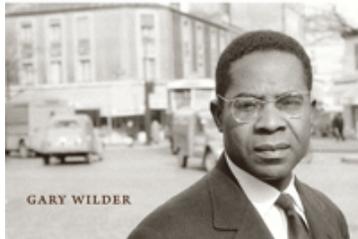


# Books of Interest

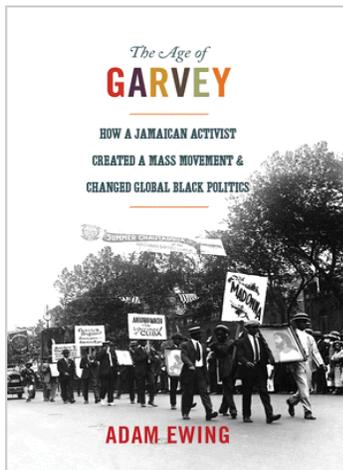


**FREEDOM TIME** Negritude, Decolonization,  
and the Future of the World



Wilder, Gary. *Freedom Time: Negritude, Decolonization, and the Future of the World*. Durham, NC: Duke University Press, 2015, pp.400, ISBN: 978-0-8223-5839-8.

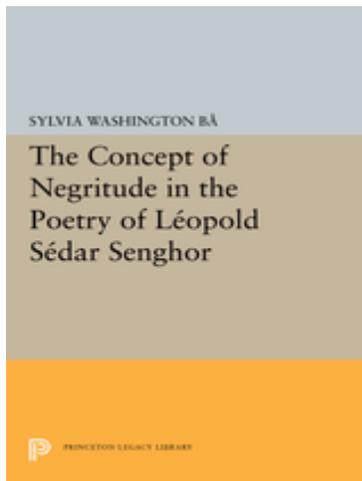
This book reconsiders decolonization from the perspectives of Aimé Césaire of Martinique and Léopold Sédar Senghor of Senegal who, beginning in 1945, promoted self-determination without state sovereignty. As politicians, public intellectuals, and poets they struggled to transform imperial France into a democratic federation, with former colonies as autonomous members of a transcontinental polity. In so doing, they revitalized past but unrealized political projects and anticipated impossible futures by acting as if they had already arrived. Refusing to reduce colonial emancipation to national independence, they regarded decolonization as an opportunity to remake the world, reconcile peoples, and realize humanity's potential. Emphasizing the link between politics and aesthetics, the author (associate professor of Anthropology at the Graduate Center of the City University of New York) reads Césaire and Senghor as pragmatic utopians, situated humanists, and concrete cosmopolitans whose postwar insights can illuminate current debates about self-management, post-national politics, and planetary solidarity.



Ewing, Adam. *The Age of Garvey: How a Jamaican Activist Created a Mass Movement and Changed Global Black Politics*. Princeton, NJ: Princeton University, 2014, pp.320, ISBN: 9780691157795.

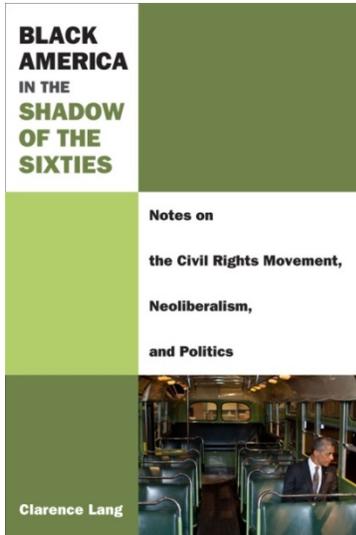
This work presents an expansive global history of the movement that came to be known as Garveyism and thus reports on its emergence and its influence in the responses among African descendants to white supremacy and colonial rule in Africa, the Caribbean, and the United States. Delving into the organizing work and political approach of Garvey and his followers, the author (an assistant professor of African American Studies at Virginia Commonwealth University) shows that Garveyism emerged from a rich tradition of Pan-African politics that had established by the First World War, wherein lines of communication among Black intellectuals on both sides of the Atlantic. Garvey's legacy was to reengineer this tradition as a vibrant and multifaceted mass politics.

