

# Great Books Written by Africans across the Academic Disciplines



# Great Books Written by Africans across the Academic Disciplines

Edited by

Emmanuel D. Babatunde  
and Abdul Karim Bangura

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To Mama Mzuri Mwalimu Theodora Olunga Ayot, a Great Thinker!  
(Please see the Postscript in the General Conclusion chapter for more  
about her.)



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# CHAPTER 1

## GENERAL INTRODUCTION

EMMANUEL D. BABATUNDE  
& ABDUL KARIM BANGURA

This book is the first attempt to provide a comprehensive account of the great books across the academic disciplines written by Africans born in the continent, those who became citizens through marriage to Africans, and those who became naturalized citizens of African countries. The 92 great books covered in this book are those that have had a powerful, important or affecting influence on the author of a chapter in this book, as an individual, or on society. We must mention here that 115 books, five from each of the 23 academic disciplines covered, were initially selected by the authors with the suggestive evaluations from other experts in the various field; but due to space limitations, one book had to be dropped from each chapter. The entire text was further reduced by utilizing the linguistic technique referred to as the Occam's Razor, which is based on the principle or law of parsimony that proffers that "other things equal, explanations that posit fewer entities, or fewer kinds of entities, are to be preferred to explanations that posit more" (Encyclopedia Britannica, 2022, p. 1).

As to be demonstrated later in this chapter, there have been two attempts to proffer such great books: (1) "Africa's Best Books of the 20<sup>th</sup> Century" and (2) "Great African Book Contributions to Civilization." To be also seen, however, the books included in these two efforts are not representative of most of the academic disciplines. In addition, it would be shown before these two aspects are examined that the first book ever written was in Ancient Kemet/Egypt: i.e. *The Teachings of Ptahhotep*. But before doing all this, however, we will end this section by providing answers to the following two germane questions: First, what makes a book great—i.e. of ability, quality, or eminence considerably above the normal or average book? Second, why is the undertaking of this book on the great African books across the academic disciplines important?

To answer the first question about what makes a book great, one can see that while the writing website Master Class (2020) delineates five elements that make a book great, writing coach Amanda Patterson (2016) also has the five and two additional elements in her list. The seven features are as follows: (1) “Plot”—the main events of a play, novel, movie, or similar work, devised and presented by the writer as an interrelated sequence; (2) “Characters”—the persons in the work; (3) “Viewpoint”—a particular attitude or way of considering a matter, a narrator’s position in relation to a story being told, or the position from which something or someone is observed in the work; (4) “Dialogue”—a conversation between two or more people as a feature of the work; (5) “Pacing”—the speed or rate at which something happens, changes, or develops in the work; (6) “Style”—a way of writing characteristic of a particular period, place, person, or movement; or a way of using language in the work; and (7) “Beginnings, Middles, Endings”—the backgrounds or origins of the phenomena; the points at or around the centers of the processes or activities, periods of time, etc. in the work.

As it pertains to the second question dealing with why the undertaking of this book on the great African books across the academic disciplines is important, Ali Al’Amin Mazrui answered this question very well when he launched the “Africa’s Best Books of the 20<sup>th</sup> Century” project at the Zimbabwe International Book Fair (ZIBF) in Harare on August 4, 1998 and said that “While Africans have written with extraordinary originality, flair and great integrity, nonetheless, their work as a corpus deriving from the African continent remains largely unknown and uncelebrated” (Columbia University Libraries, 2021, p. 1). As Mazrui also posited, the undertaking will lead to “Aca-Media, which will strengthen the links between the world of scholars and the media” (see Bemath, 2005, p. 81).

## **The Teachings of Ptahhotep**

Using glyphs taken from *The Egyptian Book of the Dead* transliterated and translated by E. A. Wallis Budge (1967), Asa G. Hilliard III, Larry Williams and Nia Damali apprise us about *The Teachings of Ptahhotep: The Oldest Book in the World*. This book was first published circa 2388 BC during the Fifth Kemetic Dynasty under the title *Teachings of the Prefect of the City, Dia Ptahhotep under the majesty of the king of the South and the North, Assa Djed Ka-Ra, living eternally forever* (Hilliard III et al., 1987). The rest of this section entails a summary of the disquisition of the book by Hilliard III and his coeditors.

For starters, a valuable papyrus was discovered during the early 1800s in the tomb of the Intef Pharaohs of the 11<sup>th</sup> Dynasty. The tomb is located across from the Hapi (Nile) River from Weset (called Luxor by the Arabs and Thebes by the Greeks) in the west bank of the Valley of the Kings. At the time of the discovery, the commentary was called by the Arab name Drah-abu'l-Neggah. The 18-page discovery of almost perfect hieratic writing is closest to the Mdw Ntr—i.e. hieroglyphic (Hilliard III et al., 1987).

