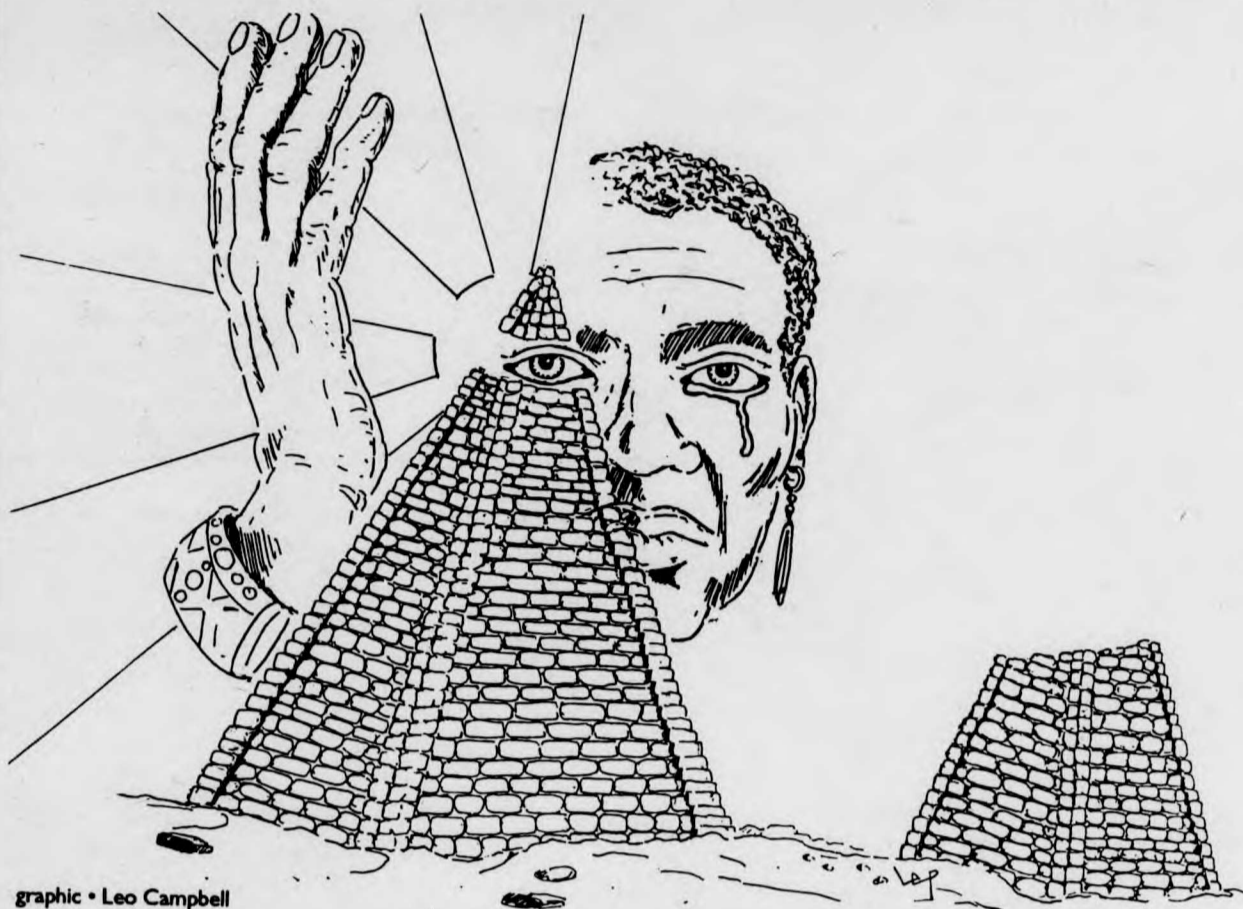


Compiled by Leroi Cox
**African
Diasporic History
And Analysis**

This is not The Definitive Reading List. These books should constitute a cherished part of the personal library of students, teachers, professors or anyone who wishes to broaden his or her intellectual horizons. Most of these books can be obtained at Third World Books Inc. at 942 Bathurst St.