The author also looks at the people who enabled Garveyism's global spread, including labor activists in the Caribbean and Central America, community organizers in the urban and rural United States, millennial religious revivalists in central and southern Africa, welfare associations and independent church activists in Malawi and Zambia, and an emerging generation of Kikuyu leadership in central Kenya.



Ba, Sylvia Washington. *The Concept of Negritude in the Poetry of Léopold Sédar Senghor*. Princeton, NJ: Princeton University, 2015, pp, 318, ISBN: 9780691618937.

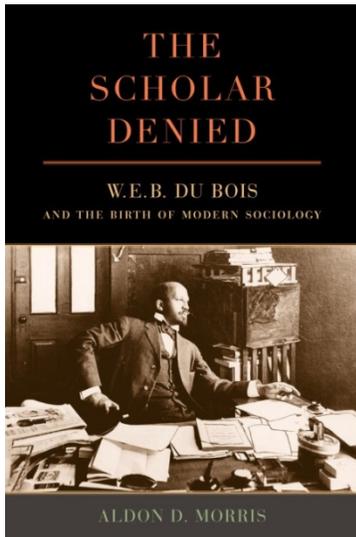
This book (originally published in 1973) analyzes Léopold Sédar Senghor's poetry to show how the concept of Negritude (defined by Senghor as "the sum of the cultural values of the Black world as they are expressed in the life, the institutions, and the works of Black men") infuses it at every level, and thus provide a biographical sketch describes his childhood in Senegal, his distinguished academic career in France, and his election as President of Senegal to suggest that themes of alienation and exile pervade Senghor's poetry, but it was by the opposition of his sensitivity and values to those of Europe that he was able to formulate his credo with its key theme, and the supreme value of African civilization as the concept of life forces, which are not attributes or accidents of being, but the very essence of being. Life is an essentially dynamic mode of being for the African person, and it has been Senghor's achievement to communicate African intensity and vitality through his use of the nuances, subtleties, and sonorities of the French language. In the final chapter Sylvia Washington Bâ discusses the future of Senghor's belief that the Black man's culture should be recognized as valid not simply as a matter of human justice, but because the values of Negritude could be instrumental in the reintegration of positive values into western civilization and the reorientation of contemporary man toward life and love.



Lang, Clarence. *Black America in the Shadow of the Sixties: Notes on the Civil Rights Movement, Neoliberalism, and Politics*. Ann Arbor, MI: University of Michigan Press, 2015, ISBN: 0472052667.

This work argues that while Americans celebrate the current anniversaries of various African American freedom milestones and the election of the first Black president, the effects of neoliberalism which rejects social welfare protections in favor of individual liberty, unfettered markets, and a laissez-faire national state, has produced an environment in which people of color struggle with unstable employment, declining family income, rising household debt, increased class stratification, and heightened racial terrorism and imprisonment, and thus, since the 1970s it have been particularly devastating to African Americans. Also, the

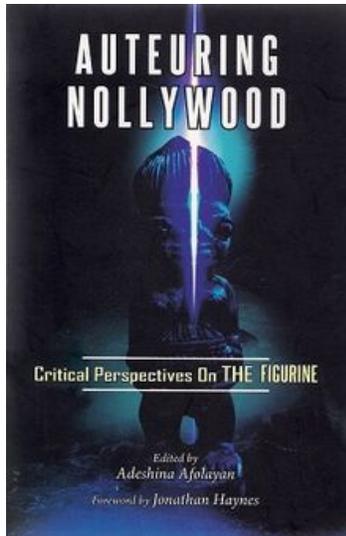
book argues that a reassessment of the Sixties and its legacies is necessary to make better sense of Black community, leadership, politics, and the prospects for social change today. Combining interdisciplinary scholarship, political reportage, and personal reflection, this work sheds light on the forces underlying the stark social and economic circumstances facing African Americans today, as well as the need for cautious optimism alongside sober analysis.



