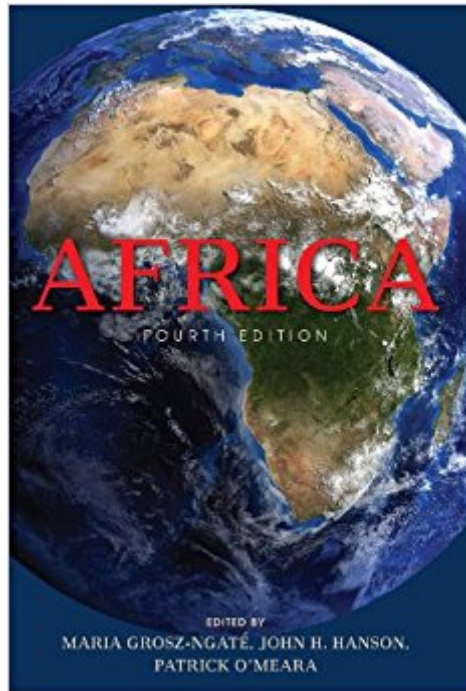




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Since the publication of the first edition of this book in 1977, Africa has established itself as the most popular introductory text for African studies courses in North America. This third edition has been completely revised and brought up to date since the 1986 edition, reflecting changes in African society and politics, and in the scholarship available on this vast and complex continent.

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Customer Reviews

This is a good book to use if you are studying African culture and development. The authors write in a readable style, and also do a good job of seemingly keeping their opinions out of the book. Every section is backed up with facts. Lots of graphs and pictures. This book is slightly outdated, as it lists Zaire as a country, but it is still, by far, the most comprehensive text that I have read on the cultural developments of Africa as a whole and of more specific groups.

wanted to learn as much about Africa as possible short of going which i can't afford to do yet.

What I needed!

Good

This is a good book to introduce people to Africa and the ethnocentrism of too many writing about it, as perpetrated by one particular page, the beginning of the chapter on Art. The authors suggest that, with much African art having reached Europe, African art influenced art history! The staggering implication is that only Europe has a history of art. What about China, India, Oceania? What about Africa? Do those areas not have a history of art? Although this book is now nearly 20 years old, I would have thought that even in 1995, when it was published, that academics writing about Africa would have got past that kind of ethnocentrism. Unfortunately, this calls to mind the famous statement by Hugh Trevor-Roper, the Oxford don, who, in 1963, said there is no history in Africa: "there is only the history of Europeans in Africa. The rest is darkness."

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