

*Africa* pays particular attention to popular culture as an analytical lens for examining contemporary life. Separate chapters on the visual arts, music, literature, and film provide ample opportunities for instructors to incorporate a range of sources and perspectives into the classroom. Unlike many introductory texts that focus mostly on electoral politics and economic development, this book devotes only two of the fifteen chapters to these issues, with a new chapter shifting the traditional language of democratization and social change to concepts of human rights in a historical framework. The concluding chapter provides a broad bibliographic introduction to further resources for both students and teachers. Particularly helpful here is the addition of digital resources, which will help readers navigate the unreliable world of web-based research. However, this bibliographic resource would be even more useful if it evolved into a Web-based companion to the text in future editions. Few texts provide this kind of introduction to the growing body of primary and secondary source materials available digitally, a resource that students, scholars, and teachers of African studies need desperately.

It is easy to criticize any attempt to introduce contemporary Africa in a single edited volume. While *Africa's* interdisciplinary breadth makes it an ideal text for courses defined broadly as an "introduction to African studies," the limited direct attention to history will likely relegate this to a supplementary text in historical survey courses. The focus of the text is also limited mainly to sub-Saharan Africa, though the editors do not privilege any one region. And, since it is organized thematically, there is little space for in-depth coverage of issues such as rapid technological change, the evolving role of the diaspora, and China's relatively recent involvement in African affairs, all of which are important enough to deserve stand-alone chapters. However, no one text could be comprehensive in its approach to the ever-changing social, economic, and political landscape of contemporary Africa. For students of African studies broadly defined, the fourth edition of *Africa* will continue to spark important discussions in the classroom and likely inspire a fifth edition of this influential introductory text.

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**Raymond E. Dumett. *Imperialism, Economic Development and Social Change in West Africa*.** Durham, N.C.: Carolina Academic Press, 2013. xviii + 538 pp. List of Raymond Dumett's publications. Index. \$61.00. Paper. ISBN: 978-1594609763.

Toyin Falola, editor of Carolina's African World series, has single-handedly revived the extremely useful practice of publishing collections of the major papers of a distinguished scholar. In this case it is Raymond Dumett, and

any historian of modern Ghana would be delighted to have this volume at hand. It opens with a new essay in which Dumett introduces the twenty that follow, which originally appeared in journals and edited volumes from 1968 to 2011. Geographically, they confirm the author's specialization, over a long career, on southern—especially southwestern—Ghana. Eighteen chapters are devoted basically to this country, though one of these examines an Anglo-French dispute over the Côte d'Ivoire–Ghana frontier and another includes a section on the precolonial state of Gyaman, which spanned that future frontier. The other two chapters include Ghana but have a wider geographical frame: one on the campaign against malaria in early British West Africa, the other surveying Africa's strategic minerals during the Second World War. Thematically, the Ghana chapters present Dumett's core contributions on slavery, African and European entrepreneurship, import–export trade, mining and railway-building, and the process of colonization, mainly for the later nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. Along with his *El Dorado in West Africa: The Gold Mining Frontier, African Labor, and Colonial Capitalism in the Gold Coast, 1875–1900* (Ohio University Press, 1998), this collection represents a massive contribution to the study of Ghanaian and West African economic, social, and political history, providing painstaking research and well-argued analysis. The author has made insightful use of oral testimony and such private papers as survive from African merchants of the early colonial era, as well as government records.

At least a quarter of this big book examines labor issues, including the history of slavery and its eventual prohibition. The book includes Dumett's critique of Emmanuel Terray's thesis that the fiscal foundation of Akan states was gold mined by royal slaves, one of the most fruitful debates provoked by French Marxist "modes of production" theory in the 1970s. Dumett conceded that slave labor had been more important than he thought at first, and that some of it was deployed in large concentrations by rulers, but he insisted, plausibly, that most mining was done by household labor, though in some cases the latter included slaves. Another chapter features Dumett's remarkably detailed and subtle account of the work process in artisanal mining in the Akan region, and the reasoning behind his plausible claim that two-thirds of the labor was supplied by females.

The field of African business history has been expanding recently (helped by a special issue of *Business History Review* in spring 2007), but indigenous enterprises remain chronically under-researched. Thus it is particularly apt that the volume includes Dumett's three pioneering but still state-of-the-art pieces: case studies of John Mensah Sarbah and of Nzeman entrepreneurs in southwestern Ghana, and "African Merchants of the Gold Coast, 1860–1905." The latter remains the best-documented and most nuanced overview of how Africans entered the field of direct shipments to Europe, their strategies and struggles, and the context in which they were then squeezed by the growth of large-scale and increasingly cartelized European firms. Dumett refutes the myth that these African merchants

passively “hugged the coast,” showing, to the contrary, their enterprise in production and trade further inland, on both sides of what became the Anglo–French frontier. The work on entrepreneurship partly overlapped with, and partly followed upon, his pioneering investigations of the elements of the commercial expansion in Ghana, especially in rubber and mahogany, that immediately preceded the cocoa boom.

Most of the later chapters examine the intersections of British imperialism and British capital in relation to Ghana: for example, with reference to Anglo–French border rivalry and railway construction and management, and the largely unsuccessful official attempts to promote cotton growing for export. These essays are well documented, and brief as some of them are, they bring out well the complexity of the contexts surrounding colonial decision-making.

The one blemish on this intellectually rich and nicely bound collection is seriously insufficient copyediting. It is a pity that, in reprinting papers that were already in electronic form, the opportunity was missed at least to correct typos, as with chapter 9 on Nzema entrepreneurship, which has the same glitches as the 2003 original. It is worse with chapter 5 on Wassa gold-mining, which was evidently rekeyed for this volume. In the process, a number of errors were introduced that are absent from the 1987 original (including two separate paragraphs on p. 147 in which words have dropped out and irrelevant words have been pasted in from somewhere else, seemingly at random). However, it is the new introduction that has the most typos, including missing words. One hopes that this problem does not recur in the preparation of later books in this impressive series.

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**John Laband. *Zulu Warriors: The Battle for the Southern African Frontier.***

New Haven: Yale University Press, 2014. xv + 345 pp. Illustrations. Maps. Terminology. Bibliography. Index. \$40.00. Cloth. ISBN: 978-0300180312.

In *Zulu Warriors: The Battle for the Southern African Frontier*, John Laband integrates forty years of scholarship shaped by his own prolific work in the field of military history. Eloquently written and deeply researched, his new book is arranged into six sections, which cover theaters of conflict in the Transvaal, the Eastern Cape, Griqualand West, and Zululand. This structure enables the author to assess the links between (flexible and inflexible) indigenous military strategies, African reactions to imperial and colonial invasions, and the complex outcomes of white conquest in late nineteenth-century southern Africa.

Laband begins with a novel idea: that there was an obvious, if unnamed, War of South African Unification between 1877 and 1879, which culminated