1. **Origins of African Civilization**
Cheikh Anta Diop
2. **Civilization or Barbarism: The Cultural Unity of Black Africa**
Cheikh Anta Diop
3. **They Came Before Columbus**
Ivan Van Sertima
4. **Ancient Egypt: The Light of the World**
Gerald Massey
5. **Black Athena**
Martin Bernal
6. **Stolen Legacy**
George James
7. **Orientalism**
Edward Said
8. **African Religions and Philosophy**
John Mbiti
9. **Cultural Genocide in the Black and African Studies Curriculum**
Yosef Ben Jochannan
10. **Black Man of the Nile and His Family**
Yosef Ben Jochannan
11. **African Origins of European Religions**
Yosef Ben Jochannan
12. **Origins of African Civilizations**
John Jackson
13. **Black Marxism**
Cedric Robinson
14. **The Crisis of the Negro Intellectual**
Harold Cruse
15. **Class Struggle in Africa**
Kwame Nkrumah
16. **How Europe Underdeveloped Africa**
Dr. Walter Rodney
17. **Pedagogy of the Oppressed**
Paulo Freire
18. **Black Skin, White Masks**
Frantz Fanon
19. **The Wretched of the Earth**
Frantz Fanon
20. **The Autobiography of Malcolm X**
21. **A History of Blacks in Canada**

6000 years of history



graphic • Leo Campbell

by Courtney Kazembe

The history of African people is glorious and prolific, and the contributions that Africans have made to the world are indelible and overwhelming. Yet only a few years ago, historians wrote books on world history telling their readers that Africa and Africans had no history.

History is one of the most effective tools used to keep Africans and other oppressed people in mental slavery. Mainstream history contends that nearly everything of significance is due to European creativity, imagination, intellect and labour. This misrepresentation of history promotes the myth of White supremacy and its offspring — Black inferiority. It obstructs mental, intellectual and spiritual growth making true liberation near impossible.

It is therefore of utmost importance for us to fully understand the contributions that Africans have made to the world. These contributions set the record straight and invalidate "his-story" — the mainstream's distorted view of the past.

The first golden age of Africa began in prehistoric times, though there were other 'golden ages' in Ethiopia, Egypt, North Africa, West Africa and South Africa — starting with the pyramid age of Ancient Kimit (now called Sudan

and Egypt) around six thousand years ago and continuing through the Golden age of West and East Africa, spanning over five thousand years.

Egyptian culture was central to ancient African civilization. Northern Africans originated and excelled in most areas of what is now considered modern studies — studies credited to Europeans.

In Architecture, Pharaoh Rameses II of Kimit built Abu Simbet, one of the world's largest temples in ancient Nubia in the XIX dynasty 1395 B.C.E. This temple is so massive that Europe's three largest cathedrals could fit in it. It was brilliantly designed so that rays of the rising sun could penetrate the deepest room, 180 feet back from the entrance.

One of the most fascinating architectural wonders in history is the great Zimbabwe, a stone city in Southern Africa dating back to 1500 B.C. The centrepiece of this city is the Imba Huru (Great Enclosure). The Imba Huru was 250 metres long, composed of 15,000 tons of granite and housing numerous complexes, several secret passageways and an enclosure for iron-smelting and iron-maintenance.

In astronomy, the oldest known observatory has been found in Northwestern Kenya, substantiating ancient Greek travellers' claims that Africans developed the world's first lunar and solar calendars. Moreover, the calendars employed by most nations today are based on the

African model. Solar zodiac, the heart of astrology, was created by the Africans of Kimit.

Education is one of the areas in which Africa's contribution are most profound. The Africans of ancient Kimit built the world's first university. This university, known as the Grand Lodge of Luxor, contained a museum of Science, a library of 400,000 volumes, and a distinguished faculty of priest-professors. At its height, Luxor catered to some 80,000 students.

During antiquity, Egypt served as a university for the Greeks. Most of Greece's finest thinkers went to Egypt for their education. Socrates and other famous Greeks such as Plato, Pythagoras and Hypothrotese all studied in Egypt. Pythagoras, who was credited with developing the Hippocratic



graphic • Derek Marshall

Oath, spent 22 years in Africa studying medicine and later returned to Greece to share his knowledge with his fellow Greeks. What Western scholars call the Pythagorean Theorem was developed centuries before Pythagoras' birth by an African. It was known throughout antiquity as the "Theorem of the Hypotenuse."

Ancient Khart Haddas (Carthage) contained a library housing 500,000 volumes. In 146 B.C. Rome destroyed it when her armies burned the city state to ashes.

The university of Sankore in Timbuctoo, West Africa was one of the finest institutions of the fiftieth and sixtieth centuries. It possessed an outstanding faculty and offered courses in astronomy, mathematics and other disciplines.

The Africans of Kimit were the world's first physicians and were considered the most skilled medical practitioners of antiquity. The world's first known hospital, the Temple of Imhotep, named after the true father of medicine, (an African from Nubia), was built by the African of Kimit.

