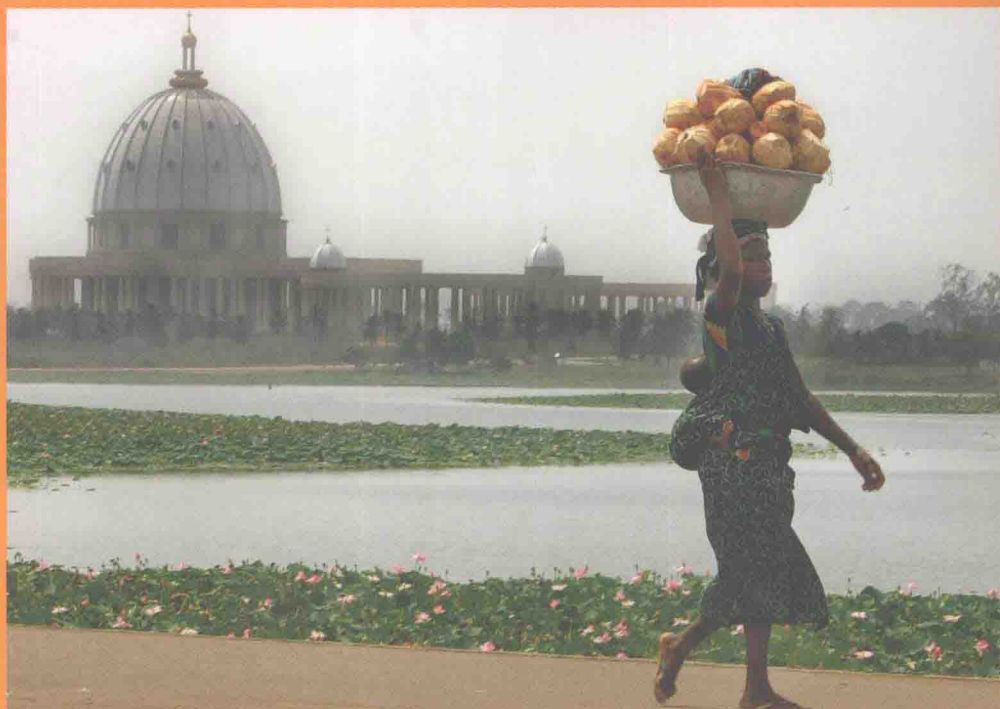


EDITED BY ROY RICHARD GRINKER,
STEPHEN C. LUBKEMANN,
AND CHRISTOPHER B. STEINER



perspectives on
Africa

a reader in culture,
history, and representation

second edition

 WILEY-BLACKWELL

EDITED BY ROY RICHARD GRINKER, STEPHEN C. LUBKEMANN,
AND CHRISTOPHER B. STEINER

perspectives on
Africa

A Reader in Culture, History,
and Representation

Second Edition



WILEY-BLACKWELL

A John Wiley & Sons, Ltd., Publication

This second edition first published 2010

© 2010 Blackwell Publishing Ltd except for editorial material and organization © 2010 Roy Richard Grinker, Stephen C. Lubkemann, and Christopher B. Steiner

Edition history: Blackwell Publishing Ltd (1e, 1997)

Blackwell Publishing was acquired by John Wiley & Sons in February 2007. Blackwell's publishing program has been merged with Wiley's global Scientific, Technical, and Medical business to form Wiley-Blackwell.

Registered Office

John Wiley & Sons Ltd, The Atrium, Southern Gate, Chichester, West Sussex, PO19 8SQ, United Kingdom

Editorial Offices

350 Main Street, Malden, MA 02148-5020, USA

9600 Garsington Road, Oxford, OX4 2DQ, UK

The Atrium, Southern Gate, Chichester, West Sussex, PO19 8SQ, UK

For details of our global editorial offices, for customer services, and for information about how to apply for permission to reuse the copyright material in this book please see our website at www.wiley.com/wiley-blackwell.

The right of Roy Richard Grinker, Stephen C. Lubkemann, and Christopher B. Steiner to be identified as the authors of the editorial material in this work has been asserted in accordance with the UK Copyright, Designs and Patents Act 1988.

