

## Recent Books from Cameroon – April 2023

Mary Martin Booksellers Pte Ltd  
Blk 231, Bain Street  
#03-05, Bras Basah Complex  
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[info@marymartin.com](mailto:info@marymartin.com)  
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### Anthropology

Affects : Images and Languages of Transgression = Images and Languages de la Transgression / (Ed) Parfait D. Akana  
Younde: Muntu Institute Press, 2022  
216p.  
English & French Languages  
9789956464654  
Public Thinking Series No. 2  
\$ 35.00 / PB  
320gm.

The goal of this work (in French and English) is to think through experiences drawn from diverse forms of aesthetic expression the problems of suffering and transgression in Africa. The authors of the book describe what can be considered as a variety of regimes of affection, in other words, particular modes of influence which work from a transgressive ethos.

Le but de ce livre est de penser, à travers quelques expériences tirées de diverses formes d'expressions esthétiques, le problème de la souffrance et de la transgression en Afrique. S'il ne prétend pas à l'exhaustivité du phénomène, c'est parce qu'il fait le pari des "situations" particulières, précises, plus à même de rendre compte de ce qui se joue dans la mise en récit d'une liminalité et d'une façon d'être au monde qui se donne sur le mode de l'affection. Les auteur.e.s de ce livre décrivent ce qui peut être considéré comme une variété des régimes d'affection, c'est-à-dire des modes d'influence particuliers qui travaillent à la manifestation d'un ethos transgressif, et dont l'étayage est constitué de ce qui, dans le monde social, a la figure du rejet et de la marge, de la frayeur et de la violence.

<http://www.marymartin.com/web?pid=846312>

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### Economics/Development Studies

Dark Clouds over the Horizon : Some Development Challenges Facing Africa / John W. Forje  
Bamenda: Langaa RPCIG, 2023  
x, 674p.  
9789956552351  
\$ 60.00 / PB  
1062gm.

This book brings to the fore some critical and fundamental issues plaguing the continent of Africa. It is a symbolic microcosm of challenging issues that Africa has and must address. Can Africa reverse the dark odds and can it move towards a united and integrated whole? The book explores the untold events and negative trends on the economic, social, political, humanitarian and environmental scene in Africa which leaves the international community perceiving Africa through darkened lenses. It tells the dark tragedy of a people – the

economy of alienation and disempowerment as it also injects an encouraging metaphor that the key to the solution of Africa's perennial socio-economic-political transformation rests primarily and decidedly in the hands of African governments and people. Africans are challenged to stop 'tinkering with the problem' but take a progressive Afro-centric approach to effectively address the fate of democracy, management and development in Africa which are closely intertwined. A wide range scope of issues is covered in the preface and the various chapters. The book puts the reader and people in the mode of the tenacity of maintaining a vision of remaining live to the ideals of a progressive Afro-centric agenda that continuing fighting for African development.

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## History

Sustained Terrorism on Africa: A Study of Slave-ism, Colonialism, Neocolonialism, and Globalism / Tatah Mentan

Bamenda: Langaa RPCIG, 2022

xxx, 342p.

9789956552696

\$ 63.00 / PB

536gm.

Human beings indeed need not justify terrorism of any kind, regardless of whether one is Muslim, Christian or Jew, because it is the axis of evil and devastation of mankind. Terrorism on Africa has been a ubiquitous presence against which the democratic values of African civilization are ranged-a demon to be exorcised at all costs, even at the cost of civil liberties. However, the deliberate use of the term terrorism in recent decades was carefully selected, mainly, against a certain religion (Islam). The idea was then globally politicized by the Western world. Leaving that scholarly view in its own right, this study disagrees with the opinion raising terrorism as the devil's just-born child of evil, when in reality Africans had been terrorized for centuries as slaves and human chattel, colonies, neo-colonies and captives of globalism.

