

1st Annual Walter Rodney Speakers Series 2013

The year 2009 marked the 50th anniversary of the Cuban Revolution and the thirtieth anniversary of the Grenadian and Nicaraguan Revolutions, and as such offered an occasion to assess the complex legacies of revolutionary politics in the Caribbean. This volume considers what we might learn from such revolutionary projects and their afterlives, from their successes and their errors. It explores what struggles, currently underway in the Caribbean, share with these earlier and longer revolutionary traditions, and how they depart from them. It analyzes radical movements in Jamaica, Grenada, Cuba, Venezuela, Guadeloupe, Suriname, and Guyana, not only in their national dimensions, but in terms of their regional linkages and mutual influences. The chapters are drawn from various disciplines and a range of democratic leftist projects. They consider not only state and party politics, but also civil society, cultural politics and artistic production, strikes, and grassroots activism. This book was published as a special issue of *Interventions: International Journal of Postcolonial Studies*.

After decades of scholarship on the civil rights movement at the local level, the insights of bottom-up movement history remain essentially invisible in the accepted narrative of the movement and peripheral to debates on how to research, document, and teach about the movement. This collection of original works refocuses attention on this bottom-up history and compels a rethinking of what and who we think is central to the movement. The essays examine such locales as Sunflower County, Mississippi; Memphis, Tennessee; and Wilson, North Carolina; and engage such issues as nonviolence and self-defense, the implications of focusing on women in the movement, and struggles for freedom beyond voting rights and school desegregation. Events and incidents discussed range from the movement's heyday to the present and include the Poor People's Campaign mule train to Washington, D.C., the popular response to the deaths of Rosa Parks and Coretta Scott King, and political cartoons addressing Barack Obama's presidential campaign. The kinds of scholarship represented here--which draw on oral history and activist insights (along with traditional sources) and which bring the specificity of time and place into dialogue with broad themes and a national context--are crucial as we continue to foster scholarly debates, evaluate newer conceptual frameworks, and replace the superficial narrative that persists in the popular imagination.

How Europe Underdeveloped Africa Washington, D.C. : Howard University Press

In our modern time of division, who belongs to the we is an important and underexamined area of philosophical investigation. This book offers another way of understanding we-ness by adopting diverse linguo-cultural traditions in a philosophical investigation of selfhood.

Renowned Pan-African and socialist theorist on the Bolshevik Revolution and its post-colonial legacy In his short life, Guyanese intellectual Walter Rodney emerged as one of the foremost thinkers and activists of the anticolonial revolution, leading movements in North America, Africa, and the Caribbean. Wherever he was, Rodney was a lightning rod for working-class Black Power organizing. His deportation sparked Jamaica's Rodney Riots in 1968, and his scholarship trained a generation how to approach politics on an international scale. In 1980, shortly after founding the Working People's Alliance in Guyana, the thirty-eight-year-old Rodney was assassinated. Walter Rodney's *Russian Revolution* collects surviving texts from a series of lectures he delivered at the University of Dar es Salaam, an intellectual hub of the independent Third World. It had been his intention to work these into a book, a goal completed posthumously with the editorial aid of Robin D.G. Kelley and Jesse Benjamin. Moving across the historiography of the long Russian Revolution with clarity and insight, Rodney transcends the ideological fault lines of the Cold War. Surveying a broad range of subjects—the Narodniks, social democracy, the October

Revolution, civil war, and the challenges of Stalinism—Rodney articulates a distinct viewpoint from the Third World, one that grounds revolutionary theory and history with the people in motion.

African news making headlines today is dominated by disaster: wars, famine, HIV. Those who respond - from stars to ordinary citizens - are learning that real solutions require more than charity. This book provides a comprehensive, panoramic view of US activism in Africa from 1950 to 2000, activism grounded in a common struggle for justice. It portrays organisations, activists and networks that contributed to African liberation and, in turn, shows how African struggles informed US activism, including the civil rights and black power movements.

