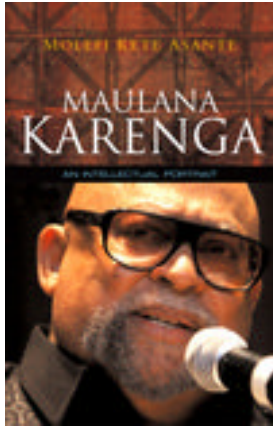


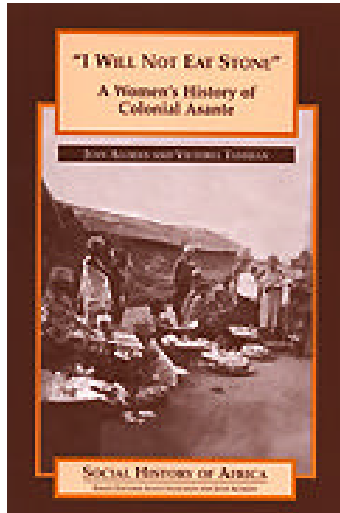
Books Received



Asante, Molefi Kete. *Maulana Karenga: An Intellectual Portrait*. Hoboken, NJ: Polity, 2009, 224, pp. ISBN: 978-0-7456-4827-9.

In this book, the most prolific contemporary African American scholar and cultural theorist Molefi Kete Asante leads the reader on an informative journey through the mind of Maulana Karenga, one of the key cultural thinkers of our time. Not only is Karenga the creator of Kwanzaa, an extensive and widespread celebratory holiday based on his philosophy of Kawaida, he is also an activist-scholar committed to a "dignity-affirming" life for all human beings. Asante examines the sources of Karenga's intellectual preoccupations and demonstrates that Karenga's concerns with the liberation narratives and mythic realities of African people are rooted in the best interests of a collective humanity.

The book shows Maulana Karenga to be an intellectual giant willing to practice his theories in order to manifest his intense emotional attachment to culture, truth and justice. Asante's enlightening presentation and riveting critique of Karenga's works reveal a compelling account of a thinker whose contributions extend far beyond the academy. Although Karenga began his career as a student activist, a civil rights leader, a Pan Africanist, and a culturalist, he ultimately succeeds in turning his fierce commitment to truth toward dissecting political, social, and ethical issues. Hence, Asante carefully analyzes Karenga's important contribution to Africology (Black Studies), and his earlier works on culture and his later works on ethics, such as *Maat, The Moral Ideal in Ancient Egypt: A Study in Classical African Ethics* (Los Angeles: University of Sankore Press) and *Selections from the Husia: Sacred Wisdom of Ancient Egypt* (Los Angeles: University of Sankore Press).



Allman, Jean Allman and Victoria B. Tashjian, eds. *"I Will Not Eat Stone": A Women's History of Colonial Asante*. Portsmouth, NH: Heinemann, 2000, 312 pp. ISBN 978-0-325-07000-1.

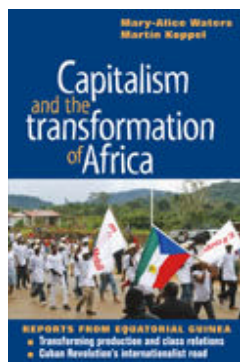
In an admirable collaborative effort, Jean Allman and Victoria Tashjian focus on commodity production, family labor and reproduction in colonial Asante. The authors demonstrate how broader social and economic forces—cash cropping, trade, monetization of the economy, British rule, and Christian missions—recast the terms of domestic struggle in Asante and how ordinary men and women negotiated that ever shifting landscape. By centering their analysis on women, they recover the broader history of a society whose past has largely been understood in terms of the state, political evolution, trade, and the careers of political elites. Based on the recollections of Asante women and men born during the years 1900 to 1925 and on rich archival sources, the book captures the resilience and tenacity of a generation of Asante women and their struggles in defense of social and economic autonomy.



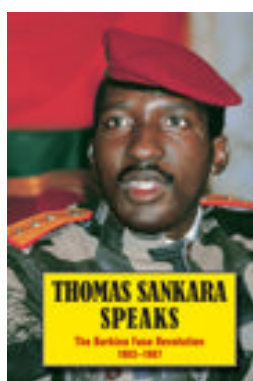
M'Baye, Babacar. *The Trickster Comes West: Pan-African Influences in Early Black Diasporan Narratives*. Jackson: University of Mississippi Press, 2009, 247 pp. ISBN: 978-1-60473-233-7.

This work explores relationships among African American, Afro-Caribbean, and Afro-British narratives of enslavement and of New World and British oppression and what African influences brought to these diasporic expressions using an interdisciplinary method that combines history, literary theory, cultural studies, anthropology, folklore, and philosophy to examine the work of Pan-African trickster icons, such as Leuk (Rabbit), Golo (Monkey), Bouki (Hyena), Mbe (Tortoise), and Anancy (Spider), on the resistance strategies of early Black writers who were exposing the evils of enslavement, racism, sexism, economic exploitation, and other forms of oppression to relocate the beginnings of Pan Africanism and suggests that there is a strong influence of theories of communal resistance, racial solidarity, and economic development within Black narratives.

