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Dathorne Gareth Griffiths Jonathan P. Smithe James Currey Simon Gikandi Handel Kashope Wright Reuben Makayiko Chirambo Eldred D. Jones Charles E. Nnolim Mkoma wa Nggĩ Mineke Schipper Emmanuel Ngara Olakunle George David Cook Kenneth W. Harrow Ruth H. Finnegan Barbara Abrash Smith, Charles Nggĩ wa Thiongo Tim Woods

explores intellectual currents in african prose and verse from sung or chanted lines to modern writings

this text examining african literature in english covers topics such as 18th and 19th century slave narratives of the black diaspora 19th and early 20th century histories travel accounts political writing and the beginnings of fiction

african literature like the continent itself is enormous and diverse east africa s literature is different from west africa s which is quite different from south africa s which has different influences on it than north africa s africa s literature is based on a widespread heritage of oral literature some of which has now been recorded arabic influence can be detected as well as european especially french and english legends myths proverbs riddles and folktales form the mother load of the oral literature this book presents an overview of african literature as well as a comprehensive bibliography primarily of english language sources accessed by subject author and title indexes

africa writes back was published in 2008 to coincide with the 50th anniversary of the publication of chinua achebe s things fall apart the novel which provided the impetus for the foundation of the heinemann african writers series in 1962 with chinua achebe as the editorial adviser with the 50th anniversary of the aws being celebrated in 2012 james currey s book has a new resonance not only the

story of a publishing enterprise of great significance it is also a large part of the story of african literature and its dissemination in the latter half of the twentieth century the manuscript is full of the drama of that enterprise the drama of dealing with the mother house william heinemann of dealing with the often intractable political constraints dominating the intellectual space across africa and not least of all dealing with the writers themselves with their ambitions their temperaments their financial needs and at time their perception of a colonial relationship between themselves and a european publishing house clive wake emeritus professor of modern languages university of kent at canterbury north america ohio u press ghana sub saharan publishers south africa wits u press nigeria hebn kenya eaep zimbabwe weaver press

the columbia guide to east african literature in english since 1945 challenges the conventional belief that the english language literary traditions of east africa are restricted to the former british colonies of kenya uganda and tanzania instead these traditions stretch far into such neighboring countries as somalia and ethiopia simon gikandi and evan mwangi assemble a truly inclusive list of major writers and trends they begin with a chronology of key historical events and an overview of the emergence and transformation of literary culture in the region then they provide an alphabetical list of major writers and brief descriptions of their concerns and achievements some of the writers discussed include the kenyan novelists grace ogot and ngugi wa thiong o ugandan poet and essayist taban lo liyong ethiopian playwright and poet tsegaye gabre medhin tanzanian novelist and diplomat peter palangyo ethiopian novelist berhane mariam sahle sellassie and the novelist m g vassanji who portrays the indian diaspora in africa europe and north america separate entries within this list describe thematic concerns such as colonialism decolonization the black aesthetic and the language question the growth of genres like autobiography and popular literature important movements like cultural nationalism and feminism and the impact

of major forces such as aids hiv christian missions and urbanization comprehensive and richly detailed this guide offers a fresh perspective on the role of east africa in the development of african and world literature in english and a new understanding of the historical cultural and geopolitical boundaries of the region

in a prescience of african cultural studies handel kashope wright makes an argument for undertaking a necessary paradigm shift from literature studies in africa to african cultural studies there are several major themes in this text in particular it rejects mainstream notions of literature as self deceptively apolitical and decidedly non utilitarian as an alternative wright proposes african cultural studies as an african centered discourse and praxis that incorporates written oral and performance forms and overtly addresses political and sociocultural issues he articulates african cultural studies in relation to existing cultural studies its taken for granted british origin and genealogy and its global trajectories finally wright elaborates on african cultural studies by reconceptualizing drama emphasizing performance over written text incorporating film and electronic media and exploring the potential contribution african cultural studies could make to both the discourse and process of development in africa

reading contemporary african literature brings together scholarship on critical debates about and examples of reading african literature in all genres poetry fiction and drama including popular culture the anthology offers studies of african literature from interdisciplinary perspectives that employ sociological historical and ethnographic besides literary analysis of the literatures it has assembled critical and researched essays on a range of topics theoretical and empirical by renowned critics and theorists of african literature that evaluate and provide examples of reading african literature that should be of interest to academics researchers and students of african

