Decolonizing the Academy

The African Politics Reading List 2022

In response to requests from colleagues and friends, some of whom said that they wanted to diversify their course material but were not always sure how to do so, we have assembled this set of readings on African Politics - the Decolonizing the Academy Reading List.

This reading list was collated in 2015 in solidarity with those attempting to decolonise the academy. We have updated it for 2022 to reflect our continued commitment to this goal, and our support for the #BlackInTheIvory and #BlackLivesMatter movements. To be clear, our aim is simply to make available as many sources as possible written by African scholars. The list has been crowd sourced, so if someone is not included, that is just because they have not been proposed. We welcome your recommendations of outstanding scholarship to add to this bibliography - please make them via the comments section on the DIA webpage.

Sections

1. African Political Thought
2. Citizenship and Statehood
3. Civil Society, Social Movements, and the Politics of Culture
4. Conflict, Insurgencies and Civil War
5. Decolonization, Global Knowledge Inequalities & Research Methods
6. Democracy and Democratic Institutions: Parties, Legislatures, Judiciaries and Term-limits
7. Development and International Development
8. Elections and Election Campaigns
9. Ethics and the Politics of Language, Knowledge and Education
10. Ethnicity and the Politics of Identity
11. Gender and Youth
12. Indigenous Institutions, Pre-colonial Politics, and the Role of Traditional leaders
14. Land Reform and Agricultural Politics
15. Nationalism, Pan Africanism, and Anti-colonial Struggles
16. Peace-making, Peace-building, and Reconciliation
17. Refugees and Migration
18. Religion and the Politics of Faith
19. Security, the Police, and the Military
20. Urban Africa and the Politics of Decentralization
1. **African Political Thought**

2. Citizenship and Statehood


3. Civil Society, Social Movements, and the Politics of Culture


4. Conflict, Insurgencies and Civil War


5. Decolonization, Global Knowledge Inequalities & Research Methods

• Mbembe, A. 2015. "Decolonizing knowledge and the question of the archive." 
• Nyamnjoh, F. B. 2016. #RhodesMustFall: Nibbling at resilient colonialism in South Africa. *Langaa RPCIG*.

6. **Democracy and Democratic Institutions: Parties, Legislatures, Judiciaries and Term-limits**


• Gazibo, M., 2005. The paradoxes of democratization in Africa: institutional and strategic analysis. PUM.


7. Development and International Development


8. **Elections and Election Campaigns**


9. **Ethics and the Politics of Language, Knowledge and Education**


10. Ethnicity and the Politics of Identity


11. Gender and Youth

• Adichie, C. N. 2014. We Should All Be Feminists. New York: Vintage.


12. *Indigenous Institutions, Pre-colonial Politics, and the Role of Traditional leaders*


14. Land Reform and Agricultural Politics

• Mkandawire, T., 2009. Institutional Monocropping and Monotasking in Africa. UNRSID.

15. Nationalism, Pan Africanism, and Anti-colonial Struggles

• Chinodya, S. 1990. Harvest of Thorns.
• Langa, M. 2014. The Texture of Shadows.

16. **Peace-making, Peace-building, and Reconciliation**


17. **Refugees and Migration**


18. Religion and the Politics of Faith

19. **Security, the Police, and the Military**

20. Urban Africa and the Politics of Decentralization

NB: Currently, this list focuses on English translations and texts but we are in the midst of developing lists in other languages and would welcome your suggestions below.