



**The New Africa
February 19-21, 2016**

Suggested Reading for the 29th Annual Camden Conference

Acknowledgements: The Camden Conference wishes to acknowledge long time member, Bob Sargent and librarian, Charlotte Cushman for their material contributions in the development of these resource materials.

I. Non-Fiction

A. Pan-African:

Burgis, Tom. [*The Looting Machine, Warlords, Oligarchs, Corporations, Smugglers, and the Theft of Africa's Wealth*](#). Public Affairs. 2015. ISBN: 978-1-61039-440-6 (EB)

de Waal, Alex. [*Famine Crimes: Politics and the Disaster Relief Industry in Africa*](#). Indiana University Press. 2009. ISBN: 0253211581

Dowden, Richard. [*Africa: Altered States, Ordinary Miracles*](#). Portobello Books. 2008. ISBN: 1846271541

French, Howard W. [*China's Second Continent: How a Million Migrants Are Building a New Empire in Africa*](#). Knopf. 2014. ISBN: 0307956989

Meredith, Martin. [*The Fate of Africa: A History of Fifty Years of Independence*](#). Public Affairs. 2006. ISBN: 1586483986

Meredith, Martin. [*Fortunes of Africa: A 5,000 Year History of Wealth, Greed and Endeavor*](#). Public Affairs. 2014. ISBN: 1610394593

Moghalu, Kingsley Chiedu. [*Emerging Africa: How the Global Economy's 'Last Frontier' Can Prosper and Matter*](#). Bookcraft Ltd. 2013. ISBN: 9785162117

Moyo, Dambisa and Niall Ferguson. [*Dead Aid: Why Aid Is Not Working and How There Is a Better Way for Africa*](#). Farrar, Strauss & Giroux. 2009. ISBN: 0374139563

Mutanda waNdebele, Peter. [*Africa Has a Future*](#). LionheART Publishing House. 2013. ISBN: 1484044401

Novogratz, Jacqueline. [*The Blue Sweater: Bridging the Gap Between Rich and Poor in an Interconnected World*](#). Rodale Books. 2009. ISBN: 1594869154

Olopade, Dayo. [*The Bright Continent: Breaking Rules and Making Change in Modern Africa*](#). Houghton Mifflin Harcourt. 2014. ISBN: 0547678312

Richburg, Keith B. [*Out Of America: A Black Man Confronts Africa*](#). Basic Books. 1997. ISBN: 0465001874

Soyinka, Wole. [*Of Africa*](#). Yale University Press. 2012. ISBN: 0300140460

B. Specific Countries

Campbell, Greg. [*Blood Diamonds: Tracing the Deadly Path of the World's Most Precious Stones*](#). Basic Books. 2004. ISBN: 0813342201 (Angola)

Lamb, Christina. [*House of Stone: The True Story of a Family Divided in War-Torn Zimbabwe*](#). Lawrence Hill Books. 2007. ISBN: 1556527357 (Zimbabwe)

Mandela, Nelson. [*Long Walk to Freedom: The Autobiography of Nelson Mandela*](#). Back Bay Books. 1995. ISBN: 0316548189 (South Africa)

Stearns, Jason. [*Dancing in the Glory of Monsters: The Collapse of the Congo and the Great War of Africa*](#). Public Affairs. 2011. ISBN: 1586489291 (Congo)

Tutu, Desmond. [*No Future Without Forgiveness*](#). Image. 2000. ISBN: 0385496907 (South Africa)

II. Memoirs/Popular Non-Fiction

Akpan, Uwem. [*Say You're One of Them*](#). Little, Brown and Company. 2009. ISBN: 0316113786

Beah, Ishmael. [*A Long Way Gone: Memoirs of a Boy Soldier*](#). Sarah Crichton Books. 2007. ISBN: 0374105235

Bul Dau, John. [*God Grew Tired of Us: A Memoir*](#). National Geographic. 2007. ISBN: 1426201141

Kamkwamba, William. [*The Boy Who Harnessed the Wind*](#). William Morrow. 2009. ISBN: 0061730327

Kidder, Tracy. [*Strength in What Remains: A Journey of Remembrance and Forgiveness*](#). Random House. 2009. ISBN: 1400066212

La Grange, Zelda. [*Good Morning, Mr. Mandela*](#). Viking. 2014. ISBN: 0525428283

Mathabane, Mark. [*Kaffir Boy: The True Story of a Black Youth's Coming of Age in Apartheid South Africa*](#). Free Press. 1998. ISBN: 0684848287

M'Atsepo Nthunya, Mpho and K. Limakatso Kendall. [*Singing Away the Hunger: The Autobiography of an African Woman*](#). Indiana University Press. 1997. ISBN: 025321162X

III. Nobel Prize Recipients

With a rich tradition of African writers who have won the Nobel Prize, The Camden Conference salutes these great Africans for championing the voice of African literature on the global stage:

Wole Soyinka: Nigeria (1934-xxxx)

<http://www.ualberta.ca/~afso/documents/soyinka.pdf>

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Wole_Soyinka

Playwright and political activist Wole Soyinka received the Nobel Prize for Literature in 1986, thus becoming the first African to ever win this prestigious

prize. He was recognized for “applying a wide cultural perspective and poetic overtones to fashion the drama of existence.”

