

ENCYCLOPEDIA OF
AFRICA

Edited by

KWAME ANTHONY APPIAH &
HENRY LOUIS GATES, JR.

ENCYCLOPEDIA OF

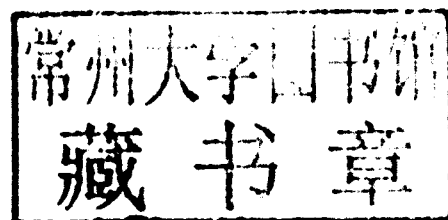
Africa

EDITORS

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Introduction

In the first decade of the twentieth century when W. E. B. Du Bois first imagined an *Encyclopedia Africana*, he was inspired by the thought that educating others about black people would help in the fight against racism. As the century wore on, he became increasingly convinced that racism wasn't a matter of ignorance. Rather, he thought (inspired by Marxist theories of ideology) that racism served the interests of capitalists by stopping workers of different races from banding together to fight for better wages and conditions. But Du Bois was one of the first scholars to have a profound knowledge of the lives and the works of black people in Africa and her Diaspora, and he never gave up on the dream of creating an encyclopedia that reflected the truth about black people. Regardless of whether or not an encyclopedia of the black world would help in the struggles against racism, it would be a marvelous scholarly accomplishment. Along with fascinating information, it could assemble a magnificent record of black achievement, much of it unknown not just to non-Africans but also to most people of African descent; a record that could provide a rebuttal to centuries of contempt and misrepresentation.

It was Du Bois's vision that several decades ago led Wole Soyinka, Henry Louis Gates, Jr., and I to begin to plan our own *Africana* encyclopedia. By the time we assembled the resources to create such an encyclopedia, the world Du Bois faced had disappeared. The study of Africa, and of the lives of people of African descent, exploded in the latter part of the twentieth century; Du Bois's project required much original research, while ours could build on a vast new library of knowledge about Africa. Racism, which was still ascendant both in and outside Africa when he began his work, was on the retreat. The world of encyclopedia publishing was also undergoing rapid change, with the invention of the digital encyclopedia, first on CD-ROM and then online.

And so, when we began our work at the end of the twentieth century, we were able to create the first multimedia encyclopedia of the African Diaspora grounded in this new scholarship—*Africana* (1999). But we are people of the book. We wanted our encyclopedia to live not only in the digital world, but also in the world of print. We wanted it to evolve, as encyclopedias naturally do, with the growth of knowledge and the expansion of scholarship. Our partnership with Oxford University Press in the second edition of *Africana* (2005) allowed us to realize our goal.

The five-volume *Africana* covers the experience of people within Africa and of people of African descent. But

embedded in it, of course, are many articles that focus on the continent of Africa itself, the homeland in which the African Diaspora finds its roots. We recently realized that we could create out of the larger work a new encyclopedia focused solely on Africa, one that would allow those who were looking for information and insight about the continent to find it in a single source. The two-volume *Encyclopedia of Africa* is the result. It does for the continent what Du Bois originally aimed to do for the Diaspora: it enlarges the knowledge and understanding of Africa for people of all races—informing, fascinating, and perhaps even inspiring them.

The response in the Diaspora to *Africana* was immensely rewarding, in part because it seemed to inspire people to learn about the rich world of creativity in Africa and the places where her children have settled. People in the Diaspora wanted to add the book to their collection so they and their families could learn about the history and achievements of African Americans, as well as reflect on the problems and challenges they face. The *Encyclopedia of Africa* will allow anyone with an interest in Africa to do the same. It covers the great diversity of the people of this multiracial continent over the millennia, and it updates articles from *Africana* to reflect recent events such as the election of Ellen Johnson-Sirleaf as president of Liberia in 2006 (the first female elected head of state in Africa), the 2008 charges brought by the International Criminal Court against Sudanese President Omar Hassan al-Bashir for crimes against humanity in the Darfur genocide, controversial elections in Nigeria (2007) and Zimbabwe (2008), and President Barack Obama's visit to Africa in 2009.

Whether you want to understand the history of the independence movements in West Africa, the rise and fall of apartheid in South Africa, or the musical traditions of the Maghreb, these volumes will allow you to find the people, the places, the objects, the institutions, and the ideas that you need to answer your questions. And even if you come to the *Encyclopedia of Africa* with only your curiosity about African life, you will find something to interest and engage you on any page you choose to begin your journey.