In *Buller Men and Batty Bwoys*, Wesley Crichlow focuses primarily on the lives of nineteen Black gay and bisexual men in Toronto and Halifax, seeks to give voice to those who have been displaced, and explores the process of self-definition in the context of racial, ethnic, and sexual conformity. Crichlow's perceptive study brings to the foreground several concepts, including the role of homophobia in Black identity, and the problematics of Black 'heteronormativity,' in relation to Black men who engage in same-sex practices. In his sociological analysis, Crichlow introduces to the discipline Audre Lorde's unique literary genre, "biomythography," which emphasizes the connections between the creation of culture and community (through mythology and story-telling) and the creation of personal identity (through names, labels, and group membership). At the same time, he problematizes and celebrates the multiple differences among the men he interviewed as he aims to broaden the study of Black history, Queer Studies, and culture in a Canadian context by bringing sexuality into the various theories that attempt to generalize experience. *Buller Men and Batty Bwoys* offers the reader critical insight into the complex lives of Black gay and bisexual men in Canada. Equally important, Crichlow's research makes a substantial and original contribution to the limited body of academic work in this area.

Against the lethargy and despair of the contemporary Anglophone Caribbean experience, Aaron Kamugisha gives a powerful argument for advancing Caribbean radical thought as an answer to the conundrums of the present. *Beyond Coloniality* is an extended meditation on Caribbean thought and freedom at the beginning of the 21st century and a profound rejection of the postindependence social and political organization of the Anglophone Caribbean and its contentment with neocolonial arrangements of power. Kamugisha provides a dazzling reading of two towering figures of the Caribbean intellectual tradition, C. L. R. James and Sylvia Wynter, and their quest for human freedom beyond coloniality. Ultimately, he urges the Caribbean to recall and reconsider the radicalism of its most distinguished 20th-century thinkers in order to imagine a future beyond neocolonialism.

A racy, well-researched account of the events that led up to the assassination, on June 13, 1980, of world-renowned historian and revolutionary, Dr. Walter Rodney

This wide-reaching volume shows how Africa developed before the coming of the Europeans up to the 15th century, and shows Africa's contribution to European capitalist development in the pre-colonial period. Colonialism is then shown as a system for underdeveloping Africa. Tropes ranging from Houston Baker's "bluesman," to Henry Louis Gates' "signifyin'" to Geneva Smitherman's "talkin' and testifyin'" to bell hooks' "talking back" to Cheryl Wall's "worrying the line" all affirm the power of sonance and sound in the African American literary tradition. The collection of essays in *Speaking in Tongues and Dancing Diaspora* contributes to this tradition by theorizing the preeminence of voice and narration (and the consequences of their absence) in the literary and cultural performances of black women. Looking to work by such prominent black female authors as Alice Walker,

Sherley Anne Williams, Toni Morrison, Zora Neal Hurston, among many others, Mae G. Henderson provides a deeply felt reflection on race and gender and their effects within the discourse of speaker and listener.

In this powerful, multidisciplinary book, Tove Skutnabb-Kangas shows how most indigenous and minority education contributes to linguistic genocide according to United Nations definitions. Theory is combined with a wealth of factual encyclopedic information and with many examples and vignettes. The examples come from all parts of the world and try to avoid Eurocentrism. Oriented toward theory and practice, facts and evaluations, and reflection and action, the book prompts readers to find information about the world and their local contexts, to reflect and to act. A Web site with additional resource materials to this book can be found at <http://www.ruc.dk/~tovesk/>

In highlighting the political and economic progress of African Americans while pinpointing the historical success of Barack Obama in the last presidential election, the book covers the history of the African peoples in the principal regions of Africa, the Caribbean, North America and South America. In reporting and acutely analyzing the same events of human history spanning over 1500 years, it initially delves into the reactions from the political order in the form of the Tea Party Movement following Obama's victory. Totalling over 500 pages, the book then takes the reader on a trip down memory lane, covering events as the slave trade, discrimination and colonization that pitted Africans and their diasporic descendants against Europeans, and later Americans. After covering the critical stages of African Americans' economic and political development following the Civil War to present day, the book crosses the Atlantic Ocean to cover the major failures of political events after independence on the African continent. Two specific chapters in the book analyze the events under feudal Europe that led to the enslavement of Africans while another does the same on the system of capitalism. The final four chapters report and analyze Africa's present challenges and possible solutions.

