

CIVIL PEACE BY CHINUA ACHEBE LITERARY ANALYSIS

CIVIL PEACE BY CHINUA ACHEBE: A LITERARY ANALYSIS DELVING INTO RESILIENCE AND RECONCILIATION

INTRODUCTION:

CHINUA ACHEBE'S "CIVIL PEACE," A DECEPTIVELY SHORT STORY, PACKS A POWERFUL PUNCH. FAR FROM A SIMPLE NARRATIVE OF POST-WAR SURVIVAL, IT OFFERS A PROFOUND EXPLORATION OF RESILIENCE, SPIRITUAL FORTITUDE, AND THE COMPLEXITIES OF REBUILDING A LIFE AMIDST CHAOS. THIS IN-DEPTH LITERARY ANALYSIS WILL DELVE INTO THE STORY'S THEMATIC RICHNESS, EXPLORING ITS MASTERFUL USE OF SYMBOLISM, CHARACTER DEVELOPMENT, AND THE AUTHOR'S POIGNANT COMMENTARY ON THE HUMAN SPIRIT'S ABILITY TO FIND PEACE EVEN IN THE FACE OF UNIMAGINABLE HARDSHIP. WE'LL EXAMINE THE STORY'S STRUCTURE, ITS PORTRAYAL OF SOCIETAL BREAKDOWN AND INDIVIDUAL PERSEVERANCE, AND ITS LASTING RELEVANCE IN UNDERSTANDING THE AFTERMATH OF CONFLICT AND THE SEARCH FOR PEACE IN A FRACTURED WORLD. PREPARE TO UNCOVER THE LAYERS OF MEANING HIDDEN WITHIN THIS SEEMINGLY SIMPLE YET DEEPLY RESONANT TALE.

I. THE POWER OF SYMBOLISM IN "CIVIL PEACE"

ACHEBE MASTERFULLY EMPLOYS SYMBOLISM THROUGHOUT "CIVIL PEACE," ENRICHING THE NARRATIVE WITH DEEPER LAYERS OF MEANING. THE BICYCLE, FOR INSTANCE, TRANSCENDS ITS PRACTICAL FUNCTION AS A MEANS OF TRANSPORTATION. IT SYMBOLIZES JONATHAN'S AMBITION, HIS ENTREPRENEURIAL SPIRIT, AND HIS DETERMINATION TO REBUILD HIS LIFE AFTER THE WAR. ITS ACQUISITION SIGNIFIES A TRIUMPH OVER ADVERSITY, A TANGIBLE REPRESENTATION OF HIS HOPE FOR A BETTER FUTURE. CONVERSELY, THE THEFT OF THE BICYCLE REPRESENTS A SETBACK, BUT NOT A COMPLETE DEFEAT. JONATHAN'S REACTION HIGHLIGHTS THE STORY'S CENTRAL THEME: HIS RESILIENCE IN THE FACE OF ADVERSITY.

THE REPEATED PHRASE "NOTHING PUZZLES GOD" SERVES AS A POWERFUL SYMBOL OF JONATHAN'S FAITH AND HIS ACCEPTANCE OF HIS FATE. IT'S NOT PASSIVE RESIGNATION, BUT A CONSCIOUS CHOICE TO TRUST IN A HIGHER POWER, FINDING SOLACE AND STRENGTH IN HIS BELIEFS. THIS UNWAVERING FAITH ALLOWS HIM TO MAINTAIN A SENSE OF PEACE DESPITE THE HARDSHIPS HE FACES. THE CONTRASTING IMAGERY OF THE WAR'S DEVASTATION AND JONATHAN'S QUIET REBUILDING EMPHASIZES THE ENDURING HUMAN CAPACITY FOR HOPE AND PERSEVERANCE. THE RELATIVE PEACE HE FINDS IS A TESTAMENT TO HIS INNER STRENGTH AND HIS ABILITY TO FIND MEANING AMIDST THE RUINS.

