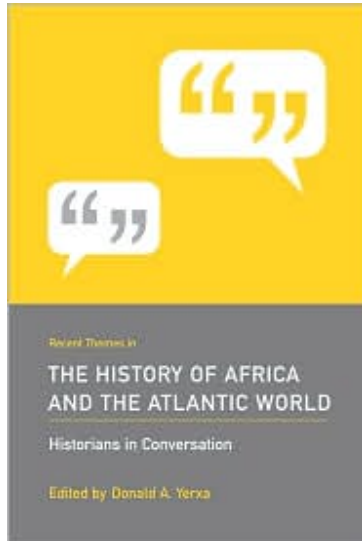


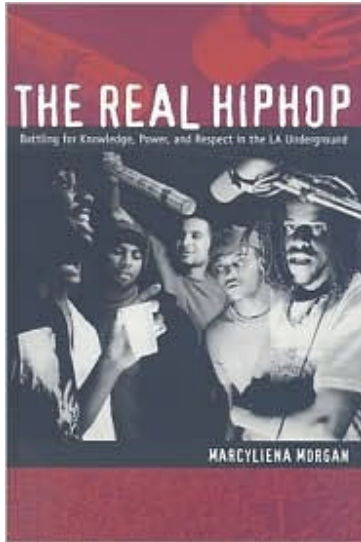
Books Received: JPAS



Recent Themes in the History of Africa and the Atlantic World: Historians in Conversation edited by Donald A. Yerxa.
University of South Carolina Press, 2008, 128 pp. ISBN-10: 1570037582; ISBN-13: 978-1570037580.

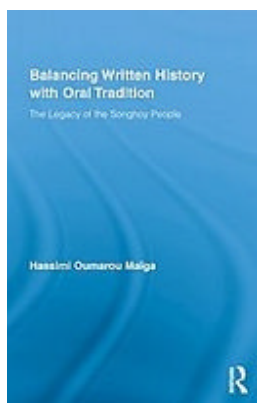
This book presents new approaches to understanding African history from major historians of the subject matter. This collection of articles and forums explores the relationship of Africa to world history, maps the current state of the burgeoning field of Atlantic history, and debates the accuracy of Olaudah Equiano's seminal narrative. The standard approach of world historians often compresses the African past into interpretive frameworks that leave Africans without a history of their own. Joseph C. Miller makes the case here for an alternative approach, a multi-centric world history that gives voice to the various ways

African people experienced the past, as an impressive array of Africanist and world historians respond. The volume also assesses the state of the field of Atlantic history and includes a spirited forum on Vincent Carretta's provocative thesis that Olaudah Equiano, author of the most important account available of the horrific Middle Passage, was actually born in South Carolina and not Africa.



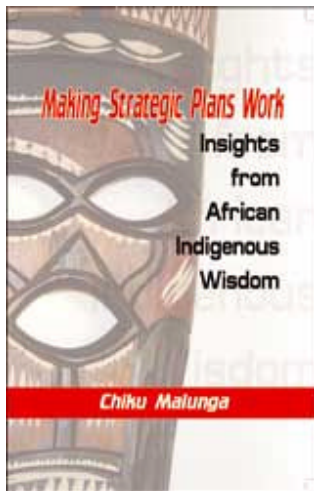
The Real HipHop: Battling for Knowledge, Power and Respect in the LA Underground by Marcyliena Morgan. Durham: Duke University Press, 2009, 227 pp. ISBN-10: 0822343851; ISBN-13: 978-0822343851.

This book is an in-depth account of the language and culture of ‘Project Blowed’, a legendary hip-hop workshop based in Los Angeles that began in 1994 when a group of youth moved their already renowned open-mic nights from The Good Life, a Crenshaw district health food store, to the KAOS Network, an arts center in Leimert Park. Thus, the local freestyle of articulate, rapid-fire, extemporaneous delivery; the juxtaposition of multiple meaningful words and sounds; and the way that MCs follow one another without missing a beat, quickly became known throughout L.A.’s underground in Leimert Park, a center of African American culture and arts in Los Angeles. This work is therefore based on the seven years Marcyliena Morgan spent observing the workshop and the KAOS Network. Thus, she intersperses her observations with excerpts from interviews and transcripts of freestyle lyrics. Providing a thorough linguistic interpretation of the music, she teases out the cultural antecedents and ideologies embedded in the language, emphases, and wordplay she discusses the artistic skills and cultural knowledge MCs must acquire to rock the mic, the socialization of hip-hop culture’s core and long-term members, and the persistent focus on skills, competition, and evaluation.



