

Recent Books from/on Africa – Nov 2016

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Anthropology

The Vanishing Black African Woman : A Compendium of the Global Skin-Lightening Practice, Volume One / Yetunde Mercy Olumide
Bamenda, Cameroon: Langaa RPCIG, 2016

1v.

Includes Index

995676356X ; 9789956763566

\$ 55.00 / PB

1160gm.

Skin-lightening is currently one of the most common forms of potentially harmful body modification practices in the world and African women are among some of the most widely represented users of skin-lightening products. The overall objective of this book is to provide up-to-date evidence-based recommendations for reducing the global burden of cosmetic skin bleaching and preventing injuries related to skin bleaching in sub-Saharan Africa and Africans in diaspora.

The book aims to: offer an appraisal of all relevant literature on cosmetic bleaching practices to-date, focusing on any key developments; identify and address important medical, public health issues as well as historical, genetic, psychosocial, cultural, behavioural, socioeconomic, political, institutional and environmental determinants; provide guideline recommendations that would help attenuate the burden and possibly eliminate the injuries related to skin bleaching; discuss potential developments and future directions.

<http://www.marymartin.com/web?pid=236532>

Economics/Development Studies

International Migrants in Johannesburg's Informal Economy / (Author)
Sally Peberdy (Series Ed) Prof. Jonathan Crush
Ontario, Canada: Southern African Migration Programme (SAMP), 2016
56p.
9781920596187
SAMP Migration Policy Series No. 71
\$ 24.00 / PB
134gm.
<http://www.marymartin.com/web?pid=236535>

Claiming Agency : Reflecting on Trust Africa's First Decade / (Eds) Halima
Mahomed & Elizabeth Coleman
Senegal/Zimbabwe: TrustAfrica & Weaver Press, 2016
xii, 144p.
9781779223012 ; 9780797473881
\$ 24.00 / PB
234gm.

Claiming Agency. Reflecting on TrustAfrica's First Decade takes an in-depth look at an African-led foundation that set out to do things differently. Founded in 2006, when solutions to Africa's challenges were often developed outside its borders, TrustAfrica sought to practice a kind of philanthropy that both benefits Africans and actively supports their agency. Now, at the ten-year mark, the book asks, what does this kind of philanthropy make a difference? If so, how? What are its unique ways of working?

The answers are found in chapters that reflect on how TrustAfrica and its partners advanced a range of issues - from women's rights, small-holder agriculture, and democratic reform in Liberia and Zimbabwe to international criminal justice and illicit financial flows. In a clear-eyed look at money and power, the authors observe that donor funds all too often come with strings that constrict African agency - and recommend ways in which donors from Africa and the global north can foster independent action and strengthen movements for change.

<http://www.marymartin.com/web?pid=236536>

History

Where Are You From? : 'Playing White' under Apartheid / (Author) Ulla Dentlinger
BAB 2016, No. 12
Basel Switzerland: Basler Afrika Bibliographien, 2016
144p.
ISSN: 1660-9638 ; 9783905758795
\$ 25.00 / PB
264gm.

Ulla Dentlinger's life history begins in poor, rural apartheid Namibia of the early 1950s. Growing up in the Rehoboth Baster territory, she early on discovers that her parents are not prone to reminisce about their family's past. The most mundane information about their background is guarded much like a state secret. As a child, she begins to panic at being asked the question so normal to others: Where are you from? Only in later years it dawns on her that she had to be a 'Coloured'. The sense of conflict increases immeasurably. By then she is growing up in apartheid South Africa, but now in a 'white' suburb of Cape Town. She goes to a 'white' school and bears herself in a German fashion. She and her family had, in fact, jumped the colour line. Returning to southern Africa from the United States in the 1990s, she now openly pursues investigations into her family background. In this book, Ulla Dentlinger portrays her wider family – some who simply ignored 'race' and colour, others who opposed it and those who dodged or tolerated it. Their intimate, painful or straight-forward stories and recollections lead her to the emotional realization of the wealth of her heritage and its final acceptance.

<http://www.marymartin.com/web?pid=236537>

Makhan Singh : A Revolutionary Kenyan Trade Unionist / (Ed) Shiraz Durrani
London, UK: Vita Books, 2015
198p.
Includes Index
9781869886226
\$ 22.00 / PB
312gm.

<http://www.marymartin.com/web?pid=236539>

Literature

A Casualty of Power / Mukuka Chipanta
Harare, Zimbabwe: Weaver Press, 2016
viii, 208p.
9781779222978
\$ 17.00 / PB
288gm.

