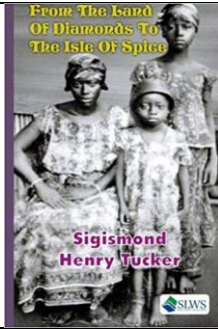
Scholastique Mukasonga
Cockroaches
2016
Fiction



Imagine being born into a world where everything about you—the shape of your nose, the look of your hair, the place of your birth—designates you as an undesirable, an inferior, a menace, no better than a cockroach, something to be driven away and ultimately exterminated. Imagine being thousands of miles away while your family and friends are brutally and methodically slaughtered. Imagine being entrusted by your parents with the mission of leaving everything you know and finding some way to survive, in the name of your family and your people. Scholastique Mukasonga's *Cockroaches* is the story of growing up a Tutsi in Hutu-dominated Rwanda—the story of a happy child, a loving family, all wiped out in the genocide of 1994. A vivid, bitter-sweet depiction of family life and bond in a time of immense hardship, it is also a story of incredible endurance, and the duty to remember that loss and those lost while somehow carrying on. Sweet, funny, wrenching, and deeply moving, *Cockroaches* is a window onto an unforgettable world of love, grief, and horror.

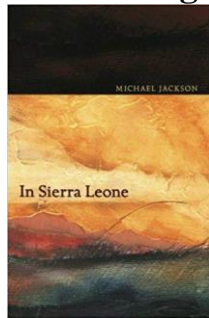
SIERRA LEONE

<p>Aminatta Forna <i>The Devil That Danced on the Water: A Daughter's Quest</i> 2002 Nonfiction - Biography</p> 	<p>Aminatta Forna's intensely personal history is a passionate and vivid account of an African childhood – of an idyll that became a nightmare. As a child she witnessed the upheavals of post-colonial Africa, the bitterness of exile in Britain and the terrible consequences of her dissident father's stand against tyranny. Mohamed Forna, a man of unimpeachable integrity and great charisma, was a new star in the political firmament Sierra Leone as the country faced its future as a fledgling democracy. Always a political firebrand, he was one of the first black students to come to Britain after the war. In Aberdeen he stole the heart of Aminatta's mother, to the dismay of her Presbyterian parents, and returned with her to Sierra Leone. But the new ways of Western parliamentary democracy were tearing old Africa apart, giving rise only to dictatorships and corruption of hitherto undreamed-of magnitude. It was not long before Aminatta's father languished in jail as a prisoner of conscience, and there was worse to come. Aminatta's search for the truth that shaped both her childhood and the nation's destiny begins among the country's elite and takes her into the heart of rebel territory. Determined to break the silence surrounding her father's fate, she ultimately uncovered a conspiracy that penetrated the highest reaches of government and forced the nation's politicians and judiciary to confront their guilt.</p>
<p>Ahmad Tejan Kabbah <i>Coming Back from the Brink in Sierra Leone</i> 2010 Nonfiction-Memoir</p> 	<p>This book tells the remarkable story of President Ahmad Tejan Kabbah's courage and the resilience of the people of Sierra Leone in the face of horrendous atrocities committed during a decade-long conflict. It is also a narrative of survival and recovery, forgiveness, reconciliation and the struggle to rebuild Sierra Leone and uphold its legacy as a beacon of democracy on the African Continent.</p>
<p>Sigismond H. Tucker <i>From the Land of Diamonds to the Isle of Spice</i> 2013 Nonfiction - Biography</p>	<p>From the Land of Diamonds to the Isle of Spice is a first book by the author in which he tells a compelling story about his family connections between Sierra Leone and the Congo. Through his personal friendships whilst growing up in Freetown, he introduces the reader to various significant political events in the history of his country, its customs and traditions, drawing attention to falling standards over the years. His marriage of destiny to JOan Celestine from Grenada provides the material for the second part of the title of this fascinating</p>



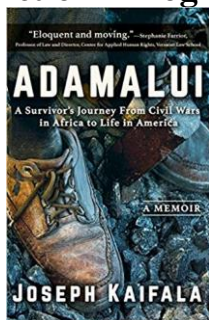
tale but saddened deeply by the unexpected passing of their son Joe at the age of 32.

Michael Jackson
In Sierra Leone
Nonfiction - Biography



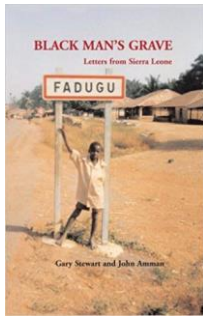
In 2002, as Sierra Leone prepared to announce the end of its brutal civil war, the distinguished anthropologist, poet, and novelist Michael Jackson returned to the country where he had intermittently lived and worked as an ethnographer since 1969. While his initial concern was to help his old friend Sewa Bockarie (S. B.) Marah—a prominent figure in Sierra Leonean politics—write his autobiography, Jackson’s experiences during his stay led him to create a more complex work: *In Sierra Leone*, a beautifully rendered mosaic integrating S. B.’s moving stories with personal reflections, ethnographic digressions, and meditations on history and violence. Though the Revolutionary United Front (R.U.F.) ostensibly fought its war (1991–2002) against corrupt government, the people of Sierra Leone were its victims. By the time the war was over, more than fifty thousand were dead, thousands more had been maimed, and over one million were displaced. Jackson relates the stories of political leaders and ordinary people trying to salvage their lives and livelihoods in the aftermath of cataclysmic violence. Combining these with his own knowledge of African folklore, history, and politics and with S. B.’s bittersweet memories—of his family’s rich heritage, his imprisonment as a political detainee, and his position in several of Sierra Leone’s post-independence governments—Jackson has created a work of elegiac, literary, and philosophical power

Joseph Kaifala
Adamalui: A Survivor's
Journey from Civil Wars
in Africa to Life in
America
2018
Nonfiction - Biography



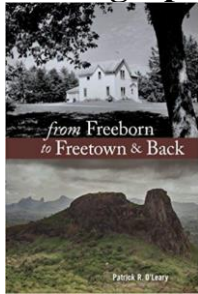
As a survivor of the devastating civil wars in Sierra Leone and Liberia, Joseph Kaifala recounts the harrowing details of an early life punctuated by unimaginable violence and his journey to survival that eventually led him to the United States. Told with humility and grace, *Adamalui* is the true story of one man's unshakable faith, thirst for knowledge, and indomitable will. Kaifala's experiences as a child prisoner and refugee are told through a series of flashbacks as he endeavors to attain a visa to attend college in America. His memories of the death and destruction that he and his family witnessed while attempting to avoid the violence rampant in impoverished West Africa are written with amazing clarity by a man on a mission to chart a way forward for himself and the others who would follow in his steps.

Gary Stewart and John Amman
Black Man's Grave: Letters From Sierra Leone
2007
Nonfiction



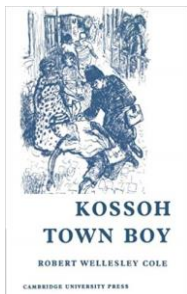
Black Man's Grave chronicles the hijacking of Sierra Leone's fledgling democracy by corrupt politicians, the plundering of the country's diamonds, and the rise of the notorious Revolutionary United Front. Based on letters from villagers to the authors, both former Peace Corps Volunteers in Sierra Leone, the book exposes 'big man' Siaka Stevens, warlord Charles Taylor, and rebel leader Foday Sankoh.

Patrick O'Leary
From Freeborn to Freetown & Back
2016
Nonfiction -
Autobiography



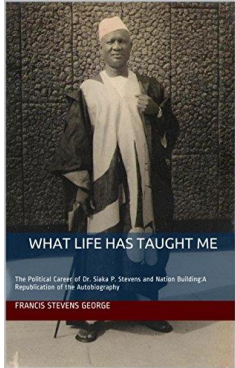
When twenty-two year old Patrick O'Leary stepped off the plane in Sierra Leone, West Africa in January 1967, he was dressed for the snow storm he had left in Freeborn County, Minnesota a few days earlier. It didn't take long for him to realize his rural Catholic upbringing, training for Tanzania, his original Peace Corps assignment and an earlier road trip to Key West Florida--in a Cadillac hearse--had only partially prepared him for two years living alone in the village of Binkolo. Before being evicted from the village, O'Leary was befriended by the local Chief. In spite of time distance, and war, they maintained a relationship for over forty years. Working to interpret and understand his Peace Corps experience, Patrick returned to Sierra Leone in 2004. He was pleased to see old friends, but dismayed by what had become of the country. From Freeborn to Freetown & Back reflects on treasured memories, and divergent but connected lives.

Robert Wellesley Cole
Kossoh Town Boy
1960
Nonfiction



Originally published in 1960, Kossoh Town Boy is the boyhood story of an African surgeon. The first African to be elected a Fellow of the Royal College of Surgeons of England, and a key figure in the independence movement of his country, he looks back on the days of his childhood in Freetown, Sierra Leone. It is a delightful story, told simply, frankly and with humour. We see step by step how 'that boy, with his rough edges, his foibles and nuances, his grimaces and gaucheries', was gradually moulded by his parents and teachers, until he developed qualities of leadership.