II. CHARACTER ANALYSIS: JONATHAN'S UNWAVERING SPIRIT

JONATHAN, THE PROTAGONIST, IS NOT A STEREOTYPICAL HERO. HE'S AN ORDINARY MAN, A COMMON IGBO VILLAGER, WHOSE STRENGTH LIES NOT IN PHYSICAL PROWESS BUT IN HIS UNWAVERING SPIRIT. HIS PRAGMATISM AND RESILIENCE ARE HIS MOST STRIKING TRAITS. HE DOESN'T DWELL ON THE LOSSES HE HAS SUFFERED; INSTEAD, HE FOCUSES ON REBUILDING HIS LIFE, ACCEPTING WHAT HE CANNOT CHANGE. HIS ACCEPTANCE OF THE THEFT, HIS SEEMINGLY FORGIVING ATTITUDE, IS NOT A SIGN OF WEAKNESS, BUT A REFLECTION OF HIS DEEP-SEATED FAITH AND HIS PRIORITIZATION OF INNER PEACE OVER MATERIAL POSSESSIONS. THIS MAKES HIM A UNIQUELY RELATABLE AND COMPELLING CHARACTER, A SYMBOL OF THE HUMAN CAPACITY FOR ENDURING AMIDST TRAUMA.

THE STORY'S LACK OF DETAILED BACKSTORY ABOUT JONATHAN'S EXPERIENCES DURING THE WAR IS A DELIBERATE CHOICE. IT ALLOWS THE READER TO FOCUS ON HIS PRESENT-DAY RESILIENCE RATHER THAN BEING BOGGED DOWN BY THE HORRORS OF THE PAST. THIS MINIMALIST APPROACH ENHANCES THE STORY'S IMPACT, EMPHASIZING THE UNIVERSALITY OF HIS STRUGGLE AND HIS TRIUMPH OVER ADVERSITY. HIS PRAGMATISM – HIS CALCULATED APPROACH TO LIFE – IS A TESTAMENT TO HIS STRENGTH.

III. THEMATIC EXPLORATION: RESILIENCE, RECONCILIATION, AND THE SEARCH FOR PEACE

"CIVIL PEACE" TRANSCENDS ITS SETTING IN POST-WAR NIGERIA. THE STORY'S THEMES – RESILIENCE, RECONCILIATION, AND THE SEARCH FOR PEACE – RESONATE DEEPLY WITH READERS GLOBALLY. ACHEBE EXPLORES THE COMPLEXITIES OF REBUILDING A LIFE AFTER CONFLICT, HIGHLIGHTING THE PSYCHOLOGICAL AND EMOTIONAL TOLL OF WAR. THE STORY ISN'T JUST ABOUT PHYSICAL REBUILDING; IT'S ABOUT THE INTERNAL STRUGGLE TO FIND PEACE AMIDST CHAOS. JONATHAN'S JOURNEY IS A POWERFUL

METAPHOR FOR THE INDIVIDUAL'S QUEST FOR PEACE IN A WORLD MARKED BY VIOLENCE AND INSTABILITY.

THE STORY'S SUBTLE CRITIQUE OF SOCIETAL BREAKDOWN IS EVIDENT IN THE CASUAL DISREGARD FOR HUMAN LIFE AND PROPERTY. THE THIEVES, THOUGH PRESENTED AS ANTAGONISTS, ARE ALSO PRODUCTS OF A SYSTEM THAT HAS BROKEN DOWN. THE LACK OF LAW AND ORDER UNDERSCORES THE FRAGILITY OF PEACE AND THE ONGOING STRUGGLE FOR STABILITY. ACHEBE SUBTLY CRITICIZES THE SYSTEMIC ISSUES CONTRIBUTING TO THE CONTINUED INSTABILITY, HIGHLIGHTING THE DEEPER CHALLENGES TO TRUE RECONCILIATION. THIS ADDS ANOTHER LAYER TO THE STORY'S MULTIFACETED NATURE, SUGGESTING THAT PEACE IS NOT SIMPLY THE ABSENCE OF WAR, BUT A COMPLEX PROCESS OF REBUILDING TRUST, RESTORING SOCIAL ORDER, AND ADDRESSING THE ROOT CAUSES OF CONFLICT.

IV. NARRATIVE STRUCTURE AND STYLE: SIMPLICITY AND DEPTH

ACHEBE EMPLOYS A DECEPTIVELY SIMPLE NARRATIVE STRUCTURE. THE STORY UNFOLDS CHRONOLOGICALLY, FOCUSING ON A SPECIFIC PERIOD IN JONATHAN'S LIFE, THEREBY BUILDING SUSPENSE AND ALLOWING THE READER TO WITNESS HIS REMARKABLE JOURNEY. THE LANGUAGE IS STRAIGHTFORWARD AND ACCESSIBLE, DEVOID OF ELABORATE DESCRIPTIONS OR STYLISTIC FLOURISHES, MIRRORING THE SIMPLICITY OF JONATHAN'S OWN LIFE. YET, THIS SIMPLICITY BELIES A DEPTH OF MEANING THAT UNFOLDS GRADUALLY. THE BREVITY OF THE STORY REINFORCES THE FOCUS ON JONATHAN'S RESILIENCE AND HIS QUIET TRIUMPH OVER ADVERSITY. THE STRAIGHTFORWARD LANGUAGE ALLOWS THE READER TO FOCUS ON THE CORE THEMES WITHOUT BEING DISTRACTED BY LITERARY DEVICES.