All rights reserved. No part of this publication may be reproduced, stored in a retrieval system, or transmitted, in any form or by any means, electronic, mechanical, photocopying, recording or otherwise, except as permitted by the UK Copyright, Designs and Patents Act 1988, without the prior permission of the publisher.

Wiley also publishes its books in a variety of electronic formats. Some content that appears in print may not be available in electronic books.

Designations used by companies to distinguish their products are often claimed as trademarks. All brand names and product names used in this book are trade names, service marks, trademarks or registered trademarks of their respective owners. The publisher is not associated with any product or vendor mentioned in this book. This publication is designed to provide accurate and authoritative information in regard to the subject matter covered. It is sold on the understanding that the publisher is not engaged in rendering professional services. If professional advice or other expert assistance is required, the services of a competent professional should be sought.

Library of Congress Cataloging-in-Publication Data

Perspectives on Africa : a reader in culture, history, and representation / edited by Richard Grinker, Stephen C. Lubkemann, and Christopher B. Steiner. – 2nd ed.

p. cm. – (Global perspectives)

Includes bibliographical references and index.

ISBN 978-1-4443-3522-4 (hardcover : alk. paper) – ISBN 978-1-4051-9060-2 (pbk. : alk. paper) 1. Ethnology–Africa, Sub-Saharan. 2. Africa, Sub-Saharan–Politics and government. 3. Africa, Sub-Saharan–Economic conditions. 4. Africa, Sub-Saharan–Social life and customs. I. Grinker, Roy Richard, 1961– II. Lubkemann, Stephen C., 1968– III. Steiner, Christopher Burghard. IV. Title. V. Series.

GN645.P47 2010

306.0967–dc22

2010002108

A catalogue record for this book is available from the British Library.

Set in 9.5/11.5pt Ehrhardt by SPi Publisher Services, Pondicherry

Printed in Singapore by Ho Printing Singapore Pte Ltd

01 2010

Acknowledgments

Jean and John Comaroff, *Of Revelation and Revolution, Vol. 1* (1991), from The University of Chicago Press, pp. 86–125.

Cheikh Anta Diop, “The Meaning of Our Work”, pp. xii–xvii in *The African Origins of Civilisation: Myth or Reality* (1974), from Lawrence Hill Books.

Kwame Anthony Appiah, “Racisms” in *Anatomy of Racism*, ed. David Theo Goldberg (1990), pp. 3–17, included as “Europe Upside Down: Fallacies of the New Afrocentrism”, *Times Literary Supplement*, 12 February 1993, from University of Minnesota Press.

V. Y. Mudimbe, *The Invention of Africa: Gnosis, Philosophy and the Order of Knowledge*, Indiana University Press (1988), pp. 1–2, 6–11, 15–16.

E. E. Evans-Pritchard, *The Nuer* (1940), pp. 95–110, 113–17, 135–8, from Oxford University Press.

Aidan W. Southall, “The Illusion of Tribe”, in *The Passing of Tribal Man in Africa*, ed. P. C. W. Gutkind, pp. 28–31, 32–5, 39–43, 44, 46–50, from E.J. Brill, Leiden, 1970.

Leroy Vail, *The Creation of Tribalism in Southern Africa*, Copyright © 1988 Leroy Vail, from University of California Press, pp. 1–19.

Mary Douglas, “The Lele: Resistance to Change”, in *Markets in Africa*, pp. 211–33, ed. Paul Bohannon and George Dalton (1962), from Northwestern University Press.

Catherine Coquery-Vidrovitch, “Research on an African Mode of Production”, in *Relations of Production*, pp. 261–88, ed. David Seddon (1978), from Frank Cass & Co. Ltd.

Sharon Hutchinson, “The Cattle of Money and the Cattle of Girls Among the Nuer 1930–83,” *American Ethnologist* (1992), 19 (2): 294–316, reproduced with permission from AAA.

Colin Turnbull, “The Lessons of the Pygmies”, *Scientific American*, 208–22 (1963), pp. 28–37. Copyright © 1963 by Scientific American, Inc. from Scientific American, Inc.

Roy Richard Grinker, *Houses in the Rainforest: Ethnicity and Inequality among Farmers and Foragers in Central Africa* (1994), pp. 73–109. Copyright © 1994 The Regents of the University of California, from the University of California Press.