Kwame Anthony Appiah
Henry Louis Gates, Jr.
September 1, 2009

Acknowledgments

Building an encyclopedia requires the labor and support of hundreds of individuals and many institutions. In addition to the contributors, who are acknowledged elsewhere in this book, the editors wish to express their profound gratitude to the following persons who, in a variety of ways, contributed to the collection of entries upon which this encyclopedia is based:

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Chronology of Selected Events

<i>Dates</i>	<i>Events</i>	<i>Dates</i>	<i>Events</i>
4–2.5 million years B.C.E.	Two major groups of hominids emerge in East Africa.	c. 1350 B.C.	Pharaoh Akhenaton, regarded by some historians as the first monotheist, rules Egypt from 1350 to 1334.
c. 3400 B.C.E.	Egyptians adopt a special symbol for the number ten. Around the same time other symbols are adopted: a spiral for 100 and a lotus blossom for 1,000.	c. 1000 B.C.E.–350 C.E.	Kingdom of Nubia flourishes.
		c. 920 B.C.E.–250 C.E.	Nok culture thrives in central Nigeria.
c. 3200 B.C.E.	Egyptian writing (hieroglyphics) is invented.	c. 800–146 B.C.E.	Carthage dominates the western Mediterranean region; Phoenician trade flourishes.
c. 3100–2258 B.C.E.	Egypt's Old Kingdom thrives until famine and Bedouins attack the borders and the civilization falls into decline.	525 B.C.E.	Under the leadership of Cambyses II, Persia conquers Egypt; camels are introduced into Egypt.
c. 2800 B.C.E.	Papyrus, a plant found along the banks of the Nile, is made into writing material by the Egyptians.	332 B.C.E.	Greek presence in Africa begins with the entry of Alexander the Great into Egypt.
c. 2680–2565 B.C.E.	The first stone pyramid—and the oldest surviving example of an architectural monument—is built for the pharaoh Zoser.	305 B.C.E.	Ptolemy, a Macedonian general, establishes the Ptolemaic dynasty in Egypt.
		146 B.C.E.	After the destruction of Carthage, Rome acquires its first territory in Africa—a province of about 5,000 square miles roughly corresponding to the boundaries of present-day Tunisia.
c. 2134–1668 B.C.E.	Egypt's Middle Kingdom thrives. During this time, the pharaohs establish a standing army and extend Egypt's influence toward Libya, Palestine, and into Nubia.	60–30 B.C.E.	Cleopatra, the last Ptolemaic ruler of Egypt, forms alliances with Rome's most important leaders, Julius Caesar and Mark Antony.
1730–1580 B.C.E.	Kingdom of Kush controls Nubia south of the Elephantine.	First century C.E.	Camels are introduced into the Sahara. By the 300s or 400s C.E., camels are transporting gold and salt across the desert. The use of camels increases the mobility of individuals and groups as well as the potential for nomads to attack Roman territories.
1567–1085 B.C.E.	Egyptians drive foreigners from their land and establish the New Kingdom. Tutankhamen ascends the throne at the age of nine and dies at age eighteen.		
1504 B.C.E.	Hatshepsut becomes regent and rules for her infant nephew Thutmose III.	c. 50–900s C.E.	Aksum Kingdom flourishes in Ethiopia.