Balancing Written History with Oral Tradition: The Legacy of the Songhay People by Hassimi Oumarou Maiga. New York: Routledge, 2010, pp.206. ISBN 978-0-415-96351-0.

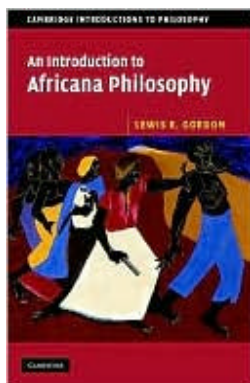
By balancing written history with the African oral tradition, this book conceptualizes the integrations among diverse peoples of Africa and specifically among the Songhay people. Drawing from a number of academic disciplines and original research that documents the oral and literate traditions of the Songhay people, the author offers a unique interpretation of indigenous Songhay-African perspectives on African history, culture and education from antiquity to the present day and from continental Africa to the worldwide African Diaspora. In explaining the cosmology, philosophy, values and process of indigenous, non-Muslim education, this book also corrects and balances the perception of the Songhay as a wholly Muslim society. The legacy of the Songhay Empire, Maiga argues, is as a model of African integration through its administrative and political organization, which remains relevant even today.



Making Strategic Plans Work: Insights from Indigenous African Wisdom by Chiku Malunga. London: Adonis & Abbey Publishers Ltd, 2009, pp.177. ISBN: 978-1-906704-17-9.

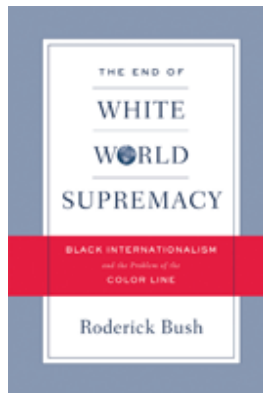
Making Strategic Plans Work introduces an innovative and creative approach to understanding the theory and practice of strategic planning based on proverbs and folktales via a detailed analysis of the stages of the strategic planning process - preparation, formulation, implementation, monitoring and evaluation. It also discusses the roles and responsibilities of the key players in the process - boards, management, donors, consultants and communities and how to build their capacity for more effectiveness. It equally provides at each stage templates for assessing the effectiveness of the strategic planning process as well

as the key players. Hence, the book is unique in that it uses the wisdom contained in African proverbs and folktales to discuss the stages of the strategic planning process, and roles and responsibilities of players in the process. The book is based on research, and tested use of the proverbs and folktales in strategic planning practice in different contexts in combination with the author's experience as a professional organization development consultant. It will be especially useful to students, teachers, executives, board members and all players in international development, community development, organizational development, international businesses and African Studies



An Introduction to Africana Philosophy by Lewis R. Gordon. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2008. 288, pp. ISBN-10: 0521675464; ISBN-13: 978-0521675468.

In this undergraduate textbook Lewis R. Gordon offers the first comprehensive treatment of Africana philosophy, beginning with the emergence of an Africana consciousness in the Afro-Arabic world of the middle ages. He argues that much of modern thought emerged out of early conflicts between Islam and Christianity that culminated in the expulsion of the Moors from the Iberian Peninsula, and from the subsequent expansion of racism, enslavement, and colonialism which in their turn stimulated reflections on reason, liberation, and the meaning of being human. His book takes the student reader on a journey from Africa through Europe, North and South America, the Caribbean, and back to Africa, as it explores the challenges posed to our understanding of knowledge and freedom today, and the response which can be found within Africana philosophy.



The End of White World Supremacy: Black Internationalism and the Problem of the Color Line by Roderick D. Bush. Philadelphia: Temple University Press, 2009, pp.258. ISBN: 978-1-59213-573-8.

This work explores a complex issue— integration of African Americans into white America—from multiple perspectives: within the United States, globally, and in the context of movements for social justice. The author thus locates himself within a tradition of African American activism that goes back at least to W.E.B. Du Bois as he communicates between two literatures—world systems analysis and radical Black social movement history—and sustains the dialogue throughout the book. Bush also explains how racial troubles in the U.S. are symptomatic of the troubled relationship between the white and dark worlds globally. Beginning with an account of white European dominance leading to capitalist dominance by White America, the book ultimately wonders whether, as Myrdal argued in the 1940s, the American creed can provide a pathway to break this historical conundrum and give birth to international social justice.