Morris, Alson D. *The Scholar Denied: W. E. B. Du Bois and the Birth of Modern Sociology*. Oakland, California: University of California Press, 2015, pp. 320, ISBN: 9780520276352.

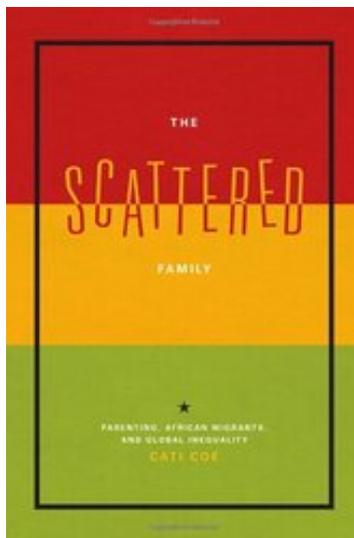
This book is designed to help rewrite the history of sociology and to acknowledge the primacy of W. E. B. Du Bois's work in the founding of the discipline. Taking on the prevailing narrative of how sociology developed, the author (Leon Forrest Professor of Sociology and African American Studies at Northwestern University) probes how the history of the discipline has been written, giving credit to Robert E. Park at the University of Chicago, who worked with Booker T. Washington to render Du Bois invisible. Uncovering the seminal theoretical work of Du Bois in developing a "scientific" sociology through a variety of methodologies, the book examines how the leading scholars of the

day disparaged and ignored Du Bois's work. The book is the result of a decade of research, writing, and revision, and in uncovering the economic and political factors that marginalized the contributions of Du Bois, enabling Park to be recognized as the "father" of the discipline, the author delivers a new narrative of American intellectual and social history that places one of America's key intellectuals, W. E. B. Du Bois, at its center.



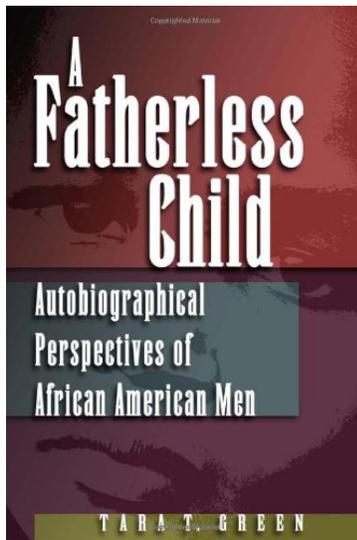
Afolayan, Adeshina, ed. *Auteuring Nollywood: Critical Perspectives on the Figurine*. Ibadan: University Press, 2014, pp., 480, ISBN: 9780698280.

This book interrogates extant cinematic re-presentation of African and Nigerian postcolonial realities in Nollywood and makes a case, using Kunle Afolayan's *The Figurine*, for a critical space-clearing gesture around the notion of a neo-Nollywood, which transcends the formulaic cinematic re-presentation of African and Nigerian realities to embrace a visionary and philosophic re-articulation of the role of filmmaking, and of Nollywood, in the Nigerian imagination. The Idea of neo-Nollywood, and a visionary director, therefore stands at the core of a cinematic production process that challenges, disturbs and stimulates perceptions of current and future African identities.



Coe, Cati. *The Scattered Family: Parenting, African Migrants, and Global Inequality*. Chicago, IL: University of Chicago Press, 2013, pp. 256, ISBN: 022607238X.