literature culture and history amongst other subjects some of the essays examine authors that have received little or no attention to date in books on recent african literature these essays provide new insights and scholarship that should broaden and deepen our understanding and appreciation of african literature

the multitudinous nature of african literature has always been an issue but really not a problem although its oral base has been used by expatriate critics to accuse african literature of thin plots superficial characterisation and narrative structures african literature also it is observed is a mixed grill it is oral it is written in vernacular or tribal tongues written in foreign tongues english french portuguese and within the foreign language in which it is written pidgin and creole further bend the already bent language giving african literature a further taint of linguistic impurity african literature further suffers from the nature of its newness and this created problems for the critic because it is new and because its critics are in simultaneous existence with its writers we confront the problem of instant analysis issues in african literature continues the debate and tries to clarify contemporary burning issues in african literature by focussing on particular areas where the debate has been most concerned or around which it has hovered and been persistent

the rise of the african novel is the first book to situate south african and african language literature of the late 1880s through the early 1940s in relation to the literature of decolonization that spanned the 1950s through the 1980s and the contemporary generation of established and emerging continental and diaspora african writers of international renown calling it a major crisis in african literary criticism mukoma wa ngugi considers key questions around the misreading of african literature why did chinua achebe s generation privilege african literature in english despite the early south african example what are the costs of locating the start of africa s literary

tradition in the wrong literary and historical period what does it mean for the current generation of writers and scholars of african literature not to have an imaginative consciousness of their literary past while acknowledging the importance of achebe s generation in the african literary tradition mukoma wa ngugi challenges that narrowing of the identities and languages of the african novel and writer in restoring the missing foundational literary period to the african literary tradition he shows how early south african literature in both aesthetics and politics is in conversation with the literature of the african independence era and contemporary rooted transnational literatures

rediscover the diversity of modern african literatures with this authoritative resource edited by a leader in the field how have african literatures unfolded in their rich diversity in our modern era of decolonization nationalisms and extensive transnational movement of peoples how have african writers engaged urgent questions regarding race nation ethnicity gender and sexuality and how do african literary genres interrelate with traditional oral forms or audio visual and digital media a companion to african literatures addresses these issues and many more consisting of essays by distinguished scholars and emerging leaders in the field this book offers rigorous deeply engaging discussions of african literatures on the continent and in diaspora it covers the four main geographical regions east and central africa north africa southern africa and west africa presenting ample material to learn from and think with a companion to african literatures is divided into five parts the first four cover different regions of the continent while the fifth part considers conceptual issues and newer directions of inquiry chapters focus on literatures in european languages officially used in africa english french and portuguese as well as homegrown african languages afrikaans amharic arabic swahili and yoruba with its lineup of lucid and authoritative analyses readers will find in a companion to african literatures a distinctive rewarding academic resource perfect for

undergraduate and graduate students in literary studies programs with an african focus a companion to african literatures will also earn a place in the libraries of teachers researchers and professors who wish to strengthen their background in the study of african literatures

novels of testimony novels of revolt novels of struggle followed by post colonial writings filled with complexities and ambiguities have created a literary tradition expressive of the african spirit

in literature the ambiguous portraiture of female characters by some male writers and the phallic nature of men s writings have proved a matter of concern to female writers in africa for decades within african writing the issue of silencing was interrogated particularly as it addressed the muting and marginalisation of black women by male writers through the script of patriarchy which men follow in this series we continue the literary and dramatic tradition of feminist concern for women s issues and we review novels plays and poetry which demonstrate a commitment to exploring the challenges facing modern women in changing times and excerpting the issues of gender feminism identity race history national and international politics specifically as they affect women female subjectivities collectively answers the need to question and adumbrate the possibilities of literary revisions showing what it would mean to revise even the feminist psychoanalyst in a discourse on the subjectivity of women of colour

ngugi wrote his first novels and plays in english but was determined even before his detention without trial in 1978 to move to writing in gikuyu

explores african literature in the post colonial era as a traumatic response to the effects of colonialism among other issues it deals with literature in the era of apartheid the early post apartheid years in literature postmodern african fiction and the response to colonialism in the work of writers imprisoned for their political beliefs

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Introduction

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