Edwin Wilmsen, *Land Filled with Flies* (1989), from the University of Chicago Press, pp. 1–32.

Jacqueline S. Soloway and Richard B. Lee, “Foragers, Genuine or Spurious?: Situating the Kalahari San in History”, *Current Anthropology*, 31:2 (1990), pp. 109–47.

David Livingstone, 1858, “Conversations on Rain-making,” pp. 22–7. In *Missionary Travels and Researches in South Africa*. London: Murray.

E. E. Evans-Pritchard, *Witchcraft, Oracles and Magic among the Azande* (1937; abridged edition 1976), from Oxford University Press.

Peter Winch, “Understanding a Primitive Society”, *American Philosophical Quarterly*, I (1964), pp. 307–24, from American Philosophical Quarterly.

Ralph A. Austen, “The Moral Economy of Witchcraft: An Essay in Comparative History”, *Modernity and Its Malcontents*, ed. Jean Comaroff and John Comaroff (1993), University of Chicago Press, pp. 89–110.

M. Griaule, *Conversations with Ogotemmêli* (1948), Oxford University Press, pp. 11–32, from International African Institute.

Paulin J. Hountondji, 1983. *African Philosophy, Myth and Reality*, pp. 55–70. Reprinted with permission of Indiana University Press.

Igor Kopytoff, “Ancestors as Elders in Africa,” *Africa*, 41: 2 (1971), pp. 129–42. Reproduced by permission of International African Institute.

Simon Ottenberg, “Humorous Masks and Serious Politics among the Afikpo Ibo,” in *African Art and Leadership*, ed. Douglas Fraser and Herbert M. Cole (1972), pp. 99–121. Copyright © 1972 by the Board of Regents of the University of Wisconsin Press. Reprinted by permission of the University of Wisconsin Press.

Olu Oguibe, “Art, Identity, Boundaries: Postmodernism and Contemporary African Art”, in *Reading the Contemporary: African Art from Theory to the Marketplace*, ed. Olu Oguibe and Okwui Enwezor, pp. 17–19, 20–1, 23–5, 27–8, Institute of International Visual Arts (INIVA), London, 1999 © Olu Oguibe and INIVA.

Kelly M. Askew, “As Plato Duly Warned: Music, Politics, and Social Change in Coastal East Africa,” *Anthropological Quarterly*, 2003, 76(4): 609–37.

Bayo Holsey, *Routes of Remembrance: Refashioning the Slave Trade in Ghana*, University of Chicago Press (2008), pp. 9–14, 109–10, 112–21.

Ester Boserup, “The Economics of Polygamy,” in *Women’s Role in Economic Development* (1970), Allen & Unwin, pp. 37–50, from Elisabeth W. Case, Agent.

Judith Van Allen, 1982, “‘Sitting on a Man’: Colonialism and the Lost Political Institutions of Igbo Women,” *Canadian Journal of African Studies*, 6 (2): 165–81.

Suzanne Leclerc-Madlala, “Virginity Testing: Managing Sexuality in a Maturing HIV/AIDS Epidemic”, *Medical Anthropology Quarterly* 15(4), pp. 533–53, 2001.

Frederick D. Lugard, 1922, "Methods of Ruling Native Races," pp. 193–213. *The Dual Mandate in British Tropical Africa*. London: Blackwood.

Walter Rodney, *How Europe Underdeveloped Africa* (1972), Howard University Press, pp. 223–60. Copyright © 1972 by Walter Rodney. Reprinted with the permission of Howard University Press.

Terence Ranger, "The Invention of Tradition in Colonial Africa," in *The Invention of Tradition*, ed. Eric Hobsbawm and Terence Ranger (1983), by permission of the author and Past and Present Society, from Cambridge University Press.

Ngugi wa Thiong'o, *Detained: A Writer's Prison Diary* (1981), pp. 29–38, 56–62, from Heinemann Publishers (Oxford) Ltd.

Léopold Sédar Senghor, "Negritude: A Humanism of the Twentieth Century," pp. 179–92. In Wilfred Cartey and Martin Kilson, eds, *The African Reader: Independent Africa*, Vintage Books, New York. Copyright © 1970 by Wilfred Cartey and Martin Kilson.