Next, the papyrus was donated to the Bibliothèque Nationale in Paris, France by Monsieur E. Prisse d'Avennes who supervised the excavations that led to the find. In 1847, he published the papyrus in Paris (Hilliard III et al., 1987).

Also, the papyrus comprised two documents. The first document, which appeared to be incomplete, was the final part of the teachings of the scribe Kagame who was believed to have composed it at the start of the rule of Seneferu (2613—2589 BC) credited as the founder of the Fourth Dynasty and builder of the Pyramid at Giza. Had most of the contents of Kagame's work not been lost or destroyed, his writings would have been the first complete book in human history. The second document which comprised 14 pages of the papyrus is at certain times referred to as the *Book of Ptahhotep* and at other times as *Prisse Papyrus*. This document encompasses the entire work of Ptahhotep. The other papyri were discovered during the excavations: one was from the Middle Kingdom and the other was from the New Kingdom. These were given to the British Museum. The incomplete wooden table found during the digs was from the New Kingdom and was placed in the Cairo Museum (Hilliard III et al., 1987).

In addition, near the Step Pyramid in the Sakkara Cemetery is a tomb for Ptahhotep. The experts there are convinced that he was the author of the book. This is because, according to the papyrus document, the writer lived during the rule of Pharaoh Menkauhor (2396—2388 BC) and that of Pharaoh Asa Djed-Ka-Ra (2388—2356 BC). It is also stated in the papyrus that Ptahhotep was the favored one of the latter, and that he was the Pharaoh's grand uncle and tutor. It was further said that Ptahhotep was the eldest legitimate son of an unnamed Pharaoh; he was 110 years old when he wrote the book; and he was in line to become a Pharaoh himself, but preferred being a priest than engaging in politics to become a ruler. This explanation is in line with the two-track options of Kemetic higher education: i.e. one can follow the sacred track of priesthood or a secular track such as politics (Hilliard III et al., 1987).

Furthermore, as mentioned earlier, the instruction text composed by Kagame, who served as vizier of Pharaoh Huni of the Third Dynasty (2686—2613) and Pharaoh Seneferu of the Fourth Dynasty (2613—2494 BC), respectively, was incomplete. Another instruction text composed by Prince Hardjedef (son of Pharaoh Khufu of the Fourth Dynasty and grandson of Pharaoh Seneferu) for his son Auibre was also incomplete and short. Therefore, the oldest and complete set of instructions comprising 37 “Teachings” known as the *Instructions of Ptahhotep* constitute the oldest textbook in the globe (Hilliard III et al., 1987).

Finally, in addition to the *Instructions of Ptahhotep* being copied during the Middle Kingdom (2050—1710 BC) on papyri that have been preserved to this day, Hilliard and his coeditors also point to the following evidence as support for their assertion that Ptahhotep was the author of the first book in the world:

Some Egyptologists believed that because the instructions were attributed to Ptahhotep and because there was indeed an old kingdom sage by that name, and because the Middle Kingdom writers attributed the sayings to that sage, who said to have served under King Assa of the 5<sup>th</sup> Dynasty, therefore they should accept that attribution in the absence of compelling evidence to the contrary. Even if it were Middle Kingdom material at an age (12<sup>th</sup> Dynasty) of approximately 2000 BC it would still be the oldest wisdom literature in the world. Given a 5<sup>th</sup> Dynastic Age, we can say that the *Instructions of Ptahhotep* belong to a period approximately 2,500 years before Christ (Hilliard III et al., 1987, p. 13).

Indeed, we must be grateful that Ptahhotep’s great wisdom is still available to the world to this day. It is such wisdom that helps us to render obsolete the pernicious claim that Africans contributed nothing significant to wisdom before the advent of Europeans to the continent.

## **Africa’s Best Books of the 20<sup>th</sup> Century**

We learn from the Columbia University Libraries that the impetus for the list of “Africa’s Best Books of the 20<sup>th</sup> Century” was precipitated by the following realities:

Over the last hundred years African writers have written of their lives, experiences, culture, history and myth; they have written in diverse forms, styles and in many languages. They have been published widely on the African continent, in Europe, the Americas and Asia. They have written in English, French, Portuguese, Arabic, Swahili, and in many other indigenous languages. And they have written with extraordinary



originality, flair and great integrity. Nonetheless their work as a corpus deriving from the African continent remains largely unknown and uncelebrated (2021, p. 1).

In response to the preceding shortcoming, Mazrui, as mentioned earlier, initiated the “Africa’s Best Books of the 20<sup>th</sup> Century” project at the Zimbabwe International Book Fair (ZIