

Kongi Harvest By Wole Soyinka

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 A Writer and His Gods

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Wole Soyinka Springer

A broad introduction to the works of the Nobel Prize-winning Nigerian writer and the varieties of criticism they have elicited. There are many different critical methodologies represented, ranging from those concerned with verbal texture (linguistic, structural, and textual approaches) to those focusing on cultural context (historical, mythological, and comparative studies). Most of the articles were originally published in *Research in African Literatures*. Annotation copyright by Book News, Inc., Portland, OR

Notes on Wole Soyinka's the Jero Plays David Philip Publishers

President Kongi (Wole Soyinka), the dictator of an African developing nation, is trying to modernize his nation after deposing King Oba Danlola (Rasidi Onikoyi). The different tribes are resisting unification, so he tries to reach his goal by any means necessary, including forcing government officials to wear traditional African outfits and seeking advice from the man he deposed. He demands tribute from Danlola in the form of a yam, an important food in the culture. Danlola's former lover Segi brings the dictator the head of her father as sacrifice.

Collected Plays Random House

'The Lion and the Jewel alone is enough to establish Nigeria as the most fertile new source of English-speaking drama since Syngé's discovery of the Western Isles.' The Times The ironic development and consequences of 'progress' may be traced through both the themes and the tone of the works included in this second volume of Wole Soyinka's plays. The Lion and the Jewel shows an ineffectual assault on past tradition soundly defeated. In Kongi's Harvest, however, the pretensions of Kongi's regime are also fatal. The denouement points the way forward. The two Brother Jero plays pursue that way, the comic 'propheteering' of the earlier play giving way to the sardonic reality of Jero's Metamorphosis. Madmen and Specialists, Soyinka's most pessimistic play, concerns the physical, mental, and moral destruction of modern civil war.

Kongi's Harvest: a Play Frederickton, N.B. : York Press

A haunting lifeline between archive and memory, law and poetry

From Swamp Dwellers to Madmen and Specialists Ubu Repertory Theater Publications

The book reconsiders Soyinka's contribution to the debate about African identity, exploring the various elements constituting his distinctive aesthetic and apprehension of African culture. It concentrates on his plays, his fiction and poetry and investigates his views on the relationship between myth, history, and modernity, primarily highlighting his conception of the nature of African post-colonial society and power. Also, the book looks at Soyinka's exploration of the metaphysical aspects of evil, particularly as manifested in political violence, and, in addition, it examines his belief in the irrepressibility of the human desire to transcend any form of political, spiritual and social oppression. Finally, it argues that Soyinka's major contribution to our understanding of contemporary African life and art lies in his attempts to move beyond the idea of identity as an opposition between Self and Other to a conception of identity in which such concepts are either themselves questioned or transferr

Wole Soyinka and Response Theory London ; New York : Oxford University Press

South Asian readers and scholars find Wole Soyinka and his work especially fascinating. The manner in which he deals with colonial and postcolonial experience, the metaphysical strain embedded in his commentaries on his Yoruba heritage, and the numerous comparisons he makes with other cultures appeal to a South Asian sensibility. His brilliant style, versatility in handling a variety of genres, and wonderfully ironic sense of humor are also extremely impressive. Moreover, his social activism in particular, his fearless opposition to suppression of any kind renders him a charismatic and inspiring

figure. He is the sort of person who attracts, generates and actively takes part in controversy. These multifaceted and multitalented characteristics, often paradoxical, appeal to South Asian minds which also view life in a holistic rather than a bipolar manner. The essays in this volume focus on all the major genres in Soyinka's oeuvre: fiction, poetry, criticism, autobiography, and especially drama. The contributors employ a variety of critical techniques in coming to terms with the writings of the first African to win the Nobel Prize for Literature.

Study Aid to Kongi's Harvest Oxford University Press, USA

This innovative book provides an original approach to the analysis of the representation of myth, ritual, and 'magic' in African literature. Emphasizing the ambivalent nature of the sacred, it advances work on the religious dimension of canonical African texts and attends to the persistence of pre-colonial cultures in postcolonial spaces.

Death and the King's Horseman Heinemann Educational Books

It is an attempt to critical study the selected plays of Wole Soyinka. This book is based on Ph.D. thesis five selected plays- A Dance of the Forests, The Road, Death and the King's Horseman, A Lion and the Jewel and Kongi's Harvest. These five plays are most important to change the mentality of Nigerian and African people in colonial and post-colonial period. Thesis have touched thematic, stylistic, writing style to the oppression of downtrodden, religious orthodox, meaningless rituals and inhuman ill treatment of marginalized people, pseudo-communism. The Yoruba cosmological religious view of life after death, the continuity of existence beyond the physical and a life circle of the living. Wole Soyinka is primarily social-realist play writer. He evinces keen interest in the eradication of social evils, mythological, psychological, blind belief and absurdity of man. Soyinka's plays are nothing but based on colonial and post-colonial period which is experienced in his childhood. I have attempted to study the plays of Wole Soyinka in general, aspect of theme, protagonist character and specially of Wole Soyinka's writing style in chapters concerned. Wole Soyinka is one among contemporary Africa's greatest writers. Chapter I, Introduction, an attempt has been made on revolutionary development of Wole Soyinka to Nigerian people. The contribution of writer was important for the enrichment of Nigerian life. Chapter II, Theme, deals with the thematic aspects of selected plays. Chapter III, Characterisation, focuses attention on the characters which revolves around the plays and portrays protagonist character. Chapter IV, Styles and Technique, deals with traditional expressions like masquerades, rituals, dirge, praise singing, dance, mask, tradition, the Yoruba mythological Yam festival and the New Year Festival. Chapter V, Conclusion, briefly summarizes the special aspect of the plays and hypothesis of the study.