Frantz Fanon, *The Wretched of the Earth*, trans. Constance Farrington (1968, 1982) pp. 206–19, 226–7, 236–47. Copyright © 1963 by Presence Africaine, from HarperCollins Publishers Ltd and Grove/Atlantic, Inc.

Bruce J. Berman. 1991. "Nationalism, Ethnicity, and Modernity: The Paradox of Mau Mau," *Canadian Journal of African Studies/Revue canadienne des Études africaines* 25(2): 181–206.

Christopher B. Steiner. 1992. "The Invisible Face: Masks, Ethnicity, and the State in Côte d'Ivoire, West Africa," *Museum Anthropology* 16(3): 53–7. Reproduced by permission of the American Anthropological Association.

Max Gluckman, *Order and Rebellion in Tribal Africa: Collected Essays with Autobiographical Introduction*, ed. Max Gluckman, Routledge (2004), pp. 112–35. Copyright © 2004, Routledge. Reproduced by permission of Taylor & Francis Books UK.

Paul Richards, *Fighting for the Rainforest: War, Youth, and Resources in Sierra Leone*, Heinemann (1996), Portsmouth, NH, pp. xiii–xx, xxii–xxv, 25–32, 34, 56–60.

Christopher C. Taylor, *Sacrifice as Terror: The Rwandan Genocide of 1994*, Berg Publishers (2001), pp. 101–2, 105, 110–14, 117–19, 127–37, 139–40, 142–5, 153–7, 167–8, 174–6.

Stephen Lubkemann, "Where to Be an Ancestor? Reconstituting Socio-Spiritual Worlds among Displaced Mozambicans," *Journal of Refugee Studies*, Vol. 15, No. 2, 2002, Oxford University Press (2002), pp. Lub. 3–18, Lub. 20–4.

James Ferguson, *Expectations of Modernity: Myths and Meanings of Urban Life on the Zambian Copperbelt*, 1st edition (1999), pp. 1–7, 9–13, 234–47, © 1999. Reprinted by permission of University of California Press.

Peter Uvin, "Development Aid and Structural Violence. The Case of Rwanda," *Development*, 42 (3) (September 1999), pp. 49–56.

Daniel Jordan Smith, *A Culture of Corruption: Everyday Deception and Popular Discontent in Nigeria*, Princeton University Press (2008), pp. 28–52. © Princeton University Press. Reprinted by permission of Princeton University Press.

Jean-François Bayart, *The State in Africa: The Politics of the Belly*, 1993, pp. 211–27, 231–43, 268–9. Copyright © Longman Group UK Limited 1993.

Harry G. West, “‘Govern Yourselves!’ Democracy and Carnage in Northern Mozambique,” in Julia Paley (ed.), *Democracy: Anthropological Approaches*. Copyright © 2008 by the School for Advanced Research, Santa Fe, pp. 97–119.

Dianna Shandy, *Nuer-American Passages: Globalizing Sudanese Migration*, University Press of Florida, 1st edition, (2007), pp.109–26. Reprinted with permission by the University Press of Florida.

List of Maps

Map 1	Africa in the colonial era, <i>c.</i> 1925	16
Map 2	Africa today, showing the ethnic groups discussed in the book	17

Contents

<i>Acknowledgments</i>	x
<i>List of Maps</i>	xiv
<i>List of Figures</i>	xv
<i>List of Plates</i>	xvii
<i>List of Tables</i>	xviii
 Introduction: Africa in Perspective	 1
 Part I Representation and Discourse	 19
<i>Introduction</i>	21
1 Africa Observed: Discourses of the Imperial Imagination <i>Jean and John Comaroff</i>	31
2 The Meaning of Our Work <i>Cheikh Anta Diop</i>	44
3 Europe Upside Down: Fallacies of the New Afrocentrism <i>Kwame Anthony Appiah</i>	48
4 Discourse of Power and Knowledge of Otherness <i>K. Y. Mudimbe</i>	55
 Part II From Tribe to Ethnicity: Kinship and Social Organization	 61
<i>Introduction</i>	63
5 The Nuer: Time and Space <i>E. E. Evans-Pritchard</i>	71

