



Writing Ghana, Imagining Africa: Nation and African Modernity (Rochester Studies in African History and the Diaspora)

Kwaku Larbi Korang

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Writing Ghana, Imagining Africa changes dominant ideas about Africa's relations with modernity and the global history of nationalism by recovering, and bringing fresh interpretations to, a modern genealogy of African nationalist theory. This is done by examining the writing of intellectuals from preindependence Ghana from the latter half of the nineteenth century to the mid-twentieth, writers who operated self-consciously in a Pan-African ideological framework. By confronting the concept of "the African Nation" under the colonial order, the book argues, these writer-intellectuals were also confronting modernity in ways that would be important to the late twentieth and early twenty-first centuries. Writing Ghana, Imagining Africa is affiliated with recent revisionary works that have demonstrated the conceptual and existential validity of "alternative modernities." This book proposes in this regard to shift our understanding of the modern from a securely and exclusively Western mode of being to the modern as relational and inclusively intercultural. It mobilizes this relational and intercultural conception to locate and outline "African modernity." Additionally, Writing Ghana, Imagining Africa demonstrates why and how projections of, and debates about, "African modernity" have been more than a continental affair. This book locates African modernity at the core of the activist intellection of the internationalist and black Atlantic nationalism of Pan-Africanism. Hence it comprehensively relates the thought of African Americans (Martin Delany, Alexander Crummell, W. E. B. Du Bois, Richard Wright), and West Indians (George Padmore, C.L.R. James), to that of seminal anglophone West African thinkers like E. W. Blyden, Africanus Horton, J. E. Casely Hayford, and Kwame Nkrumah. Kwaku Larbi Korang is Associate Professor in the Department of African and African American Studies at Ohio State University.

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