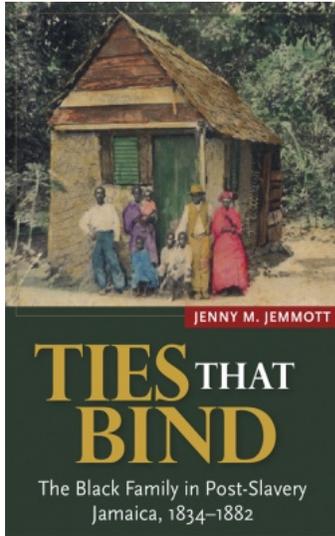
This work offers an examination of Ghanaians living in Ghana and abroad and thus, it details the diverse and creative ways Ghanaian families have adapted long-standing familial practices to a contemporary, global setting. The author (associate professor of Anthropology in the Department of Sociology, Anthropology and Criminal Justice at Rutgers University) draws on ethnographic and archival research to uncover a set of familial concepts, habits, relationships, and expectations in what she calls repertoires—that have developed over time, through previous encounters with global capitalism, a repertoire that helped to navigate immigration law, the lack of child care, and a host of other problems.



Green, Tara T. *A Fatherless Child: Autobiographical Perspectives of African American Men*. University of Missouri, 2009, pp, 184, ISBN: 0826218210.

This book examines the impact of fatherlessness on racial and gender identity formation as seen in Black men's autobiographies and in other constructions of Black fatherhood in fiction. Through these works, the author (professor and director of African American and African Diaspora Studies at the University of North Carolina in Greensboro) investigates what comes of abandonment by a father and loss of a role model by probing a son's understanding of his father's struggles to define himself and the role of community in forming the son's quest for self-definition in his father's absence as she closely examines Langston Hughes's *The Big Sea*, Richard Wright's *Black Boy*, Malcolm

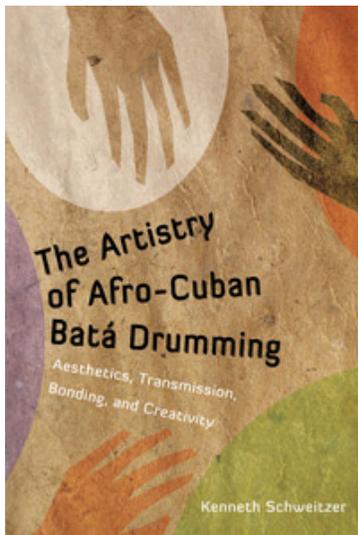
X's *The Autobiography of Malcolm X*, and Barack Obama's *Dreams from My Father* to portray the intersecting experiences of generations of Black men during the twentieth century both before and after the Civil Rights movement as these four men recall feeling the pressure and responsibility of caring for their mothers, resisting public displays of care, and desiring a loving, non-contentious relationship with their fathers. Feeling vulnerable to forces they may have identified as detrimental to their status as Black men, they use autobiography as a tool for healing, a way to confront that vulnerability and to claim a lost power associated with their lost fathers. Hence, through her analysis, the author emphasizes the role of community as a father-substitute in producing successful Black men, the impact of fatherlessness on self-perceptions and relationships with women, and Black men's engagement with healing the pain of abandonment. She also looks at why these four men visited Africa to reclaim a cultural history and identity, showing how each developed a clearer understanding of himself as an American man of African descent.



Jemmott, Jenny M. *Ties That Bind: The Black Family in Post-Slavery Jamaica, 1834-1882*. Mona, Jamaica: University of the West Indies Press, 2015, pp.273, ISBN: 978-976-640-506-9.

This book assesses the relationships and interactions within Black family networks in the landscape of post-enslavement Jamaica addressing issues that were intrinsic to the freed people's notion of family well-being, including the need to reconstitute members separated by enslavement, attainment of secure shelter, access to land and education for their children, assertion of parental control, autonomy over family labor and liberty, and reclaiming the dignity and personhood of family members. The book is replete with cases of Black mothers and fathers, who by dint of their own persistence and sacrifice ensured that their children had access to health care and education, thereby challenging contemporary stereotyping of Black

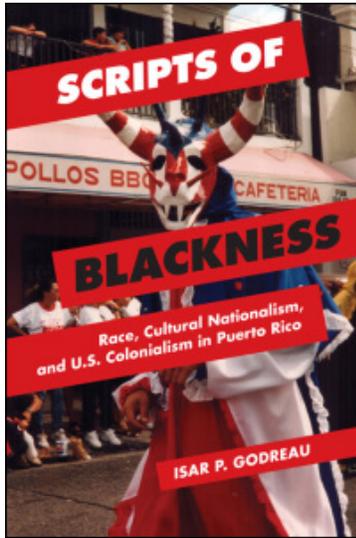
parents as irresponsible and neglectful.