Francis Stevens George
What Life Has Taught Me: The Political Career of Dr. Siaka P. Stevens and Nation Building: A Republication of the Autobiography
2014
Nonfiction - Autobiography



Dr. Siaka Probyn Stevens was the third Prime Minister of Sierra Leone from 1967 to 1971 and the first Executive president of Sierra Leone from 1971 to 1986. Siaka Stevens died on May 29, 1988. In 1985, one year before he retired from office, Dr. Siaka Probyn Stevens published his Autobiography- 'What Life Has Taught Me'. What Life Has Taught Me is in part a political history of Sierra Leone and in part the story of a self-made man. This is a republication of the autobiography of my grandfather. This republication is in two parts. Part I covers the political career of Dr. Stevens and his role in shaping the political landscape of modern Sierra Leone. Part II covers his early childhood, growing up, education, surviving the depression, and his first job. There is much in these pages to interest anyone — thoughts about the temptations of corruption, views on ideologies, and free speech. Siaka Stevens talks about his supporters and his opponents. He remembers the first Prime Minister, Sir Milton Margai, with reverence and respect — even when he reflects on his imprisonment during that period. Perhaps most revealing of Stevens (and especially interesting to scholars for its new information and perspectives) is his assessment of the military, attempts on his life, coups he tried to forestall by gentle warnings to potential perpetrators, those that were attempted and failed, as well as the one that succeeded in 1967. Stevens brings this period vividly to life and in the process poses difficult questions about how one controls a military bent on intervention in political affairs. Siaka Stevens has been more successful than many political leaders in this regard and as such his thoughts, concerns, and actions are particularly important. This book is important in addition because it reveals much more than the life of Siaka Stevens. It is also about the process of development, decolonization, and the dynamics of nation building.

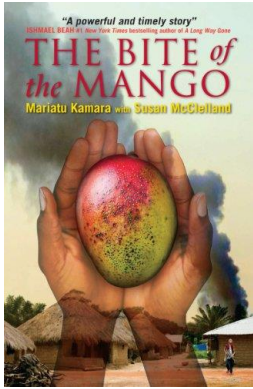
Sam P. Jalloh
How Tennis Saved My Life: Play Tennis Not War: My True Life Story
2019
Nonfiction-Biography



In this fascinating, true story, 'How Tennis Saved My Life', Sam gives a mind-blowing account of his experiences during the war. He takes us on a gripping journey from his birth to manhood, through experiences, ranging from extreme despair to heart-warming triumph. Sam's story combines his wisdom and insight into finding the strength to pull through life's challenges and will resonate with anyone facing an obstacle, no matter how big or small. Today, Sam enjoys his career as an International Tennis Coach touring with players from all over the world. As a physical, nutritional and mental coach, he plumbs his own experiences of adversity and precarious survival to inspire his students, and his readers, to succeed. Across three continents, Europe, Africa and Australia, Sam's motivational presentations hearten and exhilarate people of all ages with reflections on his life's journey, his family and how tennis saved his life.

Mariatu Kamara
The Bite of the Mango
2018
Non-Fiction Biography

As a child in a small rural village in Sierra Leone, Mariatu Kamara lived peacefully surrounded by family and friends. Rumors of rebel attacks were no more than a distant worry. But when 12-year-old Mariatu set out for a neighboring village, she never



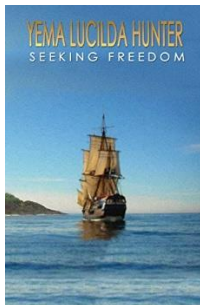
arrived. Heavily armed rebel soldiers, many no older than children themselves, attacked and tortured Mariatu. During this brutal act of senseless violence they cut off both her hands. Stumbling through the countryside, Mariatu miraculously survived. The sweet taste of a mango, her first food after the attack, reaffirmed her desire to live, but the challenge of clutching the fruit in her bloodied arms reinforced the grim new reality that stood before her. With no parents or living adult to support her and living in a refugee camp, she turned to begging in the streets of Freetown. As told to her by Mariatu, journalist Susan McClelland has written the heartbreaking true story of the brutal attack, its aftermath and Mariatu's eventual arrival in Toronto where she began to pull together the pieces of her broken life with courage, astonishing resilience and hope.

Yema Lucilda Hunter
Redemption Song
 2012
 Fiction



War comes to a tiny west African country, with tragic consequences for two teenage boys, Samu and Emmanuel. However, in the case of Emmanuel, all is certainly not doom and gloom. The story of the war and Samus part in it is interwoven with excerpts from a journal in which Emmanuel recounts his experiences of growing up, as well as of the war and its effects on his life.

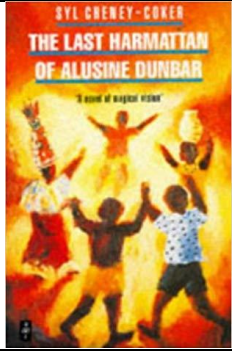
Yema Lucilda Hunter
Seeking Freedom
 1982
 Fiction



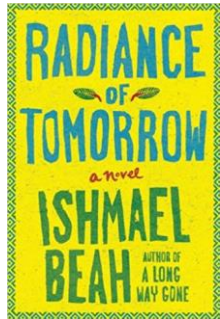
This is the story of former African slaves who were persuaded to fight on the side of the British in the American War of Independence and after their defeat migrated to Nova Scotia. Seeking a better life and more meaningful freedom in 1792, over one thousand of them left Nova Scotia to resettle in West Africa, with the support of a company formed by British philanthropists. Freetown, the colony they founded, later became the capital of Sierra Leone. Told from the point of view of one of the settlers, Seeking Freedom is the stirring tale of their return to Africa, and of their struggles to realize their hopes in a trying climate, amid sometimes hostile indigenes, unexpected dangers, and conflicts with officials of the company that sponsored them.

Syl Cheney-Coker
The Last Harmattan of Alusine Dunbar
 1990
 Fiction

In a chimerical world of illusion and truth, fired by a language that challenges the imagination, this book tells the story of a Sierra Leone-like country, from the time of the freed black American slaves who returned to Africa.

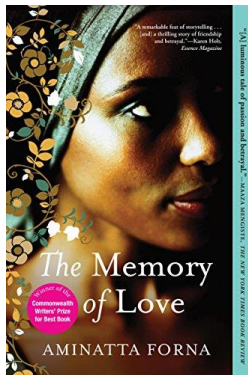


Ishmael Beah
Radiance of Tomorrow
2014
Fiction



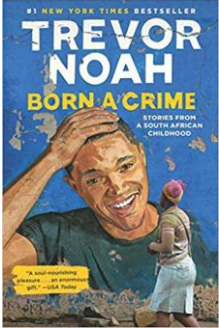
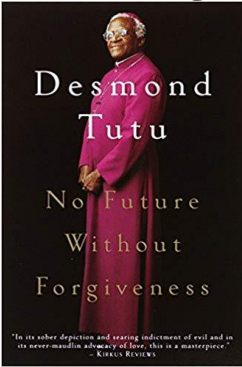
So begins *Radiance of Tomorrow*, Ishmael Beah's first novel, one dogged by memories of horror but glimmering with an improbable hope. When Beah's memoir, *A Long Way Gone*, was published in 2007, it soared to the top of bestseller lists, becoming an instant classic: a harrowing account of Sierra Leone's civil war and the fate of child soldiers that "everyone in the world should read" (Carolyn See, *The Washington Post*). Now Beah, whom Dave Eggers has called "arguably the most read African writer in contemporary literature," has returned with an affecting, tender parable about postwar life in those regions of Africa still reeling from conflict. At the center of *Radiance of Tomorrow* are Benjamin and Bockarie, two longtime friends who return to their hometown, Imperi, after a devastating civil war. The village is in ruins, the ground covered in bones and drenched in deep despair. The war may be over, but the denizens of Imperi are not spared the dangers that hover over them, menacing as vengeful ghosts. As more villagers begin to come back, Benjamin and Bockarie try to forge a new community by taking up their former posts as teachers, but they're beset by obstacles: a scarcity of food; a rash of murders, thievery, rape, and retaliation; and the depredations of a foreign mining company intent on sullyng the town's water supply and blocking its paths with electric wires. As Benjamin and Bockarie search for a way to restore order, they're forced to reckon with the uncertainty of their past and future alike.

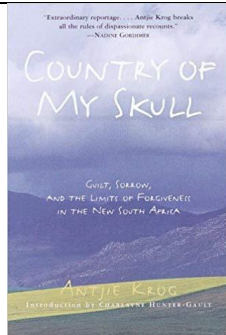
Aminatta Forna
The Memory of Love
2010
Fiction



Winner of the Commonwealth Writers' Prize for Best Book
As a decade of civil war and political unrest comes to a devastating close, three men must reconcile themselves to their own fate and the fate of their broken nation. For Elias Cole, this means reflecting on his time as a young scholar in 1969 and the affair that defined his life. For Adrian Lockheart, it means listening to Elias's tale and following his own heart into a heated romance. For Elias's doctor, Kai Mansaray, it's desperately battling his nightmares by trying to heal his patients. As each man's story becomes inexorably bound with the others', they discover that they are connected not only by their shared heritage, pain, and shame, but also by one remarkable woman. *The Memory of Love* is a beautiful and ambitious exploration of the influence history can have on generations, and the shared cultural burdens that each of us inevitably face.