V. "CIVIL PEACE" IN A BROADER CONTEXT: POSTCOLONIAL LITERATURE AND BEYOND

"CIVIL PEACE" OCCUPIES A SIGNIFICANT PLACE WITHIN POSTCOLONIAL LITERATURE. IT OFFERS A NUANCED PERSPECTIVE ON THE AFTERMATH OF COLONIALISM AND THE STRUGGLE FOR INDEPENDENCE. THE STORY HIGHLIGHTS THE CHALLENGES FACED BY INDIVIDUALS IN POST-COLONIAL SOCIETIES GRAPPLING WITH THE LASTING EFFECTS OF CONFLICT AND THE COMPLEXITIES OF NATION-BUILDING. HOWEVER, THE STORY'S UNIVERSALITY TRANSCENDS ITS SPECIFIC HISTORICAL CONTEXT. THE THEMES OF RESILIENCE, RECONCILIATION, AND THE SEARCH FOR INNER PEACE RESONATE WITH READERS FROM DIVERSE BACKGROUNDS, WHO HAVE FACED SIMILAR CHALLENGES IN THEIR OWN LIVES AND COMMUNITIES.

OUTLINE OF "CIVIL PEACE":

INTRODUCTION: SETS THE SCENE IN POST-WAR NIGERIA, INTRODUCES JONATHAN AND HIS FAMILY.

CHAPTER 1 (THE BICYCLE): JONATHAN'S LUCKY ESCAPE DURING THE WAR, HIS PRAGMATIC APPROACH TO LIFE, AND THE ACQUISITION OF A BICYCLE.

CHAPTER 2 (THE THEFT): THE THEFT OF THE BICYCLE AND JONATHAN'S REACTION.

CHAPTER 3 (RECONCILIATION): JONATHAN'S ACCEPTANCE OF THE LOSS AND HIS UNWAVERING FAITH.

CONCLUSION: JONATHAN'S REAFFIRMATION OF HIS BELIEF IN "NOTHING PUZZLES GOD," EMPHASIZING HIS RESILIENCE AND SPIRITUAL PEACE.

DETAILED EXPLANATION OF THE OUTLINE:

1. INTRODUCTION: THE STORY OPENS BY ESTABLISHING THE POST-WAR SETTING AND THE PRECARIOUS CONDITIONS IN WHICH JONATHAN AND HIS FAMILY LIVE. THIS SETS THE STAGE FOR THE CHALLENGES THEY FACE.

1. CHAPTER 1 (THE BICYCLE): THIS SECTION DETAILS JONATHAN'S MIRACULOUS SURVIVAL DURING THE WAR AND HIS RESOURCEFUL ACQUISITION OF A BICYCLE. THE BICYCLE BECOMES A SYMBOL OF HIS ASPIRATIONS AND HIS ATTEMPT TO REBUILD HIS LIFE.

1. CHAPTER 2 (THE THEFT): THE THEFT OF THE BICYCLE IS A PIVOTAL MOMENT IN THE STORY. IT REPRESENTS A SETBACK

BUT NOT A COMPLETE DEFEAT. JONATHAN'S RESPONSE TO THE THEFT REVEALS HIS CORE CHARACTER TRAITS AND HIS PHILOSOPHY OF LIFE.

1. CHAPTER 3 (RECONCILIATION): THIS SECTION SHOWCASES JONATHAN'S ABILITY TO ACCEPT THE LOSS AND TO FIND PEACE WITHIN HIMSELF. HIS UNWAVERING FAITH AND HIS PRAGMATIC APPROACH TO LIFE ARE HIGHLIGHTED.
1. CONCLUSION: THE STORY CONCLUDES WITH JONATHAN'S DECLARATION, "NOTHING PUZZLES GOD," EMPHASIZING HIS SPIRITUAL STRENGTH AND HIS ACCEPTANCE OF THE EVENTS THAT HAVE UNFOLDED.