Hamoonga Moya's journey would take him a long way from the township of his youth on the Zambian Copperbelt. Life in the capital brought him new friends, and new ideas, and his journalism studies introduced him to ethical dilemmas. Should we take sides when looking at the social impact of the Chinese-owned mines? Who should we blame for the impoverishment of our citizens – the new owners, or the government that made the sale? Is a stadium worth more than a hospital? Outside the classroom, Hamoonga's life, and his hope for the future, were soon entangled in a web of greed, international crime, and betrayal. Only in the end will he know who his true friends are.

<http://www.marymartin.com/web?pid=236540>

Amagama Enkululeko! Words for Freedom : Writing Life Under Apartheid
/ (Foreword) Zakes Mda
Muizenberg, South Africa: Cover2Cover, 2016
258p.
9781928346357
\$ 30.00 / PB
326gm.

Why did African men leave their homes to work on the mines of the Witwatersrand? How did a woman searching for her husband make a life in the city? What happened to a family or community forcibly removed from their homes or their land? How did racial classification destroy families and communities? What thoughts went through a detainee's mind during their long hours in prison? How did black people in South Africa manage to keep the fires of resistance burning under such harsh social, political and economic conditions? How did people born into such a hopeless present keep their dignity and resolve?

With a foreword by Zakes Mda, and a mixture of famous and seemingly forgotten struggle writers, this anthology tackles the history of colonialism and Apartheid from the ground up. Through a blend of history and story-telling, it opens a window onto the ways ordinary, everyday life was shaped by the forces of history. It displays the anger, suffering, love, joy, courage and enduring humanity of ordinary people and communities striving for dignity, freedom and justice.

<http://www.marymartin.com/web?pid=236544>

Boy, Interrupted / Saah Millimono
Kenya, Nairobi: Kwani Trust, 2014
150p.
9789966159885
Kwani? Series No.10
\$ 20.00/ PB
158gm.

<http://www.marymartin.com/web?pid=236546>

The Widow's Cross / Ike Umejesi
Denver, CO, USA: Spears Media Press, 2016
xii, 216p.
9781942876137
\$ 25.00 / PB
306gm.

<http://www.marymartin.com/web?pid=236547>

Politics

Political Philosophies & Nation-Building in Cameroon : Grounds for
Remaking the Postcolony / Aseh Andrew
Bamenda, Cameroon: Langaa RPCIG, 2016
xiv, 190p.
Includes Bibliography
9789956763443
\$ 28.00 / PB
264gm.

This is a comprehensive text on the function of thought in the history and political sociology of Cameroon. The book brings out how the “hidden hand of history” fashions a political thought which, in turn, creates its own history. Instead of Cameroonians making history, history makes Cameroonians. The book shows how political ideas are fashioned in a post-colonial context in which Europeans impose a superordinate arrangement on a people together with its philosophers. “Thinking the nation” in Cameroon on behalf of Europeans, especially after the leaders of the national liberation struggle were all eliminated, European philosophers put in place a “repressive machine” under which Cameroonians were subjected between 1958 and 1990. Repression gave way to a refined form of enslavement – a modernised version of slavery. Cameroonians joined the bandwagon and have been producing and reproducing Western industrial economies while day-dreaming of what they will never become. The whole idea of nation-building in post-colonial Africa is put in question. This book offers students of political studies, sociology, anthropology and history compelling evidence to grapple with questions as to whether Cameroon is a state or a nation and questions of sovereignty and citizenship.

<http://www.marymartin.com/web?pid=236549>

Africa's Best and Worst Presidents : How Neocolonialism and Imperialism
Maintained Venal Rules in Africa / (Author) Nkwazi Nkuzi Mhango
Bamenda, Cameroon: Langa RPCIG, 2016

xxvi, 352p.

9789956764723

\$ 36.00 / PB

546gm.

Africa's Best and Worst Presidents seeks to deconstruct the current superstructure that colonialism created and maintains. It chastises and challenges Africans, academics in the main, to revisit and write a true history of Africa. Written by Africans themselves, such rewritten histories should aim to counter the counterfeit narratives which have proliferated, poisoned and diminished African sense of self and self-confidence. The history centred on African perspectives and experiences should go a long way in our quest to truly unfetter Africa from dependency, desolations and mismanagement. This book calls upon all Africans to stand up fearlessly and tirelessly to take on decadent and despotic regimes that have always held Africa at ransom as they get lessons from the best managers of state affairs on whose feats they must expand. The option to critique, cross-examine and dissect past African presidents and their excesses is aimed at giving the young and frustrated generations of Africans the intellectual resources they need to arm themselves in resolve and pursuit of Africa's emancipation.

<http://www.marymartin.com/web?pid=236551>