A Critical Study of Wole Soyinka's Plays Grove/Atlantic

The first African to receive the Nobel Prize in Literature, as well as a political activist of prodigious energies, Wole Soyinka now follows his modern classic Ake: The Years of Childhood with an equally important chronicle of his turbulent life as an adult in (and in exile from) his beloved, beleaguered homeland. In the tough, humane, and lyrical language that has typified his plays and novels, Soyinka captures the indomitable spirit of Nigeria itself by bringing to life the friends and family who bolstered and inspired him, and by describing the pioneering theater works that defied censure and tradition. Soyinka not only recounts his exile and the terrible reign of General Sani Abacha, but shares vivid memories and playful anecdotes—including his improbable friendship with a prominent Nigerian businessman and the time he smuggled a frozen wildcat into America so that his students could experience a proper Nigerian barbecue. More than a major figure in the world of literature, Wole Soyinka is a courageous voice for human rights, democracy, and freedom. You Must Set Forth at Dawn is an intimate chronicle of his thrilling public life, a meditation on justice and tyranny, and a mesmerizing testament to a ravaged yet hopeful land.

Indare and Other Poems Cambridge University Press

The five plays in this collection are linked by their concern with the spiritual and the social, with

belief and ritual as integrating forces for social cohesion.--

[Ngũgĩ Wa Thiong'o & Wole Soyinka](#) Methuen Drama

Onokome Okome This collection of essays examines Soyinka's post-Nobel works against the backdrop of his earlier works, especially the so-called "conservative and impossible plays of early Soyinka." The contributors are concerned with the political tenor and temperament of the post-Nobel years and the strong presence of the symbolism of Ogun, the creative energy of Soyinka's Yoruba cosmology, during those years. These essays celebrate the achievements of Soyinka by acknowledging his Ogunian characters, which are often the vehicles and victims of a wayward political world. The post-Nobel era also reveals a positive and consistent step toward the dictum, "justice is the first condition of humanity." Soyinka's plays, *From Zia with Love* to *Beatification of Area Boys*, illustrate this intense quest for social and political justice in his home country, Nigeria. In his later works, there is a grand narrative about the Nigerian State, which the contributors privilege as they point out Soyinka's ever-conscious attempt to reframe the dark hole of a very troubled collective world. This volume of essays is distinct from all others because it is the first to make concrete the debate that exists between the pre-Nobel and post-Nobel works of Soyinka and the exchange of both streams of literary output within different periods of Nigerian society.

The Writing of Wole Soyinka Bloomsbury Publishing

'Soyinka's greatest novel ... No one else can write such a book' - Ben Okri 'A high-jinks state-of-the-nation novel' - Chibundu Onuzo A FINANCIAL TIMES AND SPECTATOR BOOK OF THE YEAR A towering figure in world literature, Wole Soyinka aims directly at the corridors of power as he warns against corruption both of high office and of the soul, with a dazzling lightness of touch and gleeful irreverence. Much to Doctor Menka's horror, some cunning entrepreneur has decided to sell body parts from his hospital for use in ritualistic practices. Already at the end of his tether from the horrors he routinely sees in surgery, he shares this latest development with his oldest college friend, bon viveur, star engineer and Yoruba royal, Duyole Pitan-Payne, who has never before met a puzzle he couldn't solve. Neither realise how close the enemy is, nor how powerful. Chronicles from the Land of the Happiest People on Earth is at once a savagely witty whodunit, a scathing indictment of Nigeria's political elite, and a provocative call to arms from one of the country's most relentless political activists and an international literary giant. MORE PRAISE FOR WOLE SOYINKA: 'You don't see the things the same when you encounter a voice like that' - Toni Morrison 'One of the best there is today, a poet and a thinker, who knows both how the world works and how the world should work' - Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie

[Wole Soyinka](#) Africa World Press

Contributed articles.

The Glorious Destiny of Marshal Nnikon Nniku Hill and Wang

Fifteen years ago, Mama said, starting her story, I came to Lagos from Ghana. I came to Nigeria because I was considered an alien in that country. The government of Ghana passed a law asking all aliens without resident permits to regularise their stay in the country'. This story of migration, identities and lives undermined by cynical and xenophobic politics pushed to its logical and terrible conclusion pertains to the Ghanaian orders of 'alien compliance' issued in 1970-1971, which determined to force all non-ethnic Ghanaians, so called illegal immigrants, to return to their - so stipulated - 'home'. The novel thus touches on concerns of deeper relevance to the politics of race and migration of the twenty first century.