FAQs:

1. WHAT IS THE CENTRAL THEME OF "CIVIL PEACE"? THE CENTRAL THEME IS THE RESILIENCE OF THE HUMAN SPIRIT IN THE FACE OF ADVERSITY, EMPHASIZING THE SEARCH FOR PEACE AND RECONCILIATION EVEN AMIDST CHAOS.
1. WHAT IS THE SIGNIFICANCE OF THE BICYCLE IN THE STORY? THE BICYCLE SYMBOLIZES JONATHAN'S AMBITION, HIS HOPE FOR A BETTER FUTURE, AND HIS ENTREPRENEURIAL SPIRIT.
1. HOW DOES JONATHAN REACT TO THE THEFT OF HIS BICYCLE? DESPITE THE LOSS, JONATHAN REACTS WITH SURPRISING CALM AND ACCEPTANCE, EMPHASIZING HIS FAITH AND PRAGMATISM.
1. WHAT IS THE MEANING OF THE PHRASE "NOTHING PUZZLES GOD"? THIS PHRASE EMBODIES JONATHAN'S UNWAVERING FAITH AND HIS BELIEF THAT EVERYTHING HAPPENS FOR A REASON.
1. WHAT IS THE SETTING OF "CIVIL PEACE"? THE STORY IS SET IN POST-WAR NIGERIA, HIGHLIGHTING THE CHALLENGES OF REBUILDING AFTER CONFLICT.
1. WHAT IS THE SIGNIFICANCE OF THE STORY'S BREVITY? THE BREVITY ENHANCES THE IMPACT OF THE STORY, FOCUSING THE READER'S ATTENTION ON JONATHAN'S RESILIENCE AND HIS INNER PEACE.
1. HOW DOES "CIVIL PEACE" RELATE TO POSTCOLONIAL LITERATURE? IT PROVIDES A NUANCED PORTRAYAL OF THE AFTERMATH OF COLONIALISM AND THE CHALLENGES OF NATION-BUILDING IN POST-COLONIAL SOCIETIES.

1. WHAT IS THE SIGNIFICANCE OF JONATHAN'S CHARACTER? JONATHAN IS NOT A STEREOTYPICAL HERO; HE REPRESENTS AN ORDINARY PERSON'S REMARKABLE RESILIENCE AND ABILITY TO FIND INNER PEACE.
1. WHAT IS THE OVERALL MESSAGE OF "CIVIL PEACE"? THE STORY CONVEYS A POWERFUL MESSAGE ABOUT THE HUMAN SPIRIT'S CAPACITY FOR RESILIENCE, FORGIVENESS, AND THE ENDURING SEARCH FOR PEACE.

RELATED ARTICLES:

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1. CHARACTER DEVELOPMENT IN "CIVIL PEACE": A DETAILED EXAMINATION OF JONATHAN'S CHARACTER ARC AND ITS SIGNIFICANCE.
1. POSTCOLONIAL PERSPECTIVES IN AFRICAN LITERATURE: DISCUSSES THE BROADER CONTEXT OF "CIVIL PEACE" WITHIN POSTCOLONIAL LITERATURE.
1. COMPARING "CIVIL PEACE" TO OTHER POST-WAR NARRATIVES: A COMPARATIVE ANALYSIS WITH OTHER WORKS EXPLORING SIMILAR THEMES.
1. ACHEBE'S LITERARY STYLE AND TECHNIQUES: A STUDY OF ACHEBE'S UNIQUE WRITING STYLE AND ITS EFFECTIVENESS IN CONVEYING COMPLEX IDEAS.
1. THE IMPACT OF "CIVIL PEACE" ON AFRICAN LITERATURE: EXAMINES THE STORY'S INFLUENCE ON SUBSEQUENT GENERATIONS OF AFRICAN WRITERS.

1. ANALYZING THE ENDING OF "CIVIL PEACE": A DEEP DIVE INTO THE FINAL LINES OF THE STORY AND THEIR LASTING IMPACT ON THE READER.