Schweitzer, Kenneth. *The Artistry of Afro-Cuban Bata Drumming Aesthetics, Transmission, Bonding, and Creativity*. Jackson: University Press of Mississippi, 2014, pp. 272, ISBN: 978-1-61703-669-9.

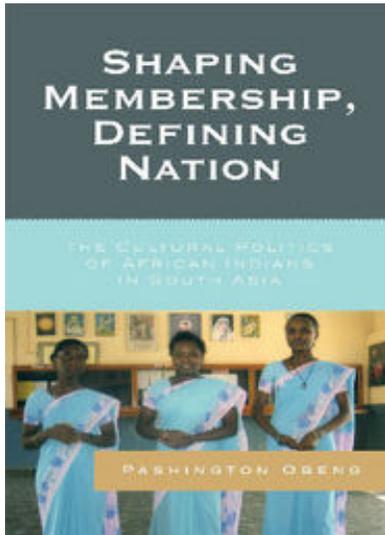
In *The Artistry of Afro-Cuban Batá Drumming*, the author blends musical transcription, musical analysis, interviews, ethnographic descriptions, and observations from his own experience as a ritual drummer to highlight the complex variables at work during a live Lucumí performance. And thus, the symbol and sound of the Lucumí/Santería religion, Afro-Cuban batá of the talking drums that express the epic mythological narratives of the West African Yoruba deities known as *orisha* are explained with a exploration into the integral in enabling trance possessions by the *orisha*, (the most dramatic expressions of Lucumí faith) wherein batá

drummers are entrusted with controlling the overall ebb and flow of the four- to six-hour *toque de santo* in which batá drummers combine their knowledge of ritual with an extensive repertoire of rhythms and songs focused on the many thematic acts that unfold both concurrently and in quick succession.



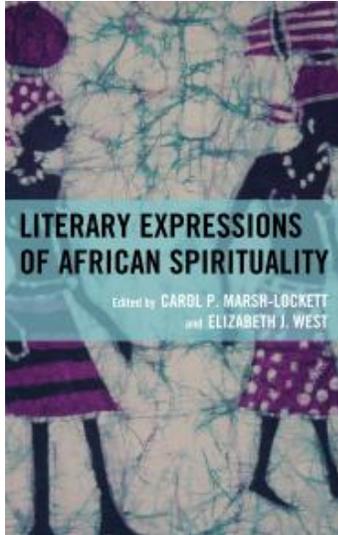
Godreau, Isar P. *Scripts of Blackness: Race, Cultural Nationalism, and U.S. Colonialism in Puerto Rico*. Champaign, IL: University of Illinois Press, 2015, pp. 320, ISBN: 978-0-252-03890-7.

This book explores how Puerto Rican national discourses about race--created to overcome U.S. colonial power--simultaneously privilege whiteness, typecast blackness, and silence charges of racism. Based on an ethnographic study of the barrio of San Antón in the city of Ponce, the book also examines institutional and local representations of blackness as developing from a power-laden process that is inherently selective and political, not neutral or natural. Thus, the author (a researcher at and former director of the Institute for Interdisciplinary Research at the University of Puerto Rico at Cayey) traces the presumed benevolence or triviality of enslavement in Puerto Rico, the favoring of a Spanish colonial whiteness (under a hispanophile discourse), and the insistence on a harmonious race mixture as discourses that thrive on a presumed contrast with the United States that also characterize Puerto Rico as morally superior. In so doing, she outlines the debates, social hierarchies, and colonial discourses that inform the racialization of San Antón and its residents as Black.