6	The Illusion of Tribe <i>Aidan W. Southall</i>	83
7	Ethnicity in Southern African History <i>Leroy Vail</i>	95
Part III Economics as a Cultural System		109
<i>Introduction</i>		111
8	Lele Economy Compared with the Bushong <i>Mary Douglas</i>	123
9	Research on an African Mode of Production <i>Catherine Coquery-Vidrovitch</i>	139
10	The Cattle of Money and the Cattle of Girls among the Nuer, 1930–83 <i>Sharon Hutchinson</i>	151
Part IV Hunter-Gatherers in Africa		167
<i>Introduction</i>		169
11	The Lesson of the Pygmies <i>Colin M. Turnbull</i>	175
12	Houses in the Rainforest: Gender and Ethnicity among the Lese and Efe in Zaire <i>Roy Richard Grinker</i>	184
13	Land Filled with Flies: The Evolution of Illusion <i>Edwin N. Wilmsen</i>	200
14	Foragers, Genuine or Spurious? Situating the Kalahari San in History <i>Jacqueline S. Solway and Richard B. Lee</i>	219
Part V Witchcraft, Science, and Rationality: The Translation of Culture		237
<i>Introduction</i>		239
15	Conversations on Rain-making <i>David Livingstone</i>	245
16	The Notion of Witchcraft Explains Unfortunate Events <i>E. E. Evans-Pritchard</i>	249
17	Understanding a Primitive Society <i>Peter Winch</i>	257
18	The Moral Economy of Witchcraft: An Essay in Comparative History <i>Ralph A. Austen</i>	270

Part VI	Ancestors, Gods, and the Philosophy of Religion	283
	<i>Introduction</i>	285
19	Conversations with Ogotemmêli <i>Marcel Griaule</i>	291
20	African Philosophy, Myth and Reality <i>Paulin J. Hountondji</i>	302
21	Ancestors as Elders in Africa <i>Igor Kopytoff</i>	314
Part VII	Arts, Aesthetics, and Heritage	323
	<i>Introduction</i>	325
22	Humorous Masks and Serious Politics among the Afikpo Igbo <i>Simon Ottenberg</i>	335
23	Art, Identity, Boundaries: Postmodernism and Contemporary African Art <i>Olu Oguibe</i>	348
24	As Plato Duly Warned: Music, Politics, and Social Change in Coastal East Africa <i>Kelly M. Askew</i>	354
25	In Place of Slavery: Fashioning Coastal Identity <i>Bayo Holsey</i>	372
Part VIII	Sex and Gender Studies in Africa: Economy and Society	379
	<i>Introduction</i>	381
26	The Economics of Polygamy <i>Ester Boserup</i>	389
27	“Sitting on a Man”: Colonialism and the Lost Political Institutions of Igbo Women <i>Judith Van Allen</i>	399
28	Virginity Testing: Managing Sexuality in a Maturing HIV/AIDS Epidemic <i>Suzanne Leclerc-Madlala</i>	411
Part IX	Europe in Africa: Colonization	423
	<i>Introduction</i>	425
29	The Dual Mandate in British Tropical Africa: Methods of Ruling Native Races <i>Frederick D. Lugard</i>	431
30	How Europe Underdeveloped Africa <i>Walter Rodney</i>	439

31	The Invention of Tradition in Colonial Africa <i>Terence Ranger</i>	450
32	Detained: A Writer's Prison Diary <i>Ngugi wa Thiong'o</i>	462
Part X Nations and Nationalism		471
<i>Introduction</i>		473
33	Négritude: A Humanism of the Twentieth Century <i>Léopold Sédar Senghor</i>	477
34	On National Culture <i>Frantz Fanon</i>	484
35	Nationalism, Ethnicity, and Modernity: The Paradox of Mau Mau <i>Bruce J. Berman</i>	498
36	The Invisible Face: Masks, Ethnicity, and the State in Côte d'Ivoire <i>Christopher B. Steiner</i>	514
Part XI Violent Transformations: Conflict and Displacement		521
<i>Introduction</i>		523
37	Rituals of Rebellion in South-East Africa <i>Max Gluckman</i>	531
38	Fighting for the Rainforest: War, Youth and Resources in Sierra Leone <i>Paul Richards</i>	543
39	Sacrifice as Terror: The Rwandan Genocide of 1994 <i>Christopher C. Taylor</i>	555
40	Where to Be an Ancestor? Reconstituting Socio-spiritual Worlds among Displaced Mozambicans <i>Stephen Lubkemann</i>	569
Part XII Development, Governance, and Globalization		583
<i>Introduction</i>		585
41	Expectations of Modernity: Myths and Meanings of Urban Life on the Zambian Copperbelt <i>James Ferguson</i>	595
42	Development Aid and Structural Violence: The Case of Rwanda <i>Peter Uvin</i>	609
43	Nigerian Scams as Political Critique: Globalization, Inequality and 419 <i>Daniel Jordan Smith</i>	616

