

# African Philosophy

## An Anthology

Edited by *Emmanuel Chukwudi Eze*  
Bucknell University

# Contents

Preface	ix
Acknowledgments	xi
<b>Part I What is African Philosophy?</b>	<b>1</b>
1 African Philosophy: Yesterday and Today Joseph I. Omoregbe	3
2 Philosophy and Post-Colonial Africa Tsenay Serequeberhan	9
3 African, African American, Africana Philosophy Lucius Outlaw	23
4 The African Foundations of Greek Philosophy Henry Olela	43
5 Contemporary Moslem Philosophies in North Africa Mourad Wahba	50
<b>Part II Human Nature: Mind, Body, and Self-Identity</b>	<b>57</b>
6 The Relation of <i>Ōkra</i> (Soul) and <i>Honam</i> (Body): An Akan Conception Kwame Gyekye	59
7 “Chi” in Igbo Cosmology Chinua Achebe	67
8 The Sociality of Self Okot p’Bitek	73
<b>Part III Philosophy, Politics, and Society</b>	<b>75</b>
9 Leaders must not be Masters Julius Nyerere	77

## Contents

10	<b>Consciencism</b> Kwame Nkrumah	81
11	<b>Two Traditions in African American Political Philosophy</b> Bernard Boxill	94
12	<b>Universal Dimensions of Black Struggle I: Black Revolution</b> <b>Universal Dimensions of Black Struggle II: Human Rights, Civil Rights</b> Malcom X	104 110
13	<b>Philosophy, Politics, and Power: An Afro-American Perspective</b> Cornel West	112
<b>Part IV Ethics</b>		<b>119</b>
14	<b>“Mutumin Kirki”: The Concept of the Good Man in Hausa</b> Anthony H. M. Kirk-Greene	121
15	<b>Yoruba Philosophy: Individuality, Community, and the Moral Order</b> Segun Gbadegesin	130
16	<b>Concerning Violence</b> Frantz Fanon	142
17	<b>Morals and the Value of Human Life</b> M. M. Agrawal	146
18	<b>Moral Reasoning versus Racial Reasoning</b> Cornel West	155
<b>Part V On Knowledge and Science</b>		<b>161</b>
19	<b>Elements of Physics in Yoruba Culture I</b> <b>Elements of Physics in Yoruba Culture II</b> Supo Ogunbunmi and Henry M. Olaitan	163 167
20	<b>“Divination”: A Way of Knowing?</b> Philip M. Peek	171
21	<b>The Problem of Knowledge in “Divination”: The Example of Ifa</b> E. Chukwudi Eze	173
22	<b>The Concept of Truth in the Akan Language</b> Kwasi Wiredu	176
23	<b>African Traditional Thought and Western Science</b> Robin Horton	181
24	<b>How Not to Compare African Thought with Western Thought</b> Kwasi Wiredu	193
25	<b>Literacy, Criticism, and the Growth of Knowledge</b> Jack Goody	200
<b>Part VI Philosophy and Colonial Encounter</b>		<b>211</b>
26	<b>Modern Western Philosophy and African Colonialism</b> E. Chukwudi Eze	213
27	<b>Discourse on Colonialism</b> Aimé Césaire	222

28	<b>The Wretched of the Earth</b> Frantz Fanon	228
29	<b>Colonialism and the Colonized: Violence and Counter-Violence</b> Tsenay Serequeberhan	234
30	<b>Cultural Nationalism in the Colonial Period</b> R. L. Okonkwo	255
31	<b>National Liberation and Culture (Return to the Source)</b> Amilcar Cabral	260
	<b>Part VII Philosophy and Race</b>	<b>267</b>
32	<b>The Conservation of Races</b> W. E. B. Du Bois	269
33	<b>The Illusions of Race</b> Kwame Anthony Appiah	275
34	<b>Du Bois on the Invention of Race</b> Tommy L. Lott	291
35	<b>Racism and Culture</b> Frantz Fanon	305
36	<b>Racism and Feminism</b> bell hooks	312
	<b>Part VIII Philosophy and Gender</b>	<b>331</b>
37	<b>The Woman Question: African and Western Perspectives</b> Marie Pauline Eboh	333
38	<b>Black Women: Shaping Feminist Theory</b> bell hooks	338
39	<b>Mammies, Matriarchs, and Other Controlling Images</b> Patricia Hill Collins	346
40	<b>The Erasure of Black Women</b> Elizabeth V. Spelman	355
41	<b>The Curious Coincidence of Feminine and African Moralities</b> Sandra Harding	360
	<b>Part IX Philosophy and Transatlantic African Slavery</b>	<b>373</b>
42	<b>The Nature of Slavery</b> Frederick Douglass	375
43	<b>The Concept of Slavery</b> Winthrop D. Jordan	379
44	<b>The Origin of Negro Slavery</b> Eric Williams	382
45	<b>The Interesting Narrative . . .</b> Olaudah Equiano	397
46	<b>Thoughts and Sentiments on the Evil of Slavery</b> Ottobah Cugoano, a Native of Africa	405

Contents

47	<b>Autobiographical Acts and the Voice of the Southern Slave</b> Houston A. Baker, Jr.	413
<b>Part X Ontology and the Nature of Art</b>		<b>425</b>
48	<b>Breath</b> Birago Diop	427
49	<b>Bantu Ontology</b> Placide Tempels	429
50	<b>The Igbo World and Its Art</b> Chinua Achebe	435
51	<b>The Fourth Stage: Through the Mysteries of Ogun to the Origin of Yoruba Tragedy</b> Wole Soyinka	438
52	<b>The Duke's Blues</b> Stanley Crouch	447
<b>Part XI Philosophy of Religion</b>		<b>455</b>
53	<b>God, Faith, and the Nature of Knowledge</b> Zera Yacob	457
54	<b>Must God Remain Greek?</b> Robert E. Hood	462
55	<b>The Problem of Evil: An Akan Perspective</b> Kwame Gyekye	468
56	<b>Black Women and Men: Partnership in the 1990s</b> bell hooks and Cornel West	472
<b>Index</b>		<b>479</b>