

The Hot Zone

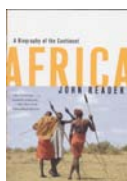


That's Entertainment!



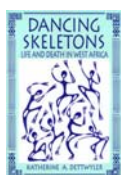
Treasure Chest

Another gem from the piles in the CLO's office! This one is a recommendation list for readings on Africa compiled by Casey (Lucy's predecessor as DCM.) Comprehensive, well rounded, and nicely commented, if this list has the same impact on you that it had on me, you will soon find yourself hitting the net shopping for books! One possible little snag specific to us here in N'djamena is that Chadian topics are a bit under-represented. I will try to compensate for this with a small list of books on Chad that I have come across and found interesting.



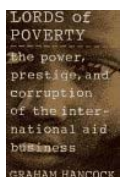
Africa: A Biography of the Continent, by J. Reader
General overview of the whole continent.

Comment: If you are only going to get around reading one book on Africa, let it be this one



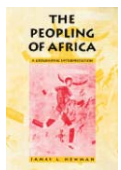
Dancing Skeletons: Life and Death in West Africa, by K. Dettwyler

Comment: If you can make it two books, add this one. Not for what you learn about W. Africa but for the compassion with which she explains daily life outside the cities.



Lords of Poverty: The Power, Prestige, and Corruption of the Int'l Aid Business, by G. Hancock

Comment: Have you noticed that humanitarian aid became an industry somewhere along the line? If you want to be part of the solution in Africa, read this first.



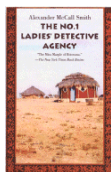
The Peopling of Africa: A Geographic Interpretation, by J. L. Newman

Comment: Geographers see the world in terms of how humans use the land, which turns out to be a useful way to see Africa Wonderful maps.



Africa Adorned, by A. Fisher

Comment: Africa is not just a place, it is a way of living. Photos of people wearing and using artifacts that are part of their traditions.



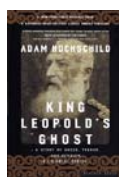
No. 1 Ladies' Detective Agency Boxed Set, by A. M. Smith

Comment: These books are fiction, but following this canny woman around as she solves village mysteries gives a great window into daily life. Move over, Miss Marple!



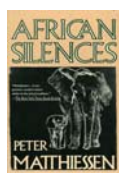
The Scramble for Africa, by T. Pakenham

Comment: The 19th and 20th century saw Europe carving up Africa for European political reasons. The arbitrary national boundaries, dependency, and loss of identity that resulted are still causing trouble today



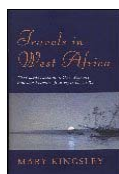
King Leopold's Ghost, by A. Hochschild

Comment: A specific example of the scramble for Africa, one of the bloodiest and most arrogant: Belgian King Leopold's very own personal colony, Zaire.



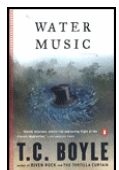
Africa Silences, by P. Matthiessen

Comment: Do not forget that the continent is one of the greatest remaining reservoirs of species diversity ... for a while yet.



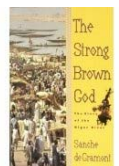
Travels in West Africa, by M. Kingsley

Comment: The journal of an unusual Victorian explorer. If you like it, read her biography, "A Voyager Out: The Life of Mary Kingsley", by K. Frank.



Water Music, by T. C. Boyle

Comment: Fictionalized account of another great and little-known explorer, Mungo Park, on the Niger.



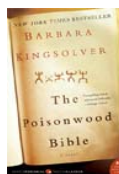
The Strong Brown God: The Story of the Niger River, by S. de Gramont

Comment: Europeans were quite oblivious to Africa until they realized it was a big hemisphere out there! That story flows along Africa's great rivers: The Niger ...



The White Nile, by A. Moorehead

Comment: ... The Nile...



The Poisonwood Bible: A Novel, by B. Kingsolver

Comment: ... and the Congo.