SOUTH AFRICA

<p style="text-align: center;">Trevor Noah <i>Born a Crime</i> 2016 Nonfiction - Biography</p> 	<p>Trevor Noah's unlikely path from apartheid South Africa to the desk of The Daily Show began with a criminal act: his birth. Trevor was born to a white Swiss father and a black Xhosa mother at a time when such a union was punishable by five years in prison. Living proof of his parents' indiscretion, Trevor was kept mostly indoors for the earliest years of his life, bound by the extreme and often absurd measures his mother took to hide him from a government that could, at any moment, steal him away. Finally liberated by the end of South Africa's tyrannical white rule, Trevor and his mother set forth on a grand adventure, living openly and freely and embracing the opportunities won by a centuries-long struggle. <i>Born a Crime</i> is the story of a mischievous young boy who grows into a restless young man as he struggles to find himself in a world where he was never supposed to exist. It is also the story of that young man's relationship with his fearless, rebellious, and fervently religious mother—his teammate, a woman determined to save her son from the cycle of poverty, violence, and abuse that would ultimately threaten her own life.</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">Desmond Tutu <i>No Future Without Forgiveness</i> 1999 Nonfiction- Biography</p> 	<p>The establishment of South Africa's Truth and Reconciliation Commission was a pioneering international event. Never had any country sought to move forward from despotism to democracy both by exposing the atrocities committed in the past and achieving reconciliation with its former oppressors. At the center of this unprecedented attempt at healing a nation has been Archbishop Desmond Tutu, whom President Nelson Mandela named as Chairman of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission. With the final report of the Commission just published, Archbishop Tutu offers his reflections on the profound wisdom he has gained by helping usher South Africa through this painful experience.</p> <p>In <i>No Future Without Forgiveness</i>, Tutu argues that true reconciliation cannot be achieved by denying the past. But nor is it easy to reconcile when a nation "looks the beast in the eye." Rather than repeat platitudes about forgiveness, he presents a bold spirituality that recognizes the horrors people can inflict upon one another, and yet retains a sense of idealism about reconciliation. With a clarity of pitch born out of decades of experience, Tutu shows readers how to move forward with honesty and compassion to build a newer and more humane world.</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">Antjie Krog <i>Country of My Skull: Guilt, Sorrow, and the Limits of Forgiveness in the New South Africa</i> 1998 Nonfiction –Biography</p>	<p>Ever since Nelson Mandela dramatically walked out of prison in 1990 after twenty-seven years behind bars, South Africa has been undergoing a radical transformation. In one of the most miraculous events of the century, the oppressive system of apartheid was dismantled. Repressive laws mandating separation of the races were thrown out. The country, which had been carved into a crazy quilt that reserved the most prosperous areas for whites and the most desolate and backward for blacks, was reunited. The dreaded and dangerous security force, which for years had systematically tortured, spied upon, and harassed people of color and their white supporters, was dismantled.</p>

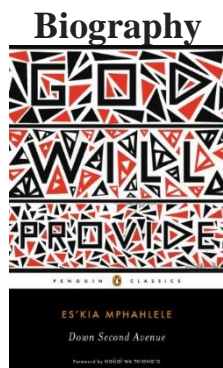


But how could this country--one of spectacular beauty and promise--come to terms with its ugly past? How could its people, whom the oppressive white government had pitted against one another, live side by side as friends and neighbors?

To begin the healing process, Nelson Mandela created the Truth and Reconciliation Commission, headed by the renowned cleric Archbishop Desmond Tutu. Established in 1995, the commission faced the awesome task of hearing the testimony of the victims of apartheid as well as the oppressors. Amnesty was granted to those who offered a full confession of any crimes associated with apartheid. Since the commission began its work, it has been the central player in a drama that has riveted the country. In this book, Antjie Krog, a South African journalist and poet who has covered the work of the commission, recounts the drama, the horrors, the wrenching personal stories of the victims and their families. Through the testimonies of victims of abuse and violence, from the appearance of Winnie Mandela to former South African president P. W. Botha's extraordinary courthouse press conference, this award-winning poet leads us on an amazing journey.

Country of My Skull captures the complexity of the Truth Commission's work. The narrative is often traumatic, vivid, and provocative. Krog's powerful prose lures the reader actively and inventively through a mosaic of insights, impressions, and secret themes. This compelling tale is Antjie Krog's profound literary account of the mending of a country that was in colossal need of change.

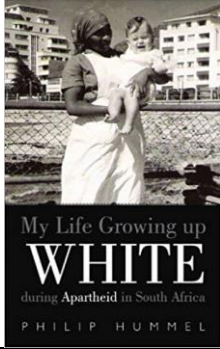
Es'kia Mphahlele
Down Second Avenue
1959



Nominated for the Nobel Prize in 1969, Es'kia Mphahlele is considered the Dean of African Letters and the father of black South African writing. *Down Second Avenue* is a landmark book that describes Mphahlele's experience growing up in segregated South Africa. Vivid, graceful, and unapologetic, it details a daily life of severe poverty and brutal police surveillance under the subjugation of an apartheid regime. Banned in South Africa after its original 1959 publication for its protest against apartheid, *Down Second Avenue* is a foundational work of literature that continues to inspire activists today.

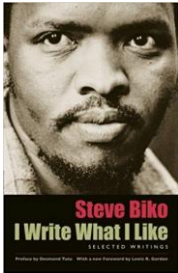
Philip Hummel
My Life Growing Up
White During Apartheid
In South Africa
2011
Nonfiction - Biography

This book is a short collection of memories about being white and living in South Africa during Apartheid. I wrote this book for the reader to easily understand what it was like to live in this environment. It is not a history lesson, but some personal experiences that I went through living in South Africa at the time. Living through apartheid I never even realized that it even existed, because we were brought up to believe that it was normal. Life was paradise for me and hell for others! Many of us did not know or care, and even if we did try to change the system, it would have resulted in prison or death. The other side of the coin is that I can't comprehend what the lives of most blacks was like, which was excruciatingly difficult, something that I didn't personally experience. Our



history books never taught us anything good about blacks. I can't remember ever learning anything positive that blacks did. What I did learn was that they were lazy, uneducated, dangerous, and drank a lot."Stay away from them, and if they bother you call the police." There were serious injustices in South Africa, and many black people suffered under the Apartheid Regime.

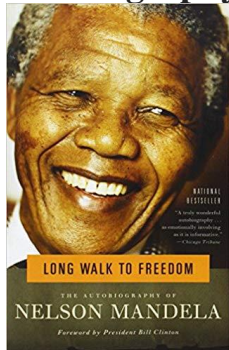
Steve Biko
I Write What I Like:
Selected Writings
1978
Nonfiction



"The most potent weapon in the hands of the oppressor is the mind of the oppressed." Like all of Steve Biko's writings, those words testify to the passion, courage, and keen insight that made him one of the most powerful figures in South Africa's struggle against apartheid. They also reflect his conviction that black people in South Africa could not be liberated until they united to break their chains of servitude, a key tenet of the Black Consciousness movement that he helped found.

I Write What I Like contains a selection of Biko's writings from 1969, when he became the president of the South African Students' Organization, to 1972, when he was prohibited from publishing. The collection also includes a preface by Archbishop Desmond Tutu; an introduction by Malusi and Thoko Mpumlwana, who were both involved with Biko in the Black Consciousness movement; a memoir of Biko by Father Aelred Stubbs, his longtime pastor and friend; and a new foreword by Professor Lewis Gordon.

Nelson Mandela
Long Walk to Freedom:
The Autobiography of
Nelson Mandela
1994
Nonfiction-
Autobiography

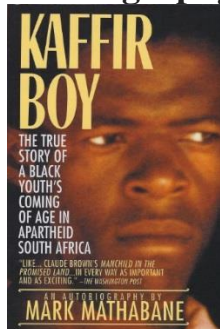


Nelson Mandela is one of the great moral and political leaders of our time: an international hero whose lifelong dedication to the fight against racial oppression in South Africa won him the Nobel Peace Prize and the presidency of his country. Since his triumphant release in 1990 from more than a quarter-century of imprisonment, Mandela has been at the center of the most compelling and inspiring political drama in the world. As president of the African National Congress and head of South Africa's antiapartheid movement, he was instrumental in moving the nation toward multiracial government and majority rule. He is revered everywhere as a vital force in the fight for human rights and racial equality.

LONG WALK TO FREEDOM is his moving and exhilarating autobiography, destined to take its place among the finest memoirs of history's greatest figures. Here for the first time, Nelson Rolihlahla Mandela tells the extraordinary story of his life--an epic of struggle, setback, renewed hope, and ultimate triumph.

Mark Mathabane
***Kaffir Boy: The True
Story of a Black Youth's
Coming of Age in
Apartheid South Africa***
1986

**Nonfiction -
Autobiography**



Mark Mathabane was weaned on devastating poverty and schooled in the cruel streets of South Africa's most desperate ghetto, where bloody gang wars and midnight police raids were his rites of passage. Like every other child born in the hopelessness of apartheid, he learned to measure his life in days, not years. Yet Mark Mathabane, armed only with the courage of his family and a hard-won education, raised himself up from the squalor and humiliation to cross the line between black and white and win a scholarship to an American university.

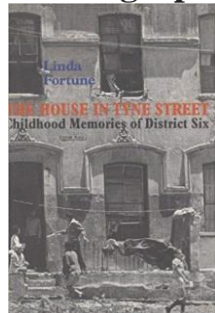
This extraordinary memoir of life under apartheid is itself a triumph of the human spirit over hatred and unspeakable degradation. For Mark Mathabane did what no physically and psychologically battered "Kaffir" from the rat-infested alleys of Alexandra was supposed to do - he escaped to tell about it. "Powerful, intense, inspiring." -- Publishers Weekly

Kaffir Boy won a Christopher Award for being inspiring and is on the American Library Association's List of Outstanding Books for the College-Bound and Lifelong Learners. It is the first widely published memoir written in English by a black South African. When it first appeared in 1986, the book stunned readers in much the same way the Frederick Douglass' 1845 slave narrative had, forcing many to rethink American support of South Africa's white political regime.

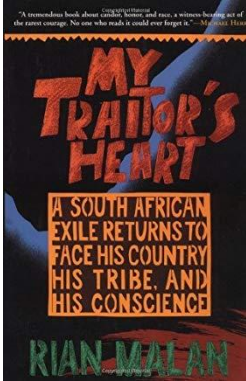
Kaffir Boy was written in the United States, where for the first time in his life Mathabane felt free to express his thoughts and feelings without fear of imprisonment. The author-narrator, Johannes, is trapped in a terrifying world that robbed him of his childhood and forced him into the role of protector and provider for his younger siblings at an early age.