<i>Dates</i>	<i>Events</i>	<i>Dates</i>	<i>Events</i>
c. 106 C.E.	Egyptian merchant compiles <i>Periplus Maris Erythraei</i> (The periplus of the Eritrean sea), a book that describes trade of the Red Sea, eastern Africa, and South Arabia with India and China.	c. 900–present	Kingdom of Benin and its capital, Benin City, is founded on a sandy plain in the middle of the tropical rain forest of western Nigeria. The original inhabitants of Benin called themselves, their capital, and their language Edo, as their descendants do today.
354 C.E.	Saint Augustine is born in North Africa to a pagan father and Christian mother. He is considered to be one the “Doctors of the Church,” a title bestowed during the Middle Ages to particularly influential and saintly theologians.	969–1171	Fatimids, an expansionist military power and fervent evangelists for the Shiite branch of Islam, arrive in Egypt from the west and establish a dynasty.
400–1076	Kingdom of Ghana, the first large sub-Saharan state, flourishes.	1000s	Shona on the Zimbabwe plateau begin to export gold and build the stone structures that become Great Zimbabwe, which flourishes until its decline in the 1500s.
640–1500s	Islam, which had its beginnings among Arabs who inhabited the desert of present-day Saudi Arabia, spreads in Africa through trade, missionary activity, and conquest. By the beginning of the eleventh century, Muslim sultanates exist throughout the region.	1056–1147	Almoravids, a confederation of Saharan Berbers, rule northwestern Africa and Muslim Spain.
700s–1400s	Swahili civilization develops along the eastern coast of Africa.	1147–1269	Almohads displace the Almoravids and establish a dynasty ruling North Africa and Spain from Marrakesh in Morocco.
784	Kingdom of Kanem-Bornu is founded between Lake Chad and the southern end of the Saharan trade route known as the Bahr al-Ghazal, providing the most direct line between the Lake Chad region and the Mediterranean.	1169–1252	Under the Ayyubid dynasty Egypt becomes the most important center of Arabic civilization.
800s–1500s	Ife, the urban center in southern Nigeria and homeland (according to oral traditions) of the Yoruba, is founded and flourishes. Yoruba kings claim descent from Ife ancestors, and most states on the Bight of Benin regard Ife as the source of Divine Kingship.	c.1200	Lalibela, the king of Ethiopia, creates a ceremonial center in the Lasta province of Roha, which is now known as Lalibela.
		1240–1400	Kingdom of Mali, founded by Sundiata Keita, flourishes.
		1260–1517	Mamluks, former slaves of Turkish descent, rule Egypt for almost three centuries.

<i>Dates</i>	<i>Events</i>	<i>Dates</i>	<i>Events</i>
1300s– early 1700s	Nimi Lukeni establishes the kingdom of Kongo, which is later ruled by Nzinga Mbemba (also known as Afonso I). Afonso opens the country to Portugal and makes Christianity the state religion.	1517	Sultan Selim I defeats the Mamluk army and brings Ottoman rule to Egypt.
1324	Mansa Musa, ruler of Mali, makes a pilgrimage to Mecca and returns with Muslim scholars and artisans. Musa reportedly ascended the throne when his predecessor left the region with 2,000 ships to explore the other side of the Atlantic Ocean.	1554	Sa'adi dynasty begins with the taking of Fès in Morocco, which is followed by four decades of struggle against colonizing Europeans.
1441	First black slaves and gold dust from West Africa arrive in Portugal.	c. 1570	A ship carrying slaves from Guinea to Panama is wrecked off the coast of Ecuador. The escaped Africans, or maroons, establish the Republic of Esmeraldas.
1444	Portuguese captain Dinis Dias finds the Senegal River, the first great tropical river to be seen by Europeans. In the <i>Chronicle of the Discovery and Conquest of Guinea</i> , Gomes Eanes de Zurara recounts how 235 African slaves were brought to Portugal and sold.	1605–1694	The <i>quilombo</i> (community of escaped slaves) of Palmares is established in Pernambuco in Brazil. The largest and best organized of the quilombos, Palmares flourishes for nearly a century.
1460–1591	Founded by fishermen from Dendi, the Songhai empire dominates the land along the right bank of the Niger River. Weakened by epidemic diseases and struggles within the royal family, the empire eventually falls to Moroccan invaders.	1619	A Dutch frigate discharges twenty Africans at Jamestown, Virginia. According to surviving documents, these were the first Africans to arrive in North America. They were classified as indentured servants, not slaves.
1481	To protect their monopoly of the gold trade, the Portuguese erect a stone fort at Elmina on the coast of Ghana.	1624–1663	Baptized Dona Ana de Souza by the Portuguese, Njinga Mbande rules Matamba as regent from 1624 until her brother's death two years later and then as queen. Allied with the Dutch, she eventually defeats the Portuguese in Angola.
1510	Transatlantic slave trade begins with Spain and Portugal bringing an estimated 367,000 Africans to the New World during the 1500s. By the 1860s an estimated 12 million men, women, and children will have been shipped to a life of slavery in the Americas.	1625– early 1800s	Kingdom of Dahomey flourishes in the southern region of present-day Benin, becoming a major force in the region.
		1652	Dutch send a contingent to build a fort near the Cape of Good Hope as a stopover for Dutch ships sailing between the Netherlands and Java. By 1707 the fort is a Dutch colony consisting of nearly 1,800 free men, women, and children and more than 1,100 slaves.