Obeng, J. Pashington. *Shaping Membership, Defining Nation: The Cultural Politics of African Indians in South Asia*. Lanham, MD: Lexington Books, 2007, pp. 248, ISBN: 978-0-7391-1429-2.

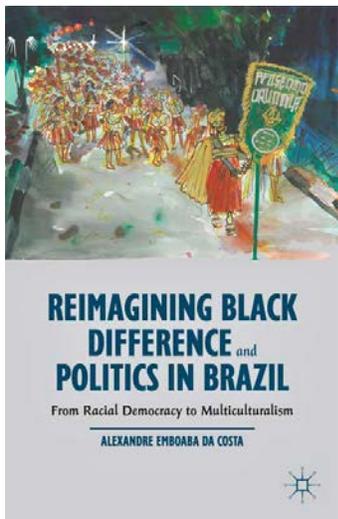
This volume explores and interprets the social politics, religion, and history of Africans (Habshis/Siddis) in Karnataka of South India. Focusing on the continuous dialog between African Indian historical formations and contemporary power structures, the author explains the process of constructing socio-political and religious mores to respond to India's religious, socio-economic, and caste systems. The study begins by contextualizing the history of Africans in India before moving onto a sociological study to examine the formal and non-formal religious customs that stress African Indian agency in appropriating and shaping new forms of Indianness as well as African Diasporic realities. The book concludes with an analysis of African Indian folksongs and dances.



Marsh-Lockett, Carol P. and Elizabeth J. West, eds. *Literary Expressions of African Spirituality*. Lanham, MD: Lexington Books, 2013, pp. 248, ISBN: 978-0-7391-8142-3.

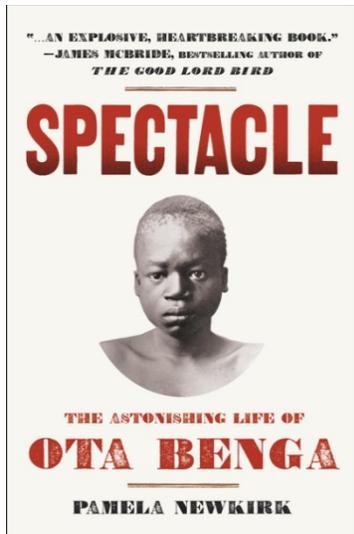
This book offers a trans-geographical approach to new readings of Black literatures through the prism of spiritual memory that survived the damaging impact of trans-Atlantic enslavement, a significant thread in history that has often been missed in the reading and teaching of the literatures of the African diaspora.

Essays in this collection explore unique Black angles of seeing and ways of knowing that characterize African spiritual presence and influence in trans-Atlantic African artistic productions. Hence, the essays explore works that range from turn-of-the-century African American figure W.E.B. DuBois, South African novelist Zakes Mda, Haitian novelists Edwidge Danticat and Jacques Roumain, as well as African belief systems such as Voodoo and Candomble to access the deep and often unconscious spiritual and psychosocial connectedness of people of African descent in the African world.



Da Costa, Alexandre Emboaba. *Reimagining Black Difference and Politics in Brazil: From Racial Democracy to Multiculturalism*. London: Palgrave Macmillan, 2014, pp. 248, ISBN: 9781137386335.