In contrast to the rich tradition of academic analysis and understanding of the pre-colonial and colonial history of Zambia, the trajectory of post-colonial Zambia has been all but ignored by historians. The assumptions of developmentalism, the cultural hegemony of United National Independence Party orthodoxy and its conflation with national interests, and a narrow focus on Zambia's diplomatic role in Southern African affairs, have all contributed to a dearth of studies centring on the diverse lived experiences of Zambians.

The life of the great Guyanese scholar and revolutionary Walter Rodney burned with a rare intensity. The son of working class parents, Rodney showed great academic promise and was awarded scholarships to the University of the West Indies in Jamaica and the School of African and Oriental Studies in London. He received his PhD from the latter at the age of twenty-four, and his thesis was published as *A History of the Upper Guinea Coast*, now a classic of African history. His most famous work, *How Europe Underdeveloped Africa*, is a mainstay of radical literature and anticipated the

influential world systems theory of Immanuel Wallerstein. Not content merely to study the world, Rodney turned to revolutionary politics in Jamaica, Tanzania, and in Guyana. In his homeland, he helped form the Working People's Alliance (WPA) and was a consistent voice for the oppressed and exploited. As Rodney became more popular, the threat of his revolutionary message stirred fears among the powerful in Guyana and throughout the Caribbean, and he was assassinated in 1980. This book presents a moving and insightful portrait of Rodney through the words of academics, writers, artists, and political activists who knew him intimately or felt his influence. These informal recollections and reflections demonstrate why Rodney is such a widely admired figure throughout the world, especially in poor countries and among oppressed peoples everywhere.

Rodney claimed developing countries were heirs to uneven development and ethnic disequilibrium and was disturbed by the inability of intellectuals to share a common cause with the masses. He sought to lift the Caribbean people from the victimization of history and the poverty of material circumstance.

An Astonishing work, breathtakingly bold in conception and passionately written . . . salutary, exciting and in its historiographical aspects convincing.' (G. W Bowersock, Institute for Advanced Study, Princeton.) Demands to be taken seriously . . . Every page that Bernal writes is educating and enthralling. To agree with all his theses may be a sign of naivety, but not to have spent time in his company is a sign of nothing at all.' (Ray, Herbert Thompson Reader in Egyptology, University of Cambridge.) Anticipation of Geography of a Life' Martin Bernal himself has avowed that Black Athena owes its conception to a mid-life crisis. Now that he has overcome this set-back with obvious success, one hopes he will live long enough to follow the example set by his mother Margaret Gardiner and his grandfather Sir Alan (Gardiner), who both wrote their memoirs in their eighties. I have no doubt that Bernal's autobiography will generate more interest among educated lay persons and less irritation among scholars than any future volume of Black Athena.' (Arno Egberts, Professor of Egyptology, University of Leiden.)

Journey for Justice combines autobiography with law and political memoirs to provide a fascinating account of growing up in rural Gambia and of the author's recollections of, involvement in, and reflections on some of the major social, legal, and political issues in the Gambia during his tenure of public office in that country. This is valuable reading for all those with a serious interest in the history, politics, governance, and development of law and legal institutions in the Gambia, and indeed beyond.

Founded in 1943, Negro Digest (later "Black World") was the publication that launched Johnson Publishing. During the most turbulent years of the civil rights movement, Negro Digest/Black World served as a critical vehicle for political thought for supporters of the movement.

Recipient of the Gordon K. Lewis Memorial Award for Caribbean Scholarship Marcus Garvey, Amy Jacques Garvey, Claude McKay, Claudia Jones, C.L.R. James, Stokely Carmichael—the roster of immigrants from the Caribbean who have had a profound impact on the development of radical politics in the United States is a long one. In this magisterial work, Winston James focuses on the twentieth century's first wave of inspirational writers and activists from the Caribbean and their contribution to political dissidence in America. Examining the way in which the characteristics of the societies they left shaped their perceptions of the land to which they traveled, Winston James draws sharp differences between Hispanic, Anglophone, and other non-Hispanic arrivals. He explores the interconnections between the Cuban independence struggle, Puerto Rican nationalism, Afro-American feminism, and black communism in the first turbulent decades of the twentieth century. He