<i>Dates</i>	<i>Events</i>	<i>Dates</i>	<i>Events</i>
1660–present	Second Sa'adi dynasty (Alawites) rules Morocco.	1815	Paul Cuffe, merchant-mariner, philanthropist, and promoter of African American colonization of Africa, transports thirty-eight black people to Sierra Leone at his own expense.
1668	Group of independent English merchants establish the Gambia Adventurers Company to exploit the slave trade on the Gambia, Sierra Leone, and Sherbro rivers; replaced by the Royal African Company in 1672.	1816–1884	Zulu kingdom emerges among the northern Nguni chiefdoms of southeastern Africa during a period of change and coincides with the era known as <i>mfecane</i> (“time of trouble”), when local populations grew rapidly and were overtaxing the land and water supplies.
1670s	Four empires—Aowin, Denkyira, Akwamu, and Asante—vie for primacy on the lower Guinea coast. By the mid-1700s, the Asante consolidate power over the others, forming a confederation of states.	1839	Cinque, a West African, leads other slaves in a mutiny aboard the Spanish ship <i>La Amistad</i> . The subsequent trials, culminating before the U.S. Supreme Court, eventually free the surviving rebels and allow them to return to Africa.
1788–1890s	Europeans, including Sir Joseph Banks, Sir Richard Burton, John Hanning Speke, David Livingstone, and Heinrich Barth, explore the interior of the African continent.		
1789	Olaudah Equiano’s autobiography, published in 1789, tells of his boyhood in West Africa, his capture and enslavement, his experience during the infamous Middle Passage, and his eventual purchase of his own freedom.	1876–1960s	European countries stake claims to land in Africa: Portugal annexes Mozambique and Angola; Berlin Conference begins the Scramble for Africa, the “legal” portioning of the continent by European countries.
1795	To prevent the French from seizing the Cape peninsula of South Africa and attacking British ships en route to India, Britain sends an expedition to take possession of the region. Although the Cape would revert to the Dutch between 1803 and 1806, by 1814 British sovereignty over the tip of southern Africa is reaffirmed.	1880–1881	Afrikaners rebel against Britain in the First Boer War; British withdraw from Transvaal in southern Africa.
		1896	Army of Ethiopian emperor Menelik II wins a decisive victory over the Italian army at the Battle of Adwa. Ethiopia was the only African country to maintain its independence from colonial domination.
1807	Great Britain and the United States abolish the slave trade, effective January 1, 1807.	1899–1901	British defeat the Afrikaners in the Second Boer War.
		1910	Union of South Africa is established.

<i>Dates</i>	<i>Events</i>	<i>Dates</i>	<i>Events</i>
1914–1918	World War I rages; French and British troops capture German Togo; Africans fight in the armies of various colonial powers.	1963	Jomo Kenyatta becomes head of state in independent Kenya; Zanzibar gains its independence; FRELIMO begins an armed struggle for the liberation of Mozambique; Organization of African Unity is established.
1922	Egypt gains its independence.		
1935	Italy invades Ethiopia.		
1936	Union Party in South Africa revokes the voting rights of blacks.	1964	Nelson Mandela is tried and convicted in South Africa; Tanganyika and Zanzibar join to form Tanzania; Malawi and Zambia become independent; Hutus overthrow Tutsi rule in Burundi.
1939–1945	World War II battles are fought in North Africa; Africans in British and French colonies are drafted to fight in Europe and Asia.		
1940s	Nationalist parties form in western Africa.	1965	Rhodesia declares its independence under Ian Smith; Mobutu Sese Seko takes power in Congo-Kinshasa and renames the country Zaire; King Hassan reestablishes the monarchy in Morocco; Gambia gains its independence.
1945	Arab League is formed in Cairo.		
1948	Apartheid policy is established in South Africa.		
1951	Libya becomes an independent monarchy under Idris I.		
1956	Sudan, Morocco, and Tunisia gain their independence.	1966	Lesotho and Botswana gain their independence.
1957	Ghana gains its independence, becoming the first independent black state on the continent; Kwame Nkrumah becomes president.	1967–1970	Biafra attempts to secede from Nigeria; Swaziland becomes independent; Muammar al Qaddafi seizes power in Libya.
		1970s	Civil and ethnic wars erupt across the African continent.
1958	Guinea becomes independent. Things Fall Apart, a novel by the Nigerian Chinua Achebe, is published.	1974–1975	Guinea, Cape Verde, Angola, and Mozambique become independent.
1960	Independence is won in Cameroon, Chad, Congo, Dahomey (Benin), Gabon, Côte d'Ivoire, Madagascar, Mali, Mauritania, Niger, Nigeria, Senegal, Somalia, Togo, Upper Volta (Burkina Faso), and Zaire.	1976	Residents of Soweto and other black townships begin violent protests against apartheid.
		1977	Alex Haley publishes <i>Roots</i> , the half fact, half fiction epic that traces his maternal lineage back to an enslaved West African ancestor named Kunta Kinte; the book is later turned into a successful television miniseries. Somalia invades Ethiopia's Ogaden region, but are soon driven out.
1961	Rwanda, Sierra Leone, and Tanganyika gain their independence.		
1962	Algeria, Burundi, and Uganda become independent.		