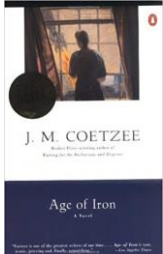
Linda Fortune
***The House in Tyne
Street: Childhood
Memories of District Six***
1996

**Nonfiction -
Autobiography**

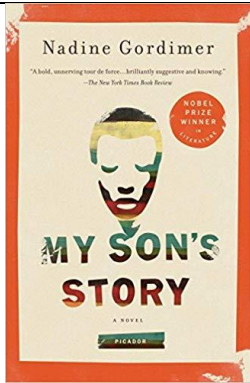


In the course of 27 short chapters, Linda Fortune draws a vivid picture of a place, time and lifestyle that no longer exist. This book never gets bogged down in politics. Instead, it succeeds in recreating a specific time and specific place with its focus firstly on one family in particular, warts and all. A bigger picture also emerges, that of a whole community: people teachers, shop-keepers, barbers, entertainers and specific places movie-houses, shops, streets and lanes still recalled by many who lived there. Eighteen black and white photographs by photographers such as Cloete Breytenbach, J H Greshoff, George Hallet and Noor Ebrahim, and family snapshots from Linda's own collection, adds to the value of The House in Tyne Street as a recreation of and testament to the District.

<p>Rian Malan <i>My Traitor's Heart: Blood and Bad Dreams: A South African Explores the Madness in His Country, His Tribe and Himself</i> 1990 Nonfiction - Autobiography</p> 	<p>The book describes Malan's experience of growing up in <u>Apartheid</u>-era South Africa.</p>
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<p>John Maxwell Coetzee <i>Age of Iron</i> 1990 Fiction</p> 	<p>In Cape Town, South Africa, an old woman is dying of cancer. A classics professor, Mrs. Curren has been opposed to the lies and brutality of apartheid all her life, but has lived insulated from its true horrors. Now she is suddenly forced to come to terms with the iron-hearted rage that the system has wrought. In an extended letter addressed to her daughter, who has long since fled to America, Mrs. Curren recounts the strange events of her dying days. She witnesses the burning of a nearby black township and discovers the bullet-riddled body of her servant's son. A teenage black activist hiding in her house is killed by security forces. And through it all, her only companion, the only person to whom she can confess her mounting anger and despair, is a homeless man, an alcoholic, who one day appears on her doorstep.</p>
<p>John Maxwell Coetzee <i>Disgrace</i> 2000 Fiction</p>	<p>At fifty-two, Professor David Lurie is divorced, filled with desire, but lacking in passion. When an affair with a student leaves him jobless, shunned by friends, and ridiculed by his ex-wife, he retreats to his daughter Lucy's smallholding. David's visit becomes an extended stay as he attempts to find meaning in his one remaining relationship. Instead, an incident of unimaginable terror and violence forces father and daughter to confront their strained relationship and the equality complicated racial complexities of the new South Africa.</p> <p>Review “Disgrace is not a hard or obscure book—it is, among other things, compulsively readable—but what it may well be is an authentically spiritual</p>

	<p>document, a lament for the soul of a disgraced century.”—The New Yorker “Mr. Coetzee, in prose lean yet simmering with feeling, has indeed achieved a lasting work: a novel as haunting and powerful as Albert Camus’s <i>The Stranger</i>.”—The Wall Street Journal</p>
<p>John Maxwell Coetzee <i>Life & Times of Michael K</i> K 1985 Fiction</p> 	<p>In a South Africa turned by war, Michael K. sets out to take his ailing mother back to her rural home. On the way there she dies, leaving him alone in an anarchic world of brutal roving armies. Imprisoned, Michael is unable to bear confinement and escapes, determined to live with dignity. This life affirming novel goes to the center of human experience—the need for an interior, spiritual life; for some connections to the world in which we live; and for purity of vision.</p> <p>Review “An outstanding achievement.” —Nadine Gordimer</p> <p>“A major work of crystalline intensity.” —Los Angeles Times</p> <p>“So purifying to the senses that one comes away feeling that one's eye has been sharpened, one's hearing vivified.” —The New York Times Book Review</p>
<p>Nadine Gordimer <i>July's People</i> 1981 Fiction</p> 	<p>For years, it had been what is called a “deteriorating situation.” Now all over South Africa the cities are battlegrounds. The members of the Smales family—liberal whites—are rescued from the terror by their servant, July, who leads them to refuge in his village. What happens to the Smaleses and to July—the shifts in character and relationships—gives us an unforgettable look into the terrifying, tacit understandings and misunderstandings between blacks and whites.</p> <p>“So flawlessly written that every one of its events seems chillingly, ominously possible.”—Anne Tyler, <i>The New York Times Book Review</i></p>
<p>Nadine Gordimer <i>My Son's Story</i> 1990 Fiction</p>	<p>When Will skips school to slip off to a movie theater near Johannesburg, he is shocked to see his father. An ordinary mishap, but his father is no ordinary man. He is a "colored" and revered anti-apartheid hero, and his female companion is a white activist fiercely dedicated to the cause. As Will struggles with confusion</p>



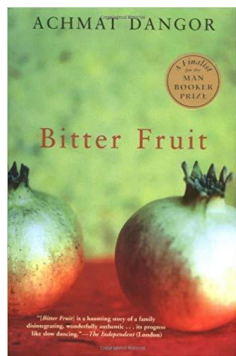
and bitterness, *My Son's Story* unravels the consequences of one man's infidelity as a new South Africa violently emerges from the apartheid.

"Gordimer has taken South Africa's tragedy and laid the truth of it in our laps. The story she tell sis lucid and achingly alive."—The Boston Sunday Globe

“Gordimer has taken South Africa's tragedy and laid the truth of it in our laps. The story she tells is lucid and achingly alive.” —The Boston Sunday Globe

“Although all of Gordimer's novels are written from a political point of view-- as an opponent of apartheid and all its work--her intelligence is too subtle, her imagination too exact, to allow her to produce a merely political novel . . . My Son's Story maintains the finest balance of sympathies.” —The Independent (London)

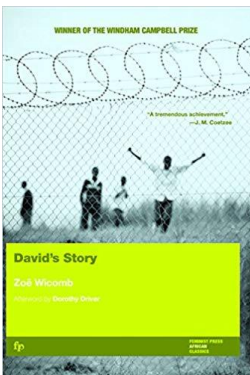
Achmat Dangor
Bitter Fruit
2001
Fiction



The last time Silas Ali encountered Lieutenant Du Boise, Silas was locked in the back of a police van and the lieutenant was conducting a vicious assault on Silas's wife, Lydia, in revenge for her husband's participation in Nelson Mandela's African National Congress. When Silas sees Du Boise by chance twenty years later, as the Truth and Reconciliation Commission is about to deliver its report, crimes from the past erupt into the present, splintering the Alis' fragile peace. Meanwhile Silas and Lydia's son, Mikey, a thoroughly contemporary young hip-hop lothario, contends in unforeseen ways with his parents' pasts.

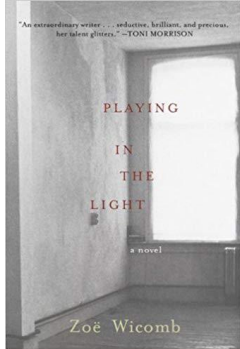
A harrowing story of a brittle family on the crossroads of history and a fearless skewering of the pieties of revolutionary movements, *Bitter Fruit* is a cautionary tale of how we do, or do not, address the past's deepest wounds.

Zoë Wicomb
David's Story
2002
Political Fiction



Unfolding in South Africa at the moment of Nelson Mandela's release from prison in 1991, the novel explores the life and vision of David Dirkse, part of the underground world of activists, spies, and saboteurs in the liberation movement—a world seldom revealed to outsiders. With "time to think" after the unbanning of the movement, David is researching his roots in the history of the mixed-race "Coloured" people of South Africa and of their antecedents among the indigenous people and early colonial settlers. But David soon learns that he is on a hit list, and, caught in a web of betrayal and surveillance, he is forced to rethink his role in the struggle for "nonracial democracy," the loyalty of his "comrades," and his own conceptions of freedom. Through voices and stories of David and the women who surround him—responding to, illuminating, and sometimes contradicting one another—Wicomb offers a moving exploration of the nature of political vision, memory, and truth.

Zoë Wicomb
Playing in the Light
2008
Fiction



Set in a beautifully rendered 1990s Cape Town, celebrated novel revolves around Marion Campbell, who runs a travel agency but hates traveling, and who, in post-apartheid society, must negotiate the complexities of a knotty relationship with Brenda, her first black employee. As Alison McCulloch noted in the *New York Times*, "Wicomb deftly explores the ghastly soup of racism in all its unglory ; denial, tradition, habit, stupidity, fear and manages to do so without moralizing or becoming formulaic." Caught in the narrow world of private interests and self-advancement, Marion eschews national politics until the Truth and Reconciliation Commission throws up information that brings into question not only her family's past but her identity and her rightful place in contemporary South African society. "Stylistically nuanced and psychologically astute" (*Kirkus*), *Playing in the Light* is as powerful in its depiction of Marion's personal journey as it is in its depiction of South Africa's bizarre, brutal history.

