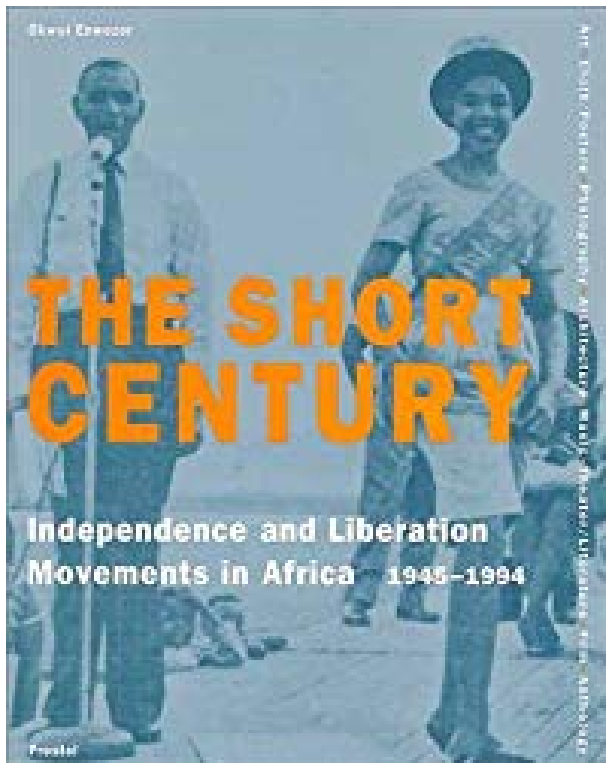


The Short Century: Independence And Liberation Movements In Africa, 1945 1994



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For much of Africa the 20th century was overshadowed by the experience of colonial rule, with political independence arriving for most peoples only in the last fifty years. The Short Century is a broad survey of cultural life in Africa from the independence movements through the post-colonial era to the end of apartheid in 1994. Expansive, wide-ranging, and lavishly illustrated, this book studies achievements in all areas of the performing and fine arts, photography, literature, theater, architecture, music, and film. The Short Century includes the works of over 50 artists from the paintings of Mancoba and Sekoto during the fifties, through the drawings and theater projects of William Kentridge up to the installations and video works of Kay Hassan and Oladele A.

Bangboye. The great writers of the continent -- Soyinka, Senghor, and Césaire amongst others --, Africa's filmmakers, architects and musicians, all of whom left their mark on the process of decolonialization, are studied here in depth. Renowned historians and cultural philosophers discuss the background of developments and analyse the ideological strategies employed by Western colonial powers to preserve their grip on African countries and peoples.

A chapter on photojournalism supplemented by a detailed chronology of events and political movements presents the main stages of Africa's political history. A comprehensive anthology in the appendix contains some 30 historical documents, such as essays, speeches and political manifestos, shedding light on the key issues of the period.