also provides fascinating insights into the peculiarities of Puerto Rican radicalism's impact in New York City and recounts the remarkable story of Afro-Cuban radicalism in Florida. Virgin Islander Hubert Harrison, whom A. Philip Randolph dubbed "the father of Harlem radicalism," is rescued from the historical shadows by James's analysis of his pioneering contribution to Afro-America's radical tradition. In addition to a subtle re-examination of Garvey's Universal Negro Movement Association—including the exertions and contributions of its female members—James provides the most detailed exploration so far undertaken of Cyril Briggs and his little-known but important African Blood Brotherhood. This diligently researched, wide ranging and sophisticated book will be welcomed by all those interested in the Caribbean and its émigrés, the Afro-American current within America's radical tradition, and the history, politics, and culture of the African diaspora. "General Elections and Voting in the English-Speaking Caribbean, 1992-2005 provides a historical description and analytical account of elections and election processes in the Commonwealth Caribbean in the six decades since the introduction of Universal Adult Suffrage in the region. The Book studies the first decade of the twenty-first century and includes countries like Anguilla, The Bahamas, Belize and Guyana whose electoral records have not previously been accessible in a single source for the purpose of historical and comparative analysis. However, the work goes further in updating the story of Caribbean elections, political parties and the overall democratic experience, the authors address new and emerging issues including Political Party Financing, Women and Electoral Politics, Caribbean Governance and the overall effectiveness and suitability of the Westminster Model for all the territories of the region. Comprehensive, up to date and current, General Elections and Voting in the English Speaking Caribbean is a valuable compendium of statistical data for political analysts and party officials as well as an indispensable text for students and others interested in the evolution, transformation and the prospect for Caribbean democracy into the twenty-first century and beyond. "

The Encyclopedia of Caribbean Religions is the definitive reference for Caribbean religious phenomena from a Caribbean perspective. Generously illustrated, this landmark project combines the breadth of a comparative approach to religion with the depth of understanding of Caribbean spirituality as an ever-changing and varied historical phenomenon. Organized alphabetically, entries examine how Caribbean religious experiences have been shaped by and have responded to the processes of colonialism and the challenges of the postcolonial world. Systematically organized by theme and area, the encyclopedia considers religious traditions such as Vodou, Rastafari, Sunni Islam, Sanatan Dharma, Judaism, and the Roman Catholic and Seventh-day Adventist churches. Detailed subentries present topics such as religious rituals, beliefs, practices, specific historical developments, geographical differences, and gender roles within major traditions. Also included are entries that address the religious dimensions of geographical territories that make up the Caribbean. Representing the culmination of more than a decade of work by the associates of the Caribbean Religions Project, The Encyclopedia of Caribbean Religions will foster a greater understanding of the role of religion in Caribbean life and society, in the Caribbean diaspora, and in wider national and transnational spaces.

Niumi, a small, little-known territory located on the bank of the Gambia River in West Africa, is seemingly far from the reaches of world historical events. And yet the outside world has long had a significant - and increasingly profound - impact on Niumi. This

fascinating work shows how global events have affected people's lives over the past eight centuries in this small region in Africa's smallest country. Drawing on written and oral testimony, and writing in a clear and personal style, Donald R. Wright connects 'globalization' with real people in a real place. This new edition updates discussions of global history and African history based on current studies and new developments that have been factored into the interpretive framework. Reflecting on recent visits to Niimi, Wright extends the story into 2009, to consider the impact of global recession and domestic political repression under a regime in power for the past fifteen years. Punctuating the narrative are photographs, maps, and 'Perspectives' boxes on selected topics such as the sale of slaves five centuries ago, colonial sexism, the fate of press freedom, and how popular culture affects growing up in a traditional society. Throughout, the author deals with African history seriously, global trends critically, and human lives sensitively.

Leftist political movements, organizations, and trends in the English-speaking Caribbean.

Caribbean Civilisation is a concise history of the English-speaking Caribbean since independence and falls into two main parts. The first part consists of a general introduction which places the Caribbean in its historical, political, social and cultural context, while focusing on key events and topics in the region's history. The second part gathers thirty texts which are meant to illustrate the topics discussed in the first section. Each document is preceded by a short introduction which will help the reader to replace it in its proper context. As the book is primarily concerned with the recent history of the Caribbean, such topics as nation-building, nationalism, independence, and popular culture have been particularly emphasised. This book will be helpful to 'DEUG" and "licence" students of English as well as any reader interested in the Caribbean.

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