Gillian Slovo's
Red Dust
2000
Fiction

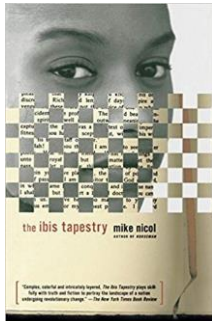


"Written with the pace of a thriller"—*Times Literary Supplement*. *Red Dust* is set in a rural South African town, where three people are about to meet their past. Sarah Barcant has left her law career in New York to assist an old friend as prosecutor on a Truth Commission hearing. Dirk Hendricks, a former police deputy, is being taken in handcuffs to the station where he once worked. There he will confront Alex Mpondo, the man he had tortured, who is now an MP.

Review

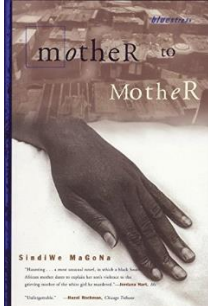
A piercingly revealing light on...the unspeakable bond between political police interrogator and victim. -- *Nadine Gordimer*

Mike Nicol
The Ibis Tapestry
1999
Political Fiction



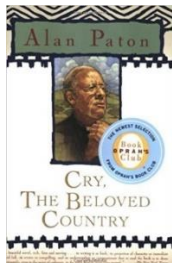
Who was Christo Mercer, and why was he brutally stabbed to death in a remote Saharan town? For Robert Poley, an unhappy writer of political thrillers, the welcome distraction posed by this question has become an obsession. With the mysterious delivery of a laptop computer and a cryptic E-mail message, he finds himself slowly entwined in the vagaries that constituted Mercer's life and death. An illegal-arms trader haunted by his nightmares, his past, and his clandestine involvement with a ruthless rebel-- and with Christopher Marlowe's Tamburlaine the Great --Mercer lived on the grand stage of history, yet remained obscured by shadows until his seemingly fated demise. Now, piece by piece, in a complex web of social, political, personal, and fictional disclosures, the intricacies of Mercer's troubled psyche begin to reveal a pattern as corrupt as South Africa's in the aftermath of apartheid-- years of judicial inquiry, the Truth Commission, and continued social unrest. With alchemical bravura, Mike Nicol turns history into fiction and fiction into history, bringing to allegorical life the haunting story of a murder emblematic of South Africa's recent past.

Sindiwe Magona
Mother to Mother
1999
Psychological Fiction



Sindiwe Magona's novel *Mother to Mother* explores the South African legacy of apartheid through the lens of a woman who remembers a life marked by oppression and injustice. Magona decided to write this novel when she discovered that Fulbright Scholar Amy Biehl, who had been killed while working to organize the nation's first ever democratic elections in 1993, died just a few yards away from her own permanent residence in Guguletu, Capetown. She then learned that one of the boys held responsible for the killing was in fact her neighbor's son. Magona began to imagine how easily it might have been her own son caught up in the wave of violence that day. The book is based on this real-life incident, and takes the form of an epistle to Amy Biehl's mother. The murderer's mother, Mandisi, writes about her life, the life of her child, and the colonized society that not only allowed, but perpetuated violence against women and impoverished black South Africans under the reign of apartheid.

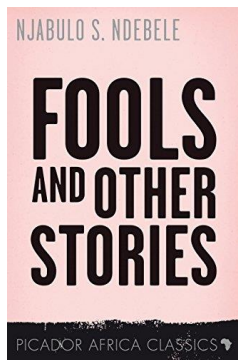
Alan Paton
Cry, the Beloved Country
1987
Political fiction



Cry, the beloved country, for the unborn child that is the inheritor of our fear. Let him not love the earth too deeply. Let him not laugh too gladly when the water runs through his fingers, nor stand too silent when the setting sun makes red the veld with fire. Let him not be too moved when the birds of his land are singing, nor give too much of his heart to a mountain or valley. For fear will rob him of all if he gives too much.

Cry, the Beloved Country is the deeply moving story of the Zulu pastor Stephen Kumalo and his son, Absalom, set against the background of a land and a people riven by racial injustice. Remarkable for its lyricism, unforgettable for character and incident, *Cry, the Beloved Country* is a classic work of love and hope, courage and endurance, born of the dignity of man.

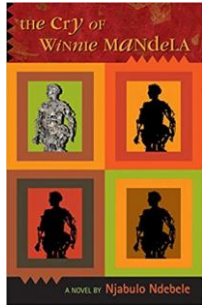
Njabulo S. Ndebele
Fools and Other Stories
1983
Fiction



Fools and Other Stories is an intricate and subtle collection that deals with the formative experiences of growing up in a Johannesburg township during the apartheid years. 'Fools', the title story of the collection, is a tale of generations in the struggle against oppression. Zamani, a disgraced middle-aged teacher and Zani, a young student activist, are inadvertently bound together by affection and hostility in an intense and unpredictable relationship. Finding each other means finding common ground of their struggle. It also means re-examining their lives – and notably, their relationships with women. 'The Test', 'The Prophetess', 'The Music of the Violin' describe an act of courage and endurance; a close encounter with an awe-inspiring old woman; a choice which must be made between the narrow ambitions of middle-class parents and the challenge of the township streets. 'Uncle' celebrates the gift of one generation to another: a gift that mingles music with other adventures of the spirit, recklessness with resourcefulness, and laughter with wisdom.

The reissue of, arguably, Ndebele's most famous work confirms his position as one of South African's premier short story writers. None of the stories is diminished by time and remain as compelling as when the first made their appearance. A must-read, especially for those with an interest in story-telling of the highest order.

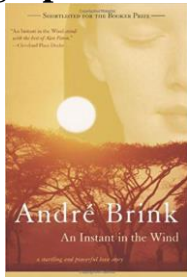
Njabulo S. Ndebele
The Cry Of Winnie Mandela
2003
Political fiction



A group of African women at a specific period in Southern Africa's history find their family life under pressure from capitalist modernity and apartheid. This is a deeply humane, sympathetic and generous book on the one hand but is unflinching in its honesty. Ndebele represents a rare breed of writer able to combine political awareness with a sensitivity towards context, language and characterization.

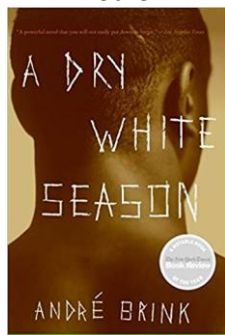
The result is a gift offering to the present. This is one of the best books about women's sacrifices and contributions to the struggle against apartheid.

Andre Brink
An Instant in the Wind
1975
Biographical Fiction



The year is 1749, when the Boers ruled South Africa. And so it has come to his Baas's final command to his Hottentot slave Adam, to flog his mother, because she refuses to prune the master's vineyard in order to attend her own beloved mother's funeral. And when he refuses to do so, and his Baas smashes his face with a piece of wood, Adam turns on him, and beats him almost to death. Then he flees to South Africa's veld. There he comes to the rescue of Elizabeth, a white woman, and the only person to survive her husband's expedition in the vast South African interior. Alone and terrified, she pleads with the runaway slave to bring her back to the Cape and her home. Adam agrees because he believes by rescuing Elizabeth, he will be awarded his own freedom. This, then is the stunning story of their trek together, how they find in each other their mutual need and humanity, and finally how their days together turn into an unforgettable, tender love story.

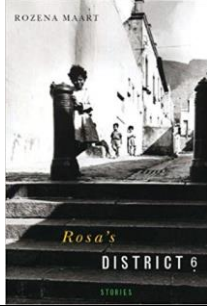
Andre Brink
A Dry White Season
1979
Fiction



As startling and powerful as when first published more than two decades ago, André Brink's classic novel, *A Dry White Season*, is an unflinching and unforgettable look at racial intolerance, the human condition, and the heavy price of morality.

Ben Du Toit is a white schoolteacher in suburban Johannesburg in a dark time of intolerance and state-sanctioned apartheid. A simple, apolitical man, he believes in the essential fairness of the South African government and its policies—until the sudden arrest and subsequent "suicide" of a black janitor from Du Toit's school. Haunted by new questions and desperate to believe that the man's death was a tragic accident, Du Toit undertakes an investigation into the terrible affair—a quest for the truth that will have devastating consequences for the teacher and his family, as it draws him into a lethal morass of lies, corruption, and murder.

<p>Zakes Mda <i>Ways of Dying</i> 1995 Fiction</p> 	<p>In <i>Ways of Dying</i>, Zakes Mda's acclaimed first novel, Toloki is a "professional mourner" in a vast and violent city of the new South Africa. Day after day he attends funerals in the townships, dressed with dignity in a threadbare suit, cape, and battered top hat, to comfort the grieving families of the victims of the city's crime, racial hatred, and crippling poverty. At a Christmas day funeral for a young boy Toloki is reunited with Noria, a woman from his village. Together they help each other to heal the past, and as their story interweaves with those of their acquaintances this elegant short novel provides a magical and painful picture of South Africa today. <i>Ways of Dying</i> was awarded South Africa's prestigious M-Net Book Prize, awarded by the TV channel M-Net to books written in one of South Africa's official languages, and was shortlisted for the Central News Agency (CNA) Award and the Noma Award, an Africa-wide prize founded by Shoichi Noma, onetime president of Kodansha International.</p>
<p>Es'kia Mphahlele <i>In Corner B</i> 1967 Fiction</p> 	<p>Originally published in 1967, <i>In Corner B</i> contains the core stories of the original editions, together with more recent pieces, and is the first new edition of Mphahlele's work since his death in 2008. Written after his return from exile, these stories inimitably capture life in both rural and urban South Africa during the days of apartheid. A new introduction by Peter Thuynsma, a South African scholar and former Mphahlele student, presents the "dean of African letters" to a new generation of readers.</p>
<p>Lauretta Ngcobo <i>And They Didn't Die</i> 1999 Fiction</p> 	<p>Drawing on firsthand experience, distinguished South African writer Lauretta Ngcobo depicts the lives of rural women in South Africa, paying homage to the extraordinary courage and remarkable endurance of these unsung heroines of the struggle against apartheid. Set in the barren Sabelweini Valley in the 1950s to 1980s, the novel centers around one young woman, Jezile, whose political consciousness deepens as state laws threaten her earnings and her land. Arrested along with hundreds of others and sentenced to six months hard labor in prison, Jezile returns home to find her child dying of starvation. When her husband is arrested for stealing milk to save the child, Jezile must fight to ensure her family's survival.</p>
<p>Rozena Maart <i>Rosa's District 6</i> 2004 Fiction</p>	<p>In Cape Town's District 6, despite the brutality of apartheid laws, the lives of people go on. In these five connected stories, the central character is a precocious little girl called Rosa. Through her adventures in the neighbourhood we come to meet and know the District and its many colourful inhabitants - Mamma Zila, Auntie Flowers, Mrs Hood and Uncle Peter - and their confusing, enigmatic lives, and all too human quirks.</p>