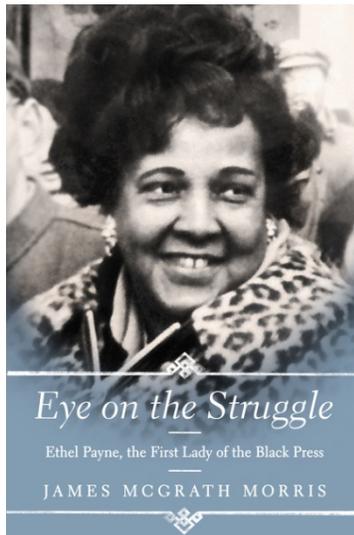
This volume examines Black Brazilian political struggle and the predicaments it faces in a time characterized by the increasing institutionalization of ethno-racial policies and Black participation in policy orchestration. Greater public debate and policy attention to racial inequality suggests the attenuation of racial democracy and positive miscegenation as hegemonic ideologies of the Brazilian nation-state. However, the colorblind and post-racial logics of mixture and racial democracy, especially the denial and/or minimization of racism as a problem, maintain a strong grip on public thinking, social action, and institutional practices. Through a focus on the epistemic dimensions of Black struggles and the anti-racist pluri-cultural efforts that have been put into action by activists, scholars, and organizations over the past decade, thus, the author analyzes how these politics negotiate as well as seek to go beyond the delimited understandings of racial difference, belonging, and citizenship that shape the contemporary politics of inclusion.



Newkirk, Pamela. *Spectacle: The Astonishing Life of Ota Benga*. New York, NY: Amistad, 2015, pp. 320, ISBN: 9780062201003.

This book reveals a little-known and shameful episode in American history, when an African man was used as a human zoo exhibit—a shocking story of racial prejudice, science, and tragedy in the early years of the twentieth century. In 1904, Ota Benga, a young Congolese, a person of petite stature arrived from central Africa and was featured in an anthropology exhibit at the St. Louis World’s Fair. Two years later, the New York Zoological Gardens displayed him in its Monkey House, caging the slight 103-pound, 4-foot 11-inch tall man with an orangutan. The attraction became an international sensation, drawing thousands of New Yorkers and commanding headlines from across the nation and Europe. Hence, this volume explores the circumstances of Ota Benga’s captivity,

the international controversy it inspired, and his efforts to adjust to American life. It also reveals why, decades later, the man most responsible for his exploitation would be hailed as his friend and savior, while those who truly fought for Ota have been banished to the shadows of history. Using primary historical documents, the author traces Ota’s tragic life, from Africa to St. Louis to New York, and finally to Lynchburg, Virginia, where he lived out the remainder of his short life.



Morris, James McGrath. *Eye on the Struggle: Ethel Payne, the First Lady of the Black Press*. New York, NY: Amistad, 2015, pp.480 ISBN: 9780062198853.

Acclaimed biographer James McGrath Morris brings into focus the riveting life of one of the most significant yet least known figures of the civil rights era—pioneering journalist Ethel Payne, the “First Lady of the Black Press”—elevating her to her rightful place in history at last. For decades, Ethel Lois Payne has been hidden in the shadows of history. Now, her story is being told as the author illuminates this ambitious, influential, and groundbreaking woman’s life, from her childhood growing up in South Chicago to her career as a journalist and network news commentator, reporting on some of the most crucial events in modern American history. Drawing on a rich and untapped collection of Payne’s personal

papers documenting her private and professional affairs, the author combed through oral histories, FBI documents, and newspapers to fully capture Payne’s life, her achievements, and her legacy as he introduces us to a journalist who covered such events as the Montgomery Bus Boycott, the Little Rock school desegregation crisis, the service of black troops in Vietnam, and Henry Kissinger’s 26,000-mile tour of Africa.

A self-proclaimed “instrument of change” for her people, Payne broke new ground as the Washington correspondent for the *Chicago Defender*. She publicly prodded President Dwight D. Eisenhower to support desegregation, and her reporting on legislative and judicial civil rights battles enlightened and activated black readers across the nation. In 1964, President Lyndon B. Johnson recognized Payne’s seminal role by presenting her with a pen used in signing the Civil Rights Act. In 1972, she became the first female African American radio and television commentator on a national network, working for CBS. Her story mirrors the evolution of our own modern society.

