

Recent Books from Ghana – Sept 2021

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Literature

Babingo – The Noble Rebel: A Novel (Originally Published in French as Babingo Au Nom Des Accultures / Moussibahou Mazou
Accra: Sub-Saharan Publishers, 2021
276p.
9789988550875
\$ 21.99 / PB
264gm.

In Pointe-Noire of the 1950's lived Paul Makouta, a "civilized" and westernized native who was very proud of communicating exclusively in French with Madeleine Mamatouka, his wife, Alex his only son, and the other children of his household. Under no circumstance did Makouta allow the members of his family speak the language of Metropolitan France with the slightest trace of a Bantu accent. Again, anyone who dared speak Kituba, an indigenous language, with the family's domestic staff was liable to severe reprimand.

Clearly, the father's intransigence was at odds with the communicative practices in the neighborhood and of children commuting daily to school. And it was only natural for Tessa, a fellow pupil from the neighborhood, to successfully convince her teenage friend, Alex Babingo, of the absurdity of Makouta's directive. Little did Alex Babingo realize that his initial acceptance of the irrationality of the father's prohibition in colonized Congo was only the start of a trajectory which, from the other side of the world, would impel his return to the very roots of his culture and ancestral traditions in the now independent Republic of Congo or Congo-Brazzaville. Babingo, the Noble Rebel is a poignant and pulsating advocacy for the mainstreaming of indigenous languages into the curriculum of African countries, not least those belonging to the French-speaking world.

<http://www.marymartin.com/web?pid=778336>

Politics

Towards Sustainable Peace in Ghana / (Ed) Stephen Bugu Kendie (et al.)
Accra: Sub-Saharan Publishers, 2021

xliv, 460p.

Includes Index

9789988550288

\$ 61.99 / PB

700gm.

This book was conceived as a testament to the life and times of Mr. Francis Kojo Azuimah - the first Executive Secretary of the National Peace Council (NPC) of Ghana. The late Executive Secretary worked tirelessly not only to pre-empt and manage conflicts, but also drew attention of policy makers to the underlying causes of conflict. Consequently, in all the peace-building efforts that the NPC engaged in during his tenure, the fundamental issues of poverty, inequality and justice were driving concerns.

The chapters in this book were written mainly by academics with several years and decades of research and practice in the fields of Peace Studies, Conflict Management and Development Studies. The authors draw attention to local, regional and national attempts at managing conflicts and peace-building and underline the essential roles of justice and stakeholder participation as ingredients to achieve sustainable peace. This is particularly necessary in poor countries/societies where development policies are often skewed in favour of the elite.

This book is essential reading for students of Peace Studies, Development Studies, Sociology and Political Science as well as persons interested in conflict and justice in society. The book is eternally dedicated to all freedom fighters and all who work for peace and justice.

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