Terrorism on Africa has been the global threat against which global war must now be fought. It should have never taken place anyway! Whether the terrorizing country was peaceful or violent, no country should be granted the right to seize and restrict the development of a region. Europeans have crippled the rich native African civilizations for their own political and economic gain for centuries. No matter the reason, no intelligence, knowledge, or technology permits one country or countries to terrorize another or other countries like the terrorized and victimized in Africa.

Africans must disable and counter propaganda and information operations. We must address known causal factors by strengthening vulnerable populations and improving their ability to identify, characterize, attribute, and defend against terror networks and threats. Our counter-terrorism architectures and capabilities will need to be more agile and more integrated. Mankind needs a common strategy. Understanding this complex terrorist environment will require mature global networks and effective links with interagency teammates and partner nations-allowing rapid synchronization of information across agency, regional, national, and international boundaries in order to dismantle the sustained multi-faceted terrorism on Africa.

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The Absurd and the Cameroonian Tragedy at Decolonization: The Writings of Emmanuel Fru

Doh / Benjamin Hart Fishkin

Bamenda: Langaa RPCIG, 2022

196p.

Includes Index  
9789956552221  
\$ 32.00 / pb  
314gm

The Cameroons is in the grips of a perpetual tailspin. The confusion and lack of clarity in the nation threaten everyone's sanity. The Absurd and the Cameroonian Tragedy at Decolonization dissects these ills and tries to isolate what has caused them: emotional bankruptcy. Family life cannot survive in such an environment; which has been split down the middle since 1961. Political reality and slipshod behavior underlie the dystopian snare in which British Southern Cameroons finds itself within La République du Cameroun. Doh's narrative points to confusion and La République du Cameroun's bad faith dealings with British Southern Cameroons. This orphan in the storm quality extends to a far reach with The Absurd ... looking at the storm clouds that create such misery. Doh's characters have no control in a Francophone majority dominated world. This helplessness creates emotional stress and a severe breakdown requiring professional help.

The social, political, and economic deficits are consequences of colonialism and the complicity of Francophone abettors of imperial exploitation. Africa is a marionette dancing on someone else's string. This book looks at theft, and the way in which kleptocracy at the governmental level has ripped the heart, spirit, and energy out of The Cameroons and shows how Doh's literature deals with the inability to count on anything and or observe a direct connection between the cause and the effect. Despite the negativity that permeates Doh's literature, he views The Cameroons as resilient.

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## Law

Africa, Human Rights and the Covid-19 Pandemic: Mitigation Dynamics and their Implications for Human Rights, Freedom and Civil Liberties / (Eds) Fidelis Peter Thomas Duri, James Hlongwana & Munyaradzi Mawere

Bamenda: Langaa RPCIG, 2023

x, 504p.

9789956552474

\$ 50.00 / PB

734gm.

This book makes a significant contribution by initiating debate on the state of human rights, freedoms and civil liberties in the context of emergencies such as pandemics in general and Covid-19 in particular. It is without doubt that as the world was preoccupied with combating the Covid-19 pandemic, issues of rights, freedoms and liberties in the context of this struggle increasingly came under close scrutiny. In many African countries, there were concerns about Covid-19 containment measures being enforced brutally by state security operatives such as the army, the police and the intelligence officers. Considerable debate also arose on whether the infringements that took place in an effort to thwart the pandemic were justifiable on health and moral grounds. The book makes an important claim that the fight against Covid-19 was marred by the abuse of power by many ruling elites who weaponised and repurposed pandemic curtailment provisions to taper democratic space by solidifying autocracy through muzzling political opponents, gagging the press and instituting various socio-political control mechanisms beyond public health concerns. In addition, cases abound of Covid-19 containment protocols being instrumentalised to subvert electoral processes, scuttle popular protests and extinguish opposition political activity. Undoubtedly, this book illustrates that the global struggle against Covid-19 was also very much a war for

the respect of basic freedoms, human rights and civil liberties, thereby highlighting the need to establish a sustainable interaction between pandemic dynamics and human rights. The book is for students and practitioners across fields, but most especially in history, law, political science, development studies, philosophy, social anthropology and sociology.