<i>Dates</i>	<i>Events</i>	<i>Dates</i>	<i>Events</i>
1980	Zimbabwe becomes independent.	2000	Paul Kagame becomes the first Tutsi president of Rwanda.
1988	Somalia and Ethiopia sign a peace accord.		An International AIDS conference is held in Africa, the first time that such a conference has been held on the continent.
1990	Nelson Mandela is released from prison; Namibia becomes independent.	2001	Joseph Kabila becomes president of Congo-Kinshasa after the assassination of his father. The African Union replaces the Organization of African Unity. Some 4.1 million South Africans are believed to be HIV positive.
1992	U.N. forces are dispatched to Somalia as part of an international peacekeeping mission following the collapse of the government and the rise of rival warlord factions. U.S. Marines arrive in Mogadishu to help in the humanitarian effort.	2003	With support from the United Nations, the United States, and several African countries, opposition groups succeed in removing Charles Taylor from the presidency of Liberia. Rebel groups in the Darfur region of Sudan demand power-sharing from the Arab-controlled government, which responds by attacking civilian populations in rebel areas.
1993	Apartheid ends in South Africa.		Thousands of Sudanese refugees flee to neighboring Chad to avoid attacks by government supported Janjaweed militias; Kofi Annan (secretary-general of the UN) and Colin Powell (U.S. secretary of state) travel to Sudan to focus world attention on the dire humanitarian crisis in Darfur.
1994	Nelson Mandela becomes the first black president of South Africa. A genocide of Tutsis and Hutu in Rwanda—with a death toll estimated as high as 1 million—breaks out; President Juvénal Habyarimana is assassinated during the violence. The United States abandons its mission in Somalia following the deaths of seventeen U.S. Army rangers.	2004	The United Nations agrees to dispatch some 10,000 peacekeepers to southern Sudan. However, the killing in Darfur continues.
1995	Deadly outbreak of Ebola virus kills thousands in Africa. The United Nations abandons its mission in Somalia.		Former Liberian president Charles Taylor is brought before the Hague, charged for his part in inciting crimes against humanity during the violence in Sierra Leone.
1996	The South African Supreme Court orders South African public schools to begin admitting black students.	2005	
1997	Laurent Kabila takes power in Zaire and renames the country the Democratic Republic of Congo (Kinshasa).	2007	
1999	Nelson Mandela steps down as president of South Africa. He is succeeded by Thabo Mbeki. Nigeria transitions from a military government to a civilian authority.		

<i>Dates</i>	<i>Events</i>	<i>Dates</i>	<i>Events</i>
2008	Ethiopian soldiers leave Somalia. A government is established but quickly comes under attack by rebel factions. Madagascar begins producing crude oil after a sixty-year stoppage. The International Criminal Court at the Hague charges Sudanese president Omar Hassan al-Bashir for crimes against humanity in the Darfur genocide. Somali pirates seize the Saudi Arabian oil tanker <i>Sirius Star</i> .	2009	U.S. President Barack Obama visits Africa, making stops in Kenya, Sudan, and Congo. The president's father was a native Kenyan.

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