The surviving medical papyri clearly illustrate the medical knowledge of the African of Kimit. The *Eber Papyrus* which dates back to 1500 BC is a study of pathology, anatomy, herbal pharmacology and physical diagnosis. The *Edwin Smith papyrus*, dating back to 1600 BC, is a surgical text with special emphasis on the spinal column.

Africa's contribution to religion is also overwhelming and many modern religions are believed to be either a direct or indirect outgrowth of African religion. The most important gods of ancient Greece all originated in Africa thought. Also, until recent times, Jesus Christ, Krishna and many of the world's crucified saviours were worshipped as Black men.

The Madonna, or Virgin Mary, of Christianity has historically been worshipped as an African woman. In Kimit's Holy of Holies, there are pictured four scenes representing the annunciation, the immaculate conception, the birth and adoration, all of which later characterized the birth of Christ. What baffles Biblical scholars is that these pictures predate Jesus by over a thousand years. Some Biblical scholars believe that the "Black Madonna" was an outgrowth of the worship of Isis, the goddess of Kimit. At least 400 Black Madonnas are worshipped today in the most sacred shrines and Cathedrals of Europe, Africa, Asia and America.

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ment of Upper Canada prohibits the importation of black slaves into Upper Canada. All children born after the act will become free on reaching the age of 25.

Upper Canada becomes the first British territory to legislate against slavery — however, the act itself does not abolish slavery.

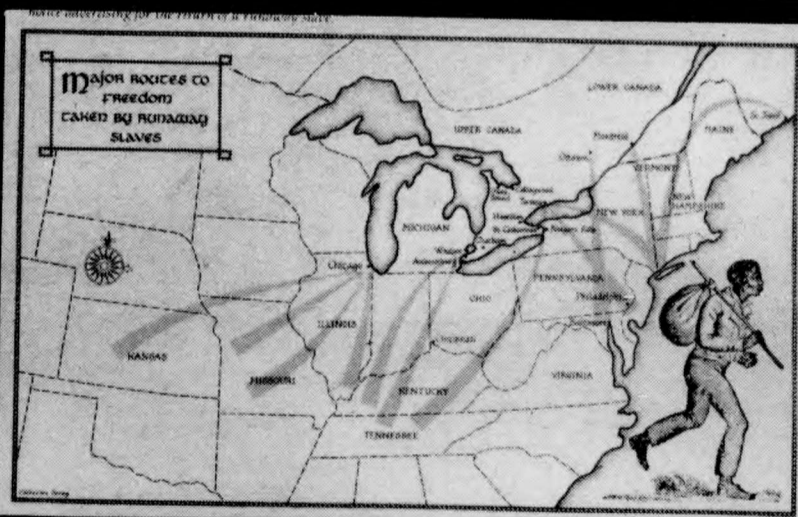
1796

Arrival of the Maroons of Jamaica. The Maroons, who are the descendants of African slaves, have fought the British colonial government in Jamaica since 1655 to maintain their freedom.

In 1796 they lay down their arms on the promise that they will be allowed to remain on the island. On the orders of the governor of Jamaica they are exiled to Nova Scotia. The Maroons found the climate of their new land harsh, the food unpalatable, and the dislike of their neighbours difficult to bear. In 1800 with government assistance the Maroons moved to and settled in Sierra Leone.

1837

Black militia units help quell William Lyon Mackenzie's 1837 rebellion. Josiah Henson, whose name is often associated



with the novel 'Uncle Tom's Cabin' fights on the side of the government in this rebellion and helps capture an enemy American ship which was threatening the town of Sandwich, Ont. Much of the Canadian Black support to Mackenzie was founded on the fear of a union with the United States.

1850

In the United States, the Fugitive Slave Act is passed. It stipulates that even free people can be employed if suspected

of being runaways.

This leads to an increase in black migration northward. Southern Ontario black communities in Windsor, Buxton, Dawn, Chatham and Toronto become larger. In 1860, the black population in Ontario is estimated at 40,000.

1851

Harriet Tubman, the famous woman responsible for freeing about 300 slaves, begins her journey across the border, using the Underground Railroad (URR). She makes 19 journeys, guiding slaves safely to freedom in Canada.

Although there is a considerable argument over the exact number of slaves who reached Canada via the URR, it is estimated that between 1830-1860, 30,000 to 70,000 escaped to Canada West by this process.

1851-1853

Mary Ann Shadd moves to Canada. A committed abolitionist, Shadd advocates that fugitives should flee from slavery to Canada. She becomes the first woman to edit a Canadian newspaper when she owns and edits 'The Provincial Freeman' between 1853 and 1857. Because of her strong concern with education she later becomes a principal of a small school in Windsor during her fight against the ill-structured Black colonization schemes.