



The Invention of Africa: Gnosis, Philosophy, and the Order of Knowledge

V.Y. Mudimbe

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..". groundbreaking... clear, straightforward, and economical.... seminal... " --American Anthropologist

"This is a challenging book... a remarkable contribution to African intellectual history." --International Journal of African Historical Studies

"Mudimbe's description of the struggles over Africa's self-invention are vivid and rewarding. From Blyden to Sartre, Temples to Senghor, Mudimbe provides a bold and versatile resume of Africa's literary inventors." --Village Voice Literary Supplement

..". a landmark achievement in African studies." --Journal of Religion in Africa

In this unique and provocative book, Zairean philosopher and writer V. Y. Mudimbe addresses the multiple scholarly discourses that exist--African and non-African--concerning the meaning of Africa and being African.

The Invention of Africa: Gnosis, Philosophy, and the Order of Knowledge Details

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From Reader Review The Invention of Africa: Gnosis, Philosophy, and the Order of Knowledge for online ebook

Bradley says

Fascinating & difficult at first to wrap the head around; Mudimbe in essence tackles the creation of paradigms that are largely misunderstood in classical Western thought.

Benjamin says

It might be an amazing history of how social scientists have described African thought, but I didn't really understand it, probably.

One thing I am more convinced of than ever is that it is post-colonial philosophers and thinkers who will eventually find a way out of the maze of dead ends that "Western" thought seems to have wrought, and not "Westerners" trying to patch some Other into their system. If that means anything at all.

kripsoo says

Mudimbe does philosophy like a talk-show host or a parliamentary speaker. His benches are packed with hundreds of religious leaders, political thinkers, anthropologists and philosophers who have moved African self-understanding. Their discussions are most eloquent, but unfortunately there is scarcely a woman in the auditorium.

In these pages Carl Sagan undertakes to test Dogon cosmology. Zulu Chief Buthalezi and F. Eboussi-Boulaga debate the directions of African religion. The "Bantu Philosophy" of Belgian priest Placide Temples is chewed over by ethnophilosopher Alexis Kagame. Mudimbe himself continually pulls the lines of thought together and sets the stage for our next adventure

This book was received just as promised. The condition was good, and the delivery was timely. Thanks for the great product.

nico says

just finished it and i'm too dumb to write anything about it rn but it good

Mulalo says

mind=blown... thats all really... mind freakin blown

Myriam says

Essential reading for anyone interested in how the West invented/constructed damaging ideologies to subjugate African societies and subvert their cultures. Interestingly, Mudimbe's argument is primarily derived from Foucauldian thought yet interesting research on various African societies (especially regarding a modernity that pre-dates European expansion, see his section on the Dogon and missionary texts) and Mudimbe's reconceptualization of Africa through an antithetical "Western" critical gaze is foundational to African, African diasporic studies and race theory.

Leonardo says

Entre las disciplinas académicas involucradas en esta producción cultural de alteridad, la antropología fue tal vez la rúbrica más importante bajo la cual el Otro nativo fue importado a Europa y exportado desde Europa.

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