[The Interpreters](#). Trafalgar Square. 1996. ISBN: 0233989781

Naguib Mahfouz: Egypt (1911-2006)

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Naguib_Mahfouz

Mahfouz, who was awarded the 1988 Nobel Prize in Literature for “works rich in nuance – now clear-sightedly realistic, now evocatively ambiguous” that have “narrative art that applies to all mankind.” Over a 70-year career, he published more than 50 novels, over 350 short stories, dozens of movie scripts, and five plays. Many of his works have been made into Egyptian and foreign films.

[Midaq Alley](#). Anchor. 1991. ISBN: 0385264763

Nadine Gordimer: South Africa (1923-2014)

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Nadine_Gordimer

Awarded the Nobel Prize for Literature in 1991 in recognition of her epic writing, which in the words of Alfred Nobel, “has been of very great benefit to humanity.”

[The Conservationist](#). Penguin Books. 1983. ISBN: 0140047166

John Maxwell Coetzee: South African & Australian (1940-xxxx)

[http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/J. M. Coetzee](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/J._M._Coetzee)

Coetzee is the most recent African winner of the Nobel Prize for Literature having received the prize in 2003. He was recognized as a writer “who in innumerable guises portrays the surprising involvement of the outsider.”

[Disgrace](#). Penguin Books. 2005. ISBN: 0143036378

Maathai, Wangari: Kenya (1940-2011)

http://www.nobelprize.org/nobel_prizes/peace/laureates/2004/maathai-bio.html

The first woman in East and Central Africa to earn a doctorate degree. She won the Nobel Peace Prize in 2004.

[The Challenge for Africa](#). Pantheon. 2009. ISBN: 0307377407

Kofi Annan: Ghana (1938-xxxx)

<http://www.un.org/sg/formersg/annan.shtml>

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Kofi_Annan

The seventh Secretary-General of the United Nations, serving two terms from January 1, 1997, to December 31, 2006. He was the first to emerge from the ranks of UN staff. In 2001, Kofi Annan and the United Nations were jointly awarded the Nobel Peace Prize, with the citation praising his leadership for bringing new life to the organization.

***Interventions: A Life in War and Peace*. Co-authored with Nader Mousavizadeh. Penguin Press. 2012. ISBN: 1594204209**

IV. Fiction, *Classics and Favorites*.

Achebe, Chinua. *Things Fall Apart*. Anchor Books. 1994. ISBN: 0385474547

Adichie, Chimamanda Ngozi. *Americanah*. Knopf. 2013. ISBN: 0307271080

Adichie, Chimamanda Ngozi. *Half of a Yellow Sun*. Knopf. 2006. ISBN: 1400044162

Adichie, Chimamanda Ngozi. *Purple Hibiscus*. Harper Perennial. 2003. ISBN: 0007189885

Armah, Ayi Kwei. *The Beautiful Ones Are Not Yet Born*. Heinemann Educational Books. 1989. ISBN: 0435905406

Bâ, Mariama. *So Long a Letter*. Translator-Modupe-Bode-Thomas. Heinemann Educational Books. 1989. ISBN: 0435905554

Head, Bessie. *When Rain Clouds Gather*. Heinemann Educational Books. 1996. ISBN: 0435909614

Thiong'o, Ngũgĩ wa. *A Grain of Wheat*. Heinemann Educational Books. 1994. ISBN: 0435909878

Dangarembga, Tsitsi. *Nervous Conditions*. Seal Press. 2004. ISBN: 1580051340

V. Websites and Articles of Interest:

<http://blogs.worldbank.org/african/african-successes-listing-the-success-stories>

<http://www.goodreads.com/list/show/823.Africa>

<http://www.nytimes.com/2012/07/01/opinion/sunday/africa-on-the-rise.html>

VI. Discussion questions:

1. How firmly has democracy taken root in Africa?
2. In what ways has globalization included or not included Africa?
3. How do traditional beliefs continue to influence government?
4. In what ways has Africa's colonial past shaped current events and the present situation there?
5. Why has the development of Africa lagged substantially behind that of other developing countries, despite years of aid?
6. What should we make of China's surging interest in Africa?
7. What are the results of the "brain drain" of talented Africans migrating to the west? Are there alternatives?
8. Can Africa be viewed as a whole continent or is it better understood regionally or nationally?
9. What are some of the common misconceptions about Africa among Americans? Why do these beliefs persist?
10. What does the future hold for Africa in terms of the AIDS epidemic and other diseases, such as malaria?