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civil peace by chinua achebe literary analysis: *How to Read Like a Writer* Mike Bunn, When you Read Like a Writer (RLW) you work to identify some of the choices the author made so that you can better understand how such choices might arise in your own writing. The idea is to carefully examine the things you read, looking at the writerly techniques in the text in order to decide if you might want to adopt similar (or the same) techniques in your writing. You are reading to learn about writing. Instead of reading for content or to better understand the ideas in the writing (which you will automatically do to some degree anyway), you are trying to understand how the piece of writing was put together by the author and what you can learn about writing by reading a particular text. As you read in this way, you think about how the choices the author made and the techniques that he/she used are influencing your own responses as a reader. What is it about the way this text is written that makes you feel and respond the way you do?

civil peace by chinua achebe literary analysis: *Chinua Achebe and the Politics of Narration* Thomas Jay Lynn, 2018-08-01 This book examines vital intersections of narration, linguistic innovation, and political insight that distinguish Chinua Achebe's fiction as well as his non-fiction commentaries. Each chapter focuses on a different aspect of these intersections: Achebe's narrative response to Western authors who have written on Africa, his integration of Igbo folklore, the political implications of writing African literature in English, his use of Nigerian Pidgin, and the Nigerian Civil War. It also addresses the teaching of Achebe's works. Achebe drew on diverse resources to offer searching psychological and political insights that contribute not only a decidedly African political viewpoint to the modern novel, but also a more inclusive narrative consciousness. Achebe's adaptations of Igbo oral art are intrinsic to his writing's political engagement because they assert the integrity and authority of the African voice in a global order defined by colonialism. This book reveals how his work has helped to restructure a global vision of Africa.

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African state of Kangan, and shows the transformation of a brilliant young.

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civil peace by chinua achebe literary analysis: African Short Stories: Vol 1 Ce, Chin, 2014-03-11 The International Society of Literary Fellows (Lsi) is the society of creative writers and scholars from African and the world with a critical interest in current developments around modern cultures of indigenous and foreign language expressions. In partnership with Progeny international, the Lsi aims to assess and promote the emergence of works of visionary creative impetus in the genres of modern African fiction, non-fiction and visual arts. 38 stories are included in this anthology.

civil peace by chinua achebe literary analysis: Chinua Achebe Jago Morrison, 2016-05-16 Chinua Achebe has long been regarded as Africa's foremost writer. In this major new study, Jago Morrison offers a comprehensive reassessment of his work as an author, broadcaster, editor and political thinker. With new, historically contextualised readings of all of his major works, this is the first study to view Achebe's oeuvre in its entirety, from *Things Fall Apart* and the early novels, through the revolutionary Ahiara Declaration – previously attributed to Emeka Ojukwu – to the revealing final works *The Education of a British Educated Child* and *There Was a Country*. Contesting previous interpretations which align Achebe too easily with this or that nationalist programme, the book reveals Achebe as a much more troubled figure than critics have habitually assumed. Authoritative and wide-ranging, this book will be essential reading for scholars and students of Achebe's work in the twenty-first century.

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civil peace by chinua achebe literary analysis: The Origin of Consciousness in the Breakdown of the Bicameral Mind Julian Jaynes, 2000-08-15 National Book Award Finalist: "This man's ideas may be the most influential, not to say controversial, of the second half of the twentieth century."—Columbus Dispatch At the heart of this classic, seminal book is Julian Jaynes's still-controversial thesis that human consciousness did not begin far back in animal evolution but instead is a learned process that came about only three thousand years ago and is still developing. The implications of this revolutionary scientific paradigm extend into virtually every aspect of our psychology, our history and culture, our religion—and indeed our future. "Don't be put off by the academic title of Julian Jaynes's *The Origin of Consciousness in the Breakdown of the Bicameral Mind*. Its prose is always lucid and often lyrical...he unfolds his case with the utmost intellectual rigor."—The New York Times "When Julian Jaynes . . . speculates that until late in the twentieth

millennium BC men had no consciousness but were automatically obeying the voices of the gods, we are astounded but compelled to follow this remarkable thesis.”—John Updike, *The New Yorker* “He is as startling as Freud was in *The Interpretation of Dreams*, and Jaynes is equally as adept at forcing a new view of known human behavior.”—*American Journal of Psychiatry*

civil peace by chinua achebe literary analysis: *Refugee Tales* Ali Smith, Marina Lewycka, Patience Agbabi, Jade Amoli-Jackson, Chris Cleave, Stephen Collis, Inua Ellams, Abdulrazak Gurnah, David Herd, Avaes Mohammed, Hubert Moore, Dragan Todorovic, Carol Watts, Michael Zand, 2016-05-31 Two unaccompanied children travel across the Mediterranean in an overcrowded boat that has been designed to only make it halfway across... A 63-year-old man is woken one morning by border officers ‘acting on a tip-off’ and, despite having paid taxes for 28 years, is suddenly cast into the detention system with no obvious means of escape... An orphan whose entire life has been spent in slavery – first on a Ghanaian farm, then as a victim of trafficking – writes to the Home Office for help, only to be rewarded with a jail sentence and indefinite detention... These are not fictions. Nor are they testimonies from some distant, brutal past, but the frighteningly common experiences of Europe’s new underclass – its refugees. While those with ‘citizenship’ enjoy basic human rights (like the right not to be detained without charge for more than 14 days), people seeking asylum can be suspended for years in Kafka-esque uncertainty. Here, poets and novelists retell the stories of individuals who have direct experience of Britain’s policy of indefinite immigration detention. Presenting their accounts anonymously, as modern day counterparts to the pilgrims’ stories in Chaucer’s *Canterbury Tales*, this book offers rare, intimate glimpses into otherwise untold suffering.

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civil peace by chinua achebe literary analysis: *The Things They Carried* Tim O'Brien, 2009-10-13 A classic work of American literature that has not stopped changing minds and lives since it burst onto the literary scene, *The Things They Carried* is a ground-breaking meditation on war, memory, imagination, and the redemptive power of storytelling. *The Things They Carried* depicts the men of Alpha Company: Jimmy Cross, Henry Dobbins, Rat Kiley, Mitchell Sanders, Norman Bowker, Kiowa, and the character Tim O'Brien, who has survived his tour in Vietnam to become a father and writer at the age of forty-three. Taught everywhere—from high school classrooms to graduate seminars in creative writing—it has become required reading for any American and continues to challenge readers in their perceptions of fact and fiction, war and peace, courage and fear and longing. *The Things They Carried* won France's prestigious Prix du Meilleur Livre Etranger and the Chicago Tribune Heartland Prize; it was also a finalist for the Pulitzer Prize and the National Book Critics Circle Award.

civil peace by chinua achebe literary analysis: *Redemption Road* Elma Shaw, 2008 Set in Monrovia during the administration of Liberia's former president, Charles Taylor, this riveting debut is a story of recovery, atonement, and the continuing quest for peace and justice in a nation plagued by conflict and inequalities since its founding by freed American slaves. Life in post-war Liberia is not easy, and it is especially challenging for Bendu Lewis, a young woman who counsels traumatized survivors of Liberia's civil war while struggling with memories of her own war-time experiences. When the warlord who once held her in captivity suddenly shows up in town, she decides that for her own healing, and for the voiceless victims of the war, she must bring him to justice for his past atrocities. In her pursuit of Commander Cobra, Bendu finds much more than she bargained for,

including the courage to finally confront and make amends for her own painful war-time secret.

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Chinua Achebe is Africa's most prominent writer, the author of *Things Fall Apart*, the best known--and best selling--novel ever to come out of Africa. His fiction and poetry burn with a passionate commitment to political justice, bringing to life not only Africa's troubled encounters with Europe but also the dark side of contemporary African political life. Now, in *Home and Exile*, Achebe reveals the man behind his powerful work. Here is an extended exploration of the European impact on African culture, viewed through the most vivid experience available to the author--his own life. It is an extended snapshot of a major writer's childhood, illuminating his roots as an artist. Achebe discusses his English education and the relationship between colonial writers and the European literary tradition. He argues that if colonial writers try to imitate and, indeed, go one better than the Empire, they run the danger of undervaluing their homeland and their own people. Achebe contends that to redress the inequities of global oppression, writers must focus on where they come from, insisting that their value systems are as legitimate as any other. Stories are a real source of power in the world, he concludes, and to imitate the literature of another culture is to give that power away. *Home and Exile* is a moving account of an exceptional life. Achebe reveals the inner workings of the human conscience through the predicament of Africa and his own intellectual life. It is a story of the triumph of mind, told in the words of one of this century's most gifted writers.

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The first book of its kind in the field, this timely introduction to post-colonial theory offers lucid and accessible summaries of the major work of key theorists such as Frantz Fanon, Edward Said, Homi Bhabha and Gayatri Spivak. The Guide also explores the lines of resistance against colonialism and highlights the theories of post-colonial identity that have been responsible for generating some of the most influential and challenging critical work of recent decades. Designed for undergraduates and postgraduates taking courses related to colonialism or post-colonialism, the book summarises the major topics and issues as well as covering the contributions of major and less familiar figures in the field.

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