<http://www.marymartin.com/web?pid=846316>

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Enslaved – Trapped and Trafficked in Digital Black Holes: Human Trafficking Trajectories to Libya / (Ed) Mirjam Van Reisen (et al.)

Bamenda, Cameroon: Langaa RPCIG, 2023

xxix, 793p.

9789956553129

GAIC Research Network and African Studies Series

\$ 60.00 / PB

1170gm.

Eritrean refugees are being trafficked and enslaved in Libya, where they are tortured to force relatives to pay a ransom for their release. Labelled with a digital code, they are moved along in the possession of the traffickers through a series of 'black holes', in which their access to digital technologies and connectivity is highly controlled. They are tortured, abused, extorted and subjected to sexual violence. Many die along the way. If they make it to the Mediterranean Sea, they risk being intercepted and returned to Libya or dying at sea. Over the period of this study (2017–21), it is conservatively estimated that at least 200,000 men, women and children have fallen victim to human trafficking for ransom in Libya, and the cumulative value of this trade for that period is estimated at over 1 billion USD. This detailed ethnographic study identifies the routes, modus operandi, organisation, and key actors involved in the human trafficking for ransom of refugees and migrants, who are desperately in need of protection. The book is part of the GAIC Research Network and African studies series published by Langaa RPCIG and makes an important contribution to the literature on human trafficking, migration studies, African studies, modern slavery, social protection and governance.

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Customary Versus Modern Laws of Eritrea on Gender Equality: A Comprehensive Study on Harmonization of Pluralistic Laws / Muluberhan Berhe Hagos

GAIC Research Network and African Studies Series

Bamenda, Cameroon: Langaa RPCIG, 2023

xxvi, 426p.

9789956553006

\$ 50.00 / PB

670gm.

The research of Muluberhan Hagos compares the customary laws of ethnic groups in Eritrea and the modern laws of the country, with a focus on the legal issues in society that emerge, understood from a gender perspective. These issues include the laws of person and gender, abortion, family law, succession and property, the law of contracts and criminal and civil liabilities in gender-related offences. Muluberhan Hagos treats customary law as a system that is dynamic and alive and responds to community matters. It is an excellent and detailed study on the relevance of customary law today. The book, which is part of the GAIC Network and African studies series published with Langaa, makes an important contribution to the literature on legal studies, African studies, social protection and governance.

<http://www.marymartin.com/web?pid=846319>

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## Literature

Unbreakable Chains / Shaanchuong mu-Fohnpah

Bamenda: Langaa RPCIG, 2022

viii, 250p.

9789956552344

\$ 18.00 / PB

248gm.

The idea of absolute freedom warrants the freedom to define freedom; so long as one's freedom is predefined; they can never claim to be free. Yet, the previous sentence already confines absolute freedom to a certain meaning. Freedom is an ideal, we are all captives going from one prison cell to another. Mercy Lewis, a descendant of enslaved free men and free women is nothing else but a slave to her African heritage, her past, and all the stereotypes associated with her personality. We all are Mercys to a certain extent.

<http://www.marymartin.com/web?pid=846320>

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## Politics

Dissent: The Highest Stage of Patriotism / Peter Wuteh Vakunta

Bamenda: Langaa RPCIG, 2022

xiv, 148p.

9789956552467

\$ 32.00 / PB

254gm.

*Dissent: The Highest Stage of Patriotism* is a treatise on dissent as the acme of love for one's fatherland. Arguing against the grain, the author avoids smug patriotism; that which manages to make everything about the homeland flawless and beautiful. It is the author's conviction that the greatness of a nation resides not in citizens' blind sycophancy, but rather in their willingness to call into question dereliction of duty by political leadership. The goal of this book is to educate global citizens on the quintessence of political vigilance.

<http://www.marymartin.com/web?pid=846321>

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