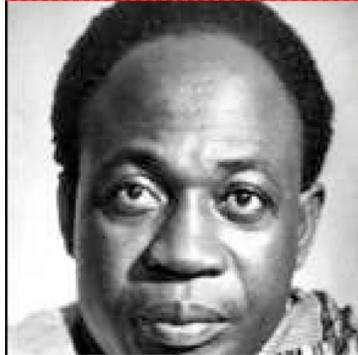


Craig, U-Shaka (foreword by Halford H. Fairchild). *Shifting Your Paradigm for Optimum Health and Longevity: A Model of Health and Healing for African Americans* Oakland, California: Gye Nyame Publishing House (P.O. Box 6306, Zip code: 94603), 2013, pp.316, ISBN: 978-0-991136902.

This book details the need for a radical change in the way African Americans view food and its startling implications on physical, mental, emotional, and spiritual well-being. Hence, *Shifting Your Paradigm* provides readers with information they will need to fundamentally change the way they view food and its impact on the multi-faceted aspects life. Like others, the African American community via experiences, beliefs and values have been shaped and molded from a historical past which include: exploitation, enslavement, emancipation, discrimination, the struggle for civil rights, and other social issues steeped in a continuous struggle for total liberation. Set as a corrective, the book works to identify the foods that are loved that are the same foods that contribute to ill health (heart disease, cancer, strokes, diabetes, kidney and liver disorders, autoimmune diseases, etc.) in the African American community in the U.S.

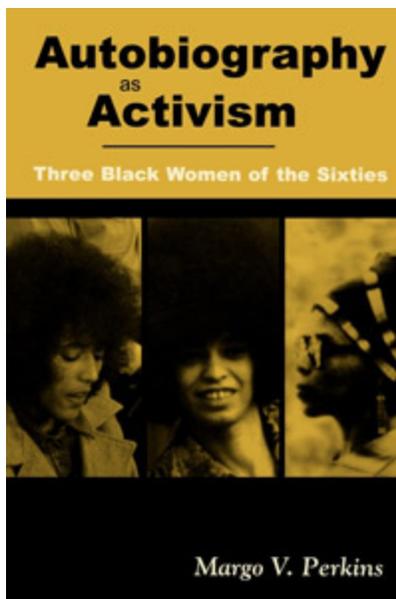


Mwakikagile, Godfrey. *Western Involvement in Nkrumah's Downfall*. Dar es Salaam, Tanzania: New Africa Press, 2015, pp.326, ISBN: 9987160042.



In this work the author outlines the role played by Western governments and intelligence agencies of the United States, Britain, West Germany, and France to weaken and undermine the Kwame Nkrumah government, and how they facilitated the military coup which ended his rule. Via declassified material including interviews with former American ambassadors to Ghana, as well as other sources to document this study, the author contends that the Ghanaian army and police officers who overthrew Nkrumah may not have succeeded, when they did in ousting Nkrumah had Western powers, especially the United States, not been involved in the plot to oust him, and second that it

is possible the Ghanaian coup makers would have, on their own, succeeded later in overthrowing Nkrumah.



Perkins, Margo V. *Autobiography as Activism: Three Black Women of the Sixties*. Jackson, MS: University Press of Mississippi, 2013, pp.176, ISBN: 9781578062645.

Angela Davis, Assata Shakur, and Elaine Brown are the only women activists of the Black Power movement who have published book-length autobiographies. In bearing witness to that era, these newsmakers wrote in part to educate and to mobilize their anticipated readers. In this way, Davis's *Angela Davis: An Autobiography* (1974), Shakur's *Assata* (1987), and Brown's *A Taste of Power: A Black Woman's Story* (1992) can all be read as extensions of the writers' political activism during the 1960s. In this critical analysis of their books, less a history of the movement (or of women's involvement in it) than an exploration of the politics of storytelling for activists who choose to write their lives. Perkins examines how activists use autobiography to connect their lives to those of other activists

across historical periods, to emphasize the link between the personal and the political, and to construct an alternative history that challenges dominant or conventional ways of knowing.