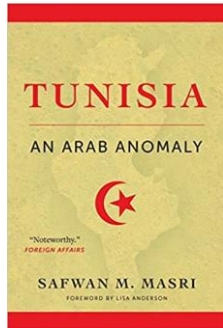
"'No Rosa, No District Six' is a terrifically ferocious story about a young girl's sudden education in the erotic lives of women." - *The Globe and Mail*

"... a writer in our midst with radical style and uncommon courage. The ability to engage the reader passionately in her narrator's experiences, which she demonstrates ... makes Maart a writer to watch." -*The Ottawa Citizen*

TUNISIA

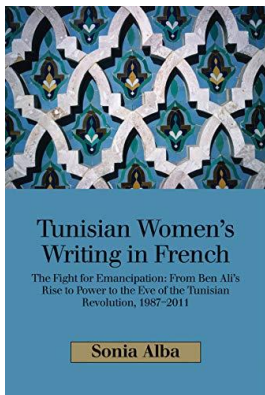
<p style="text-align: center;">Hatem M'rad <i>National Dialogue in Tunisia: Nobel Peace Prize 2015</i> Nonfiction</p> 	<p>The authentic dialogue, the compromises, the consensus which allowed Tunisia to overcome its political and institutional crisis. This book is the final product of an investigation launched in November 2014 and completed in July 2015. It has collected first-hand information from stakeholders involved in the national dialogue through 26 interviews with leaders and representatives of political parties, representatives of the Quartet, the mediators of dialogue (UGTT, UTICA, ONAT and LTDH) and figures from the political area who participated in the National Dialogue or have observed it from outside. These data were enhanced by the results of four Focus groups, held in Tunis, Bizerte, Sfax and Douz, designed to gather information on the perceptions of the National Dialogue from a small sample (32 people) of Tunisian opinion in different regions of the country, North and South. A record of a key step in the history of Tunisia</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">Jacob Abadi <i>Tunisia Since the Arab Conquest: The Saga of a Westernized Muslim State</i> 2013 Nonfiction</p> 	<p>This comprehensive history of Tunisia covers an essential period in the country's development, from the Arab conquest of the seventh century to the Jasmine Revolution and the fall of Ben Ali's regime in 2010. Tunisia since the Arab Conquest describes the evolution of the Tunisian state, its place in the Mediterranean basin and its contacts with the civilizations of that region. Beginning with the Arab conquest of AD 648-669, Dr. Jacob Abadi analyses the crucial events that shaped the country's history in the dynastic age. He then goes on to discuss the impact of the Ottoman conquest and the impact of the European competition in the Mediterranean on the development of the Tunisian state. Abadi provides a thorough coverage of the French conquest, and the French Protectorate and their impact on the country's development. He discusses Franco - Tunisian relations in a vivid manner, and explores the impact of the first and second World Wars on the country. Abadi then examines the Tunisian nationalist movement and the country's struggle for independence, assessing the impact of the main personalities who played a role in that movement. Tunisia's relations with France and the methods by which the country obtained its independence are discussed in great detail. The narrative continues with an analysis of the political, social, economic and cultural developments in Tunisia since its independence, including an in-depth analysis of the country's achievements and failures under the regimes of Habib Bourguiba and Ben Ali. Based on primary and secondary sources in Arabic, French, Italian, Hebrew and English this book will provide the reader with a comprehensive history of the country in one volume. It is essential reading for students and academics who wish to understand the formative years of the Tunisian state as well as the political developments, which took place after its independence.</p>

Safwan M. Masri
Tunisia: An Arab
Anomaly
2017
Nonfiction



The Arab Spring began and ended with Tunisia. In a region beset by brutal repression, humanitarian disasters, and civil war, Tunisia's Jasmine Revolution alone gave way to a peaceful transition to a functioning democracy. Within four short years, Tunisians passed a progressive constitution, held fair parliamentary elections, and ushered in the country's first-ever democratically elected president. But did Tunisia simply avoid the misfortunes that befell its neighbors, or were there particular features that set the country apart and made it a special case?

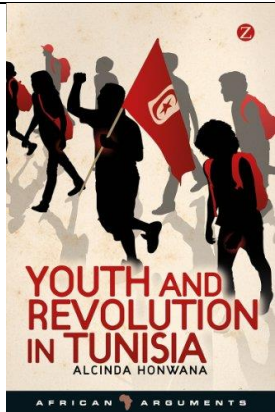
Sonia Alba
Tunisian Women's
Writing in French: The
Fight for Emancipation:
From Ben Ali's Rise to
Power to the Eve of the
Tunisian Revolution,
1987-2011
2019
Nonfiction



Tunisian women's literary production in French, published or set between the years 1987 and 2011 - from Tunisia's second president Zine El Abidine Ben Ali's rise to power to the eve of the Tunisian Revolution - reveals the role of women, their political engagement, and their resistance to patriarchal oppression. A great deal of media and scholarly attention has focused on the role of women during the Tunisian Revolution itself, yet few studies have considered women's literary and active engagement prior to the uprising. By contrast, this book focuses specifically on the time period leading to the Revolution. The book is structured around three chapters, each focusing on a different form of writing and on a number of contemporary Tunisian writers who have chosen to express themselves in French. Sonia Alba explores the complex ways in which the authors have attempted to deal with those issues - cultural, social and political - most relevant to them. This is the first study of Tunisian women's writing in French to compare and contrast key themes in three different genres within a single study and within the conceptual framework of subaltern counterpublics. The work is enhanced by the inclusion of extracts from previously unpublished authors' interviews. Tunisian Women's Writing in French is essential reading for all Francophone and Postcolonial scholars, and for scholars and students working in Contemporary Women's Writing.

Alcinda Honwana
Youth and Revolution in
Tunisia
2013
Nonfiction

The uprising in Tunisia has come to be seen as the first true revolution of the twenty-first century, one that kick-started the series of upheavals across the region now known as the Arab Spring. In this remarkable work, Alcinda Honwana goes beyond superficial accounts of what occurred to explore the defining role of the country's youth, and in particular the cyber activist. Drawing on fresh testimony from those who shaped events, the book describes



in detail the experiences of young activists through the 29 days of the revolution and the challenges they encountered after the fall of the regime and the dismantling of the ruling party. Now, as old and newly established political forces are moving into the political void created by Ben Ali's departure, tensions between the older and younger generations are sharpening. An essential account of an event that has inspired the world, and its potential repercussions for the Middle East, Africa and beyond.

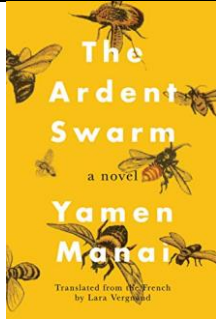
Monia Mazigh
Hope Has Two Daughters
 2017
 Fiction



A bracing and vividly told story set against the backdrops of the Tunisian Bread Riots in 1984 and the Jasmine Revolution in 2010, *Hope Has Two Daughters* offers a glimpse inside revolution from the perspectives of a mother and daughter. Unwilling to endure a culture of silence and submission, and disowned by her family, Nadia leaves her native Tunisia in 1984 amidst deadly violence, chaos, and rioting brought on by rising food costs, eventually emigrating to Canada to begin her life. More than twenty-five years later, Nadia's daughter Lila reluctantly travels to Tunisia to learn about her mother's birth country. While she's there, she connects with Nadia's childhood friends, Neila and Mounir. She uncovers agonizing truths about her mother's life as a teenager and imagines what it might have been like to grow up in fear of political instability and social unrest. As she is making these discoveries, protests over poor economic conditions and lack of political freedom are increasing, and soon, Lila finds herself in the midst of another revolution — one that will inflame the country and change the Arab world, and her, forever. Weaving together the voices of two women at two pivotal moments in history, the Tunisian Bread Riots in 1984 and the Jasmine Revolution in 2010, *Hope Has Two Daughters* is a vivid story that perfectly captures life inside revolution.