On the Sacred in African Literature Kraft Books

Elesin Oba, the King's Horseman, has a single destiny. When the King dies, he must commit ritual suicide and lead his King's favourite horse and dog through the passage to the world of the ancestors. A British Colonial Officer, Pilkings, intervenes to prevent the death and arrests Elesin. The play is a set text for NEAB GCSE, NEAB A Level and NEAB A/S Level. 'A masterpiece of 20th century drama' - Guardian "A transfixing work of modern world drama" (Independent); "clearly a masterpiece. . . he achieves the full impact of Greek tragedy" (Irving Wardle, Independent on Sunday); "the action of the play is as inevitable and eloquent as in *Antigone*: a clash of values and cultures so fundamental that tragedy issues: a tragedy for each individual, each tribe" (Michael Schmidt, Daily Telegraph)

[Ogun's Children](#) Africa Research and Publications

Biodun Jeyifo examines the connections between the innovative and influential writings of Wole Soyinka and his radical political activism. Jeyifo carries out detailed analyses of Soyinka's most ambitious works, relating them to the controversies generated by Soyinka's use of literature and theatre for radical political purposes. He gives a fascinating account of the profound but paradoxical affinities and misgivings Soyinka has felt about the significance of the avant-garde movements of the twentieth century. Jeyifo also explores Soyinka's works with regard to the impact on his artistic sensibilities of the pervasiveness of representational ambiguity and linguistic exuberance in Yoruba culture. The analyses and evaluations of this study are presented in the context of Soyinka's sustained engagement with the violence of collective experience in post-independence, postcolonial Africa and the developing world. No existing study of Soyinka's works and career has attempted such a systematic investigation of their complex relationship to politics.

Unexpected Joy at Dawn Wesleyan University Press

Soyinka's representation of postcolonial African identity is re-examined in the light of his major plays, novels and poetry to show how this writer's idiom of cultural authenticity both embraces hybridity and defines itself as specific and particular. For Soyinka, such authenticity involves recovering tradition and inserting it in postcolonial modernity to facilitate transformative moral and political justice. The past can be both our enabling future and our nemesis. In a distinctive approach grounded in cultural studies, *Postcolonial Identity in Wole Soyinka* locates the artist's intellectual and political concerns within the broader field of postcolonial cultural theory, arguing that, although ostensibly distant from mainstream theory, Soyinka focuses on fundamental questions concerning international culture and political identity formations - the relationship between myth and history / tradition and modernity, and the unresolved tension between power as a force for good or evil. Soyinka's treatment of the relationship between individual selfhood and the various framing social and collective identities, so the book argues, is yet another aspect linking his work to the broader intellectual currents of today. Thus, Soyinka's vision is seen as central to contemporary efforts to grasp the nature of modernity. His works conceptualize identity in ways that promote and modify national perceptions of 'Africanness', rescuing them from the colonial and neocolonial logic of cultural denigration in a manner that fully acknowledges the cosmopolitan and global contexts of African postcolonial formation. Overall, what emerges from the present study is the conviction that, in Soyinka's work, it is the capacity to assume personal and collective agency and the particular choices made by particular subjects at given historical moments that determine the trajectory of change and ultimately the nature of postcolonial existence itself. *Postcolonial Identity in Wole Soyinka* is a major and imaginative contribution to the study of Wole Soyinka, African literature, and postcolonial cultural theory and one in which writing and creativity stand in fruitful symbiosis with the critical sense. It should appeal to Soyinka scholars, to students of African literature, and to anyone interested in postcolonial and cultural theory.

Language and Style in Soyinka Rodopi

Distinguished scholars analyze the plays, poetry, and prose of Wole Soyinka, winner of the Nobel Prize for literature in 1986. Essays trace his career and place his work in the general context of African literature.

[Zong!](#) Lynne Rienner Publishers

President Kongi (Wole Soyinka), the dictator of an African developing nation, is trying to modernize his nation after deposing King Oba Danlola (Rasidi Onikoyi). The different tribes are resisting unification, so he tries to reach his goal by any means necessary, including forcing government officials to wear traditional African outfits and seeking advice from the man he deposed. He demands tribute from Danlola in the form of a yam, an important food in the culture. Danlola's former lover Segi brings the dictator the head of her father as sacrifice.

Theatre and Nationalism Michigan State University Press

President Kongi (Wole Soyinka), the dictator of an African developing nation, is trying to modernize his nation after deposing King Oba Danlola (Rasidi Onikoyi). The different tribes are resisting unification, so he tries to reach his goal by any means necessary, including forcing government officials to wear traditional African outfits and seeking advice from the man he deposed. He demands tribute from Danlola in the form of a yam, an important food in the culture. Danlola's former lover Segi brings the dictator the head of her father as sacrifice.