44	The State in Africa: The Politics of the Belly <i>Jean-François Bayart</i>	629
45	“Govern Yourselves!” Democracy and Carnage in Northern Mozambique <i>Harry G. West</i>	644
46	Nuer-American Passages <i>Dianna Shandy</i>	660
	<i>Index</i>	671

List of Figures

Figure 5.1	72
Figure 5.2	73
Figure 5.3	73
Figure 5.4	77
Figure 5.5 Nuer socio-spatial categories	79
Figure 8.1 Average length of dry season expressed in days (From: F. Buitot – “Saisons et Périodes Sèches et Pluvieuses au Congo Belge.” Bruxelles, 1954)	124
Figure 8.2 Population density and forest cover (Lele and Bushong) (From N. Nicolai & J. Jacques – “La transformation du paysage Congolais par Chemin de Fer” 1954 p. 112)	125
Figure 8.3 Age of retirement from work	136
Figure 8.4 Period of full work, showing age of entry into full agricultural responsibility	136
Figure 8.5 Lele economy and social organization	136
Figure 10.1 The relativity of the “cattle of money”/“cattle of girls” distinction	162
Figure 11.1 Ituri Forest inhabited by the Pygmies occupies an area of roughly 50,000 square miles in the northeastern corner of the tropical rain forest of the Congo, in Central Africa	177
Figure 11.2 Detail map of the Ituri Forest shows the Pygmy camps visited by the author (small open circles), villages (black dots) and various rivers (thin lines). The camps are connected by forest paths (medium lines), the villages by roads (heavy lines)	178

- Figure 11.3 Forest camps change structure and constitution in cyclical fashion as Pygmies move from one campsite to another; they become increasingly fragmented at the approach of the honey season (May through June), break up during the season (figures show number of families) and re-form afterward. The disposition of huts, direction in which they face and their shapes are as shown; some were later abandoned (broken lines). Of the clans constituting the group with which the author stayed during the period, the main one was the Bapuemi (solid-coloured areas). A quarrel resulted in a split camp (lower left) which gradually re-formed 180
- Figure 13.1 Map of southern Africa showing the countries mentioned in the text; L is Lesotho, S is Swaziland. In colonial times Botswana was known as the Bechuanaland Protectorate or simply the Protectorate; Namibia was South-West Africa to the British and Südwestafrika to the Germans. Ngamiland is the part of northwestern Botswana west of the Okavango Delta and north of Lake Ngami, in which the location of CaeCae is marked by a triangle; the asterisk marks the location of Barrow's 1797 observations 201
- Figure 14.1 The 19th-century Kalahari, with relevant contemporary boundaries and political divisions superimposed 223
- Figure 26.1 Sex and age structure of population in African areas of South Rhodesia in 1956 394

List of Plates

- Plate 22.1 Igbo, Afikpo. A dancer wearing the *nne Mgbo* (mother of Mgbo) mask. The raffia backing to the mask and the method of attachment to the face are visible. Mgbom village. Ht. 9" (22.8 cm). (Photograph: author, 1960.) 337
- Plate 22.2 Igbo, Afikpo. The actors are playing out a skit. The main body of the performers is in the background. Mgbom village. (Photograph: author, 1960.) 338
- Plate 36.1 Masked dancer with musicians performing at the festival of masks in Man, ca. 1979. Photographer unknown. 516

List of Tables

Table 8.1	Annual cycle of work	129
Table 26.1	Incidence of polygamy in Africa	391
Table 26.2	Rights and duties of Yoruba women	392
Table 26.3	Age distribution of married Moslem population of Dakar in Senegal	393
Table 41.1	Life expectancy and child mortality of urban Copperbelt residents, 1980–1990	598