Mary-Alice Waters and Martín Koppel. *Capitalism and the Transformation of Africa*. New York: Pathfinder Press, 2009, 150 pp. ISBN 978-1-60488-016-8.



An account of the transformation of this central African nation, part of a region of the world now being pulled into the world market as never before. In the process, both a capitalist class and a working class are being born. Here also, in accounts of the work of volunteer Cuban medical brigades in Equatorial Guinea, is the living example of Cuba's socialist revolution. In the decades of wars, economic crises, and explosive class battles that lay ahead, the weight of the toilers of Africa in shaping the future will be greater than ever before. Woven together, these seemingly disparate threads show a future to be fought for today.



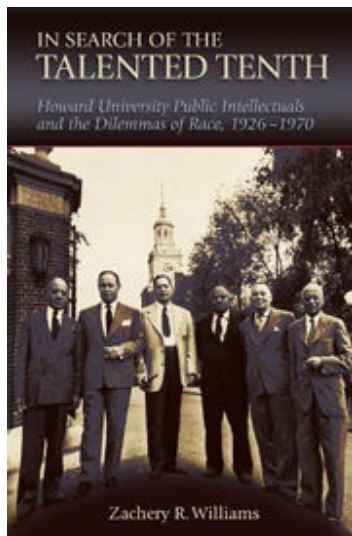
Sankara, Thomas. *Thomas Sankara Speaks: The Burkina Faso Revolution. 1983-1987*. New York: Pathfinder Press, 2007, 448 pp. ISBN 978-0-87348-986-7.

Under Sankara's leadership, the revolutionary government of Burkina Faso in West Africa set an electrifying example. The people were mobilized to carry out literacy and immunization drives; to sink wells, plant trees, build dams, erect housing; to combat the oppression of women and transform exploitative relations on the land; to free themselves from the imperialist yoke and solidarize with others engaged in that fight internationally. This edition includes a preface by Mary-Alice Waters, a new introduction by editor Michel Prairie, maps, chronology, glossary, and index. Two extensive photo sections feature many unpublished photos of the Burkina Faso revolution.



Femi J. Kolapo and Kwabena O. Akurang-Parry, eds. *African Agency and European Colonialism: Latitudes of Negotiations and Containment*. Lanham, MD: University Press of America, 2007. ISBN 978-0-7618-3846-3.

This work provides insights into important moments in the European colonization project in Africa, and into structural intersections between the active agents of colonialism and the different layers of Africa's socio-political structures. It reveals the indispensability of the African peoples, their pre-colonial establishments, and knowledge of the colonial encounter. The book also clarifies the significant impact that African people's choices, chances, mistakes, and internal politics had in structuring their colonial experience and European dominance. Colonized Africans and colonizing Europeans had to negotiate the nature of their relationship: the grid, nexus, and hierarchy of colonial power and authority were constantly under construction, deconstruction, and reconstruction. *African Agency and European Colonialism* expounds upon these beclouded features of Africa's engagement of colonialism. It is appropriate for students, scholars, political analysts, sociologists, and other professionals interested in the social and political history of Africa.



Williams, Zachery. *In Search of the Talented Tenth: Howard University Public Intellectuals and the Dilemmas of Race, 1926-1970*. Columbia: University of Missouri Press, 2009, pp.264. ISBN 978-0-8262-1862-9.

From the 1920s through the 1970s, Howard University was home to America's most renowned assemblage of Black scholars. This book traces some of the personal and professional activities of this community of public intellectuals, demonstrating their scholar-activist nature and the myriad ways they influenced modern African American, African, and African policy studies. Thus, it marks the first in-depth study of the intellectual activity of this community of scholars and further attests to the historic role of women faculty in shaping the university. It testifies to the impact of this group as a model against which the twenty-first century's Black public intellectuals can be measured.

Specifically, *In Search of the Talented Tenth* tells how individuals like Rayford Logan, E. Franklin Frazier, John Hope Franklin, Merze Tate, Charles Wesley, and Dorothy Porter left an indelible imprint on academia and Black communities alike through their impact on civil rights, anticolonialism, and women's rights. Zachery Williams (Assistant Professor of African American History and Associate Director of Pan-African Studies at the University of Akron) explores W. E. B. Du Bois's 'talented tenth' by describing the role of public intellectuals from the Harlem Renaissance to the Black Power movement, in times as trying as the Jim Crow and Cold War eras.

Williams first describes how the years 1890 to 1926 laid the foundation for Howard's emergence as the "capstone of Negro education" during the administration of university president Mordecai Johnson. He offers a wide-ranging discussion of how the African American community of Washington, D.C., contributed to the dynamism and intellectual life of the university, and he delineates the ties that linked many faculty members to one another in ways that energized their intellectual growth and productivity as scholars. He also discusses the interaction of Howard's intellectual community with those of the West Indies, Africa, and other places, showing the international impact of Howard's intellectuals and the ways in which Black and Brown elites outside the United States stimulated the thought and scholarship of the Howard intellectuals.