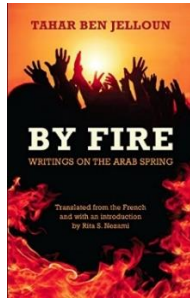
Yamen Manai
The Ardent Swarm
 2017
 Fiction

From an award-winning Tunisian author comes a stirring allegory about a country in the aftermath of revolution and the power of a single quest. Sidi lives a hermetic life as a bee whisperer, tending to his beloved "girls" on the outskirts of the desolate North African village of Nawa. He wakes one morning to find that something has attacked one of his beehives, brutally killing every inhabitant. Heartbroken, he soon learns that a mysterious swarm of vicious hornets committed the mass murder—but where did they come from, and how can he stop them? If he is going to unravel this mystery and save his bees from annihilation, Sidi must venture out into the village and then brave the big city and beyond in search of answers. Along the way, he discovers a country and a people turned upside down by their new post-Arab



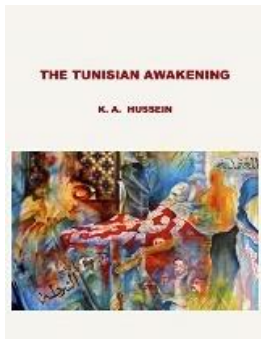
Spring reality as Islamic fundamentalists seek to influence votes any way they can on the eve of the country's first democratic elections. To succeed in his quest, and find a glimmer of hope to protect all that he holds dear, Sidi will have to look further than he ever imagined. In this brilliantly accessible modern-day parable, Yamen Manai uses a masterful blend of humor and drama to reveal what happens in a country shaken by revolutionary change after the world stops watching.

Tahar Ben Jelloun
By Fire: Writings on the Arab Spring
2016
Fiction



Tahar Ben Jelloun's *By Fire*, the first fictional account published on the Arab Spring, reimagines the true-life self-immolation of Mohamed Bouazizi in Tunisia, an event that has been credited with setting off the Tunisian revolt. The novella depicts the days leading up to Bouazizi's self-immolation. Ben Jelloun's deliberate ambiguity about the location of the story, set in an unnamed Islamic country, allows the reader to imagine the experiences and frustrations of other young men who have endured physical violence and persecution in places beyond Tunisia. The tale begins and ends in fire, and the imagery of burning frames the political accounts in *The Spark*, Ben Jelloun's nonfiction writings on the Tunisian events that provide insight into the despotic regimes that drove Bouazizi to such despair. Rita S. Nezami's elegant translations and critical introduction provide the reader with multiple strategies for approaching these potent texts.

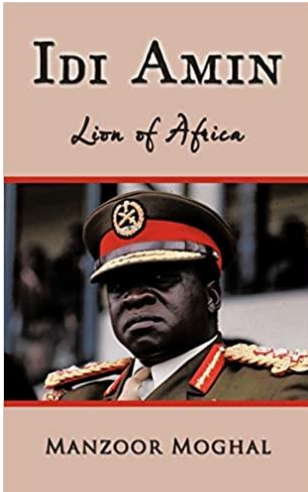
K.A. Hussein
The Tunisian Awakening
2012
Fiction



On December 17, 2010, a struggling young fruit vendor lit himself on fire outside of the local municipal building in the town of Sidi Bouzid, Tunisia. This final act of defiance sparked a popular uprising that ousted the President and inspired a sea change in the region, which would come to be known as the Arab Spring. Khalid Hussein documents the Tunisian Revolution of 2011 in this concise, comprehensive, and powerfully illustrated blow-by-blow account. This volume offers an informative introduction to the Arab uprisings, and visually stunning monument to a people's struggle for freedom.

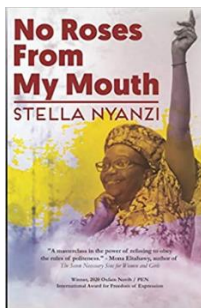
UGANDA

Manzoor Moghal
Idi Amin: Lion of Africa
2010
Nonfiction



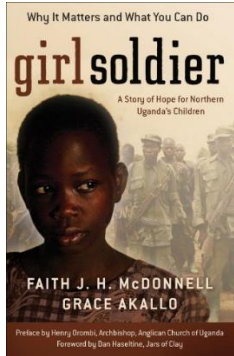
Idi Amin was no fool. Despite the numerous caricatures as a lunatic murderer he was a towering figure both in Uganda and the African continent, and he outwitted all his opponents until his downfall. When he came into power after having engineered a military coup to overthrow President Milton Obote, the nemesis of Britain, he was the darling of the West. He was lavishly praised for his bravery in ridding Uganda of a dictator who had increasingly become a thorn in Britain's side. But when he began to make demands on Britain to discharge its aid commitments to Uganda, the British chose to ridicule him for his 'buffoonery'. He turned instead to Libya for his immediate financial needs, and that was the beginning of both the widening gulf between Britain and Idi Amin, and also the establishment of a new dictator in Africa. He was an uneducated man, but he was deeply cunning and calculating. With his effusive charm and outward affability he was able to disarm his enemies and then catch them unawares. Though he ran his administration with the help of the elite civil servants of the country it was by his animal instincts that he kept himself in power. As internal economic problems grew, he made scapegoats of the Asians of Uganda, blaming them for all the ills of the country. In a masterstroke he succeeded in expelling the Asian community from Uganda in 1972 without any serious repercussions from the West. He wrested away the economy of Uganda from the hands of the Asians and put it into the lap of the Africans of his country, who loved him for this and his other exploits in a way that can only be compared to the way Germans had once loved Hitler.

Dr Stella Nyanzi
No Roses from My
Mouth: Poems from
Prison
Poetry
2020



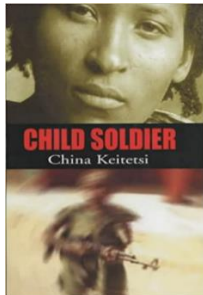
Winner, 2020 Oxfam / Novib PEN International Award for Freedom of Expression "Nyanzi is a hero. Her insistence on violating patriarchy's rules by talking explicitly about taboo subjects—be they the president's buttocks, sex, sexuality, queerness—should be studied everywhere as a masterclass in the power of refusing to obey the rules of "politeness." - Mona Eltahawy, author of *The Seven Necessary Sins for Women and Girls* "Through her actions, Nyanzi has shown that fighting for a free, democratic and equal Uganda does not come free. [...] Her story is one that reminds Ugandans that the struggle for freedom has never been achieved by playing to the standards of civility set by those in power." - Rosebell Kagumire, Editor, *African Feminism* Stella Nyanzi was arrested on November 2, 2018 for posting a poem on Facebook that was said to cyber-harras the long-serving President of Uganda, Mr. Yoweri Museveni. She was convicted and sentenced to eighteen months in jail. At the date of publishing this poetry collection, Nyanzi remains incarcerated. She wrote all the poems in this collection during her detention. This arguably makes her the first Ugandan prison writer to publish a poetry collection written in jail while still incarcerated.

**Faith J. H. McDonnell
and Grace Akallo**
***Girl Soldier: A Story of
Hope for Northern
Uganda's Children***
2007
Nonfiction – Memoir



For several decades a brutal army of rebels has been raiding villages in northern Uganda, kidnapping children and turning them into soldiers or wives of commanders. More than 30,000 children have been abducted over the last twenty years and forced to commit unspeakable crimes. Grace Akallo was one of these. Her story, which is the story of many Ugandan children, recounts her terrifying experience. This unforgettable book--with historical background and insights from Faith McDonnell, one of the clearest voices in the church today calling for freedom and justice--will inspire readers around the world to take notice, pray, and work to end this tragedy.

China Keitetsi
Child Soldier
2004
Non-fiction -Memoir



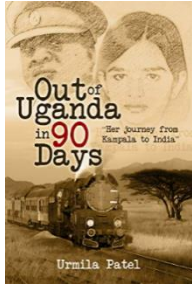
China's story of her life as a child conscript in the Ugandan National Resistance Army starts at age 8 and continues for ten years of terror, humiliation and sexual assault. After rejoining the army years later she serves as bodyguard to the Minister for Records who is disgraced and China is then captured by the Ugandan secret service and is tortured for six months. It is a story from the horrors of the Ugandan civil war, one of Africa's bloodiest and longest-running conflicts, which has gone on for over 40 years and where children are abducted and forced to commit atrocities regularly (as many as 8,000 per year). China's story exposes the reality of their civil war and the terrors committed and endured by children.

Mildred Kiconco Barya
***The Price of Memory:
After the Tsunami***
2006
Poetry



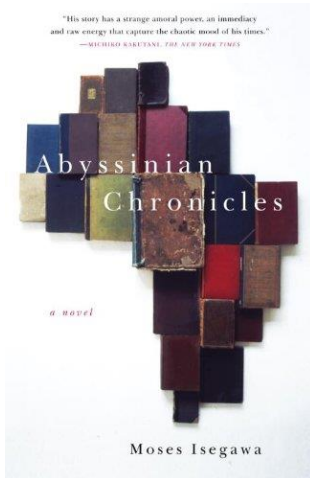
The price of Memory is a collection of 63 poems. The poems in vivid imagery uncover what happens when the pleasurable thrill of being alive is lost in the pain that settles among the familiar and refuses to say goodbye, as in the poems 'Baggage' and 'Maybe.' The subject of memory, remembrance and forgetfulness resound throughout the collection, from the private nostalgic experiences in 'Wastelands,' 'The Island,' to the collective 'Africa re-disappointed,' 'Borderless Africa,' and 'Child of the Universe.' In this poetry, we witness what comes out of keeping dreams in trouser pockets ridden with holes. When we send the eye to look into the future, with shock we discover that the future came. what can take away the pain and cold anger is the indomitable will that purposes to shed off memory like a cloak. Mildred Kiconco Barya is a writer and poet. She has written short-stories and essays for various publications, features and travel articles for newspapers.

Urmila Patel
Out of Uganda in 90 Days
2014
Nonfiction- Memoir



Ms. Patel's startling memoir of survival, and escape from Idi Amin's Uganda, is an amazing journey through cultures, beliefs, and life-and-death passions. Her girlhood growing up in an Indian Hindu family living in the East African nation of Uganda in the 1960s and 1970s. Like all those of Asian lineage, they were expelled from the country when the brutal dictator, Idi Amin, seized power. Ms. Patel describes their life before Amin, as seen through the eyes of a young girl. When the violence began, she was just beginning her passage into womanhood. Amin started encouraging violence toward Uganda's Asian community as soon as he took over. This escalated, until the brutal dictator expelled all Asians, giving them 90 days to leave, or they would face death. Meanwhile his followers engaged in random murders, and more and more frequent massacres. Ms. Patel and her family witnessed much of this. At one point she even stood up to Amin's murderous soldiers, yet she lived to tell her tale.

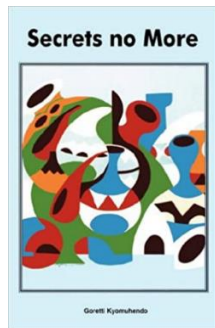
Moses Isegawa
Abyssinian Chronicles
2000
Fiction



The teller of this panoramic tale is Mugezi, a quick-witted, sharp-eyed man whose life encompasses the traditional and the modern, the peaceful and the insanely violent, the despotic and the democratic. Born in a rural community in the early 1960s, he is raised by his grandfather, a deposed clan chief, and his great-aunt, or "grandmother," after his parents immigrate to the capital city of Kampala. At age nine, he leaves behind his secure life in the village to join his parents and siblings in the city, where he is first exposed to the despotism and hardship that he will contend with in the years to come. The nightmare reign of Idi Amin and its chaotic aftermath are the backdrop to Mugezi's troubled coming-of-age: his constant struggle with his harsh mother and austere father; his years spent as caregiver to his parents' ever-growing brood of children; his sojourn in a horrifically repressive Catholic seminary. He goes to work as a high school teacher, becomes enmeshed in a tragic romance, finds himself drawn into a dubious, potentially dangerous alliance with the military after Amin's fall and witnesses the widespread ravages of the AIDS virus. Finally, sickened by personal loss and national tragedy, he manages to immigrate to Amsterdam. The details of Mugezi's life provide a foundation for Isegawa's brilliant and profoundly illuminating portrait of the contemporary, postcolonial African experience. Filled with extraordinary characters, animated by a wicked sense of humor and guided by an intense yet clear-eyed compassion, *Abyssinian Chronicles* is our introduction to a superlative new writer.

Goretti Kyomuhendo
Secrets No More
1999
Fiction

Marina, a Rwandan child and her family experience the horror of the war in the 1990s. Her parents are killed, and she is cared for in an orphanage, where an Italian priest favours her and tries to plan a better life for her. She attracts the unwanted attention of Matayo, who leaves her pregnant, so she determines to run away from the orphanage and to start a new life in the city.

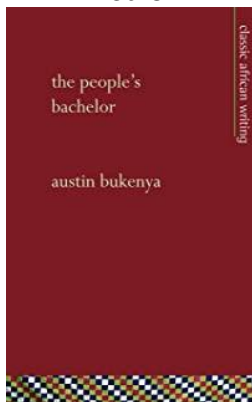


Mary Karoro Okurut
The Invisible Weevil
1994
Fiction

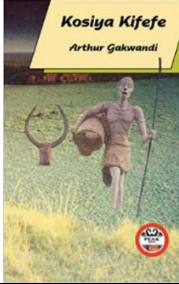

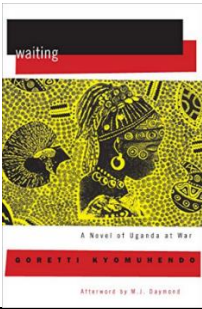


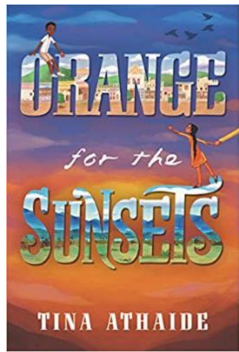
The author is a celebrated columnist, a former literature lecturer, and the founder of Uganda Women Writers' Association. She is also a playwright and has published children's literature. This novel is a fictionalised record of Uganda's past tragic national experience. Spanning the decades of successive regimes, it covers the story of Africa's post-colonial political actors typified by the thinly disguised Presidents, Opolo, Duduma, Polle and Kazi. Weaving together strands of political and gender concerns, and employing humour, the central image of the novel is the weevil.

Austin Bukenya
The People's Bachelor
1972
Fiction



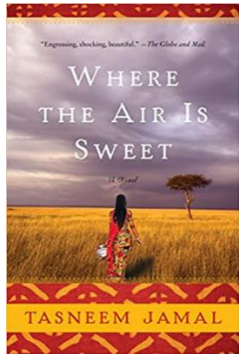
This satirical novel puts Africa's new universities squarely in the dock. While the ordinary people of Africa fight the harsh elements of their ruthless colonial oppressors in order to survive, the University élite, both students and lecturers, appear to fritter away the nation's time and money. Austin Bukenya remorselessly pillories 'The University' as an irrelevance, a terrible waste of time and opportunity. Neither paper Socialism nor paper bachelors can solve the problems of Africa. The author, brilliantly humorous and biting frank, attacks the artificial pretentiousness of African campus life and at the same time grimly forces the reader to compare this with the harsh African realities just beyond the cloisters. This satirical novel puts Africa's new universities squarely in the dock. While the ordinary people of Africa fight the harsh elements of their ruthless colonial oppressors in order to survive, the University élite, both students and lecturers, appear to fritter away the nation's time and money. Austin Bukenya remorselessly pillories 'The University' as an irrelevance, a terrible waste of time and opportunity. Neither paper Socialism nor paper bachelors can solve the problems of Africa. The author, brilliantly humorous and biting frank, attacks the artificial pretentiousness of African campus life and at the same time grimly forces the reader to compare this with the harsh African realities just beyond the cloisters.

<p>Kosiya Kifefe Arthur Gakwandi 1997 Fiction</p> 	<p>This is the first novel from an academic critic of African literature. It is a chequered account of growing up in post- independence Africa as profiled in the life and times of Kosiya Kifefe. Through Kosiya, the author traverses the years of the African youth with its dreams, uncertainties and escapades, while at the same time projecting the images of a changing society that is rapidly disintegrating. The story is full of political intrigues, facades in high places and lust for power and wealth.</p>
<p>Jennifer Nansubuga Makumbi Kintu 2017 Fiction</p> 	<p>"A soaring and sublime epic. One of those great stories that was just waiting to be told."—Marlon James, Man Booker Prize-winning author of A Brief History of Seven Killings</p> <p>First published in Kenya in 2014 to critical and popular acclaim, Kintu is a modern classic, a multilayered narrative that reimagines the history of Uganda through the cursed bloodline of the Kintu clan. Divided into six sections, the novel begins in 1750, when Kintu Kidda sets out for the capital to pledge allegiance to the new leader of the Buganda Kingdom. Along the way, he unleashes a curse that will plague his family for generations. In an ambitious tale of a clan and a nation, Makumbi weaves together the stories of Kintu’s descendants as they seek to break from the burden of their shared past and reconcile the inheritance of tradition and the modern world that is their future.</p>
<p>Goretti Kyomuhendo Waiting 2007 Fiction</p> 	<p>Safe for years in their remote Ugandan village, thirteen-year-old Alinda and her family are suddenly faced with the terror of the self-proclaimed “Last King of Scotland” when troops of his use the local highway to escape anti-Amin Ugandan and Tanzanian allied forces.</p> <p>With her pregnant mother on the verge of labor, her brother anxious to join the Liberators, and a house full of hungry siblings, neighbors, and refugees, Alinda learns what it takes to endure terrible hardship, and to hope for a better tomorrow . . .</p> <p>Set in the seventies during Idi Amin’s last year of rule, Waiting evokes the fear and courage of a close-knit society in a novel “full of human interplay and pungent smaller events, told with a verbal chastity reflecting both tension and dawning adult consciousness” (Booklist).</p>
<p>Tina Athaide Orange for the Sunsets 2019 Fiction</p>	<p>From debut author Tina Athaide comes a soaring tale of empathy, hope, and resilience, as two best friends living under Ugandan President Amin’s divisive rule must examine where—and who—they call home. Perfect for fans of Half from the East and Inside Out and Back Again. Asha and her best friend, Yesofu, never cared about the differences between them: Indian. African. Girl. Boy. Short. Tall.</p>



But when Idi Amin announces that Indians have ninety days to leave the country, suddenly those differences are the only things that people in Entebbe can see—not the shared after-school samosas or Asha cheering for Yesofu at every cricket game. Determined for her life to stay the same, Asha clings to her world tighter than ever before. But Yesofu is torn, pulled between his friends, his family, and a promise of a better future. Now as neighbors leave and soldiers line the streets, the two friends find that nothing seems sure—not even their friendship. Tensions between Indians and Africans intensify and the deadline to leave is fast approaching. Could the bravest thing of all be to let each other go?

Tasneem Jamal
Where The Air Is Sweet
2018
Fiction



Raju is drawn to Uganda by the desire for a better life. Over two generations, Raju and his family carve a niche for themselves and form a deep connection to the land in the midst of a racially stratified colonial and post-colonial society. Their world is thrown into upheaval when brutal dictator Idi Amin comes to power. The family struggles to carry on until, in 1972, Amin expels 80,000 South Asians from the country. Raju, his children and their children have ninety days to flee as Uganda descends into unimaginable chaos and murder. Forced out, toward the shores of England and Canada, the family must find a place to land and a way to start again, even while the ties of Africa draw them back. Where the Air Is Sweet is a vivid, engrossing portrait of a family caught up in the larger forces of world affairs. Despite tragedy and displacement, their story is one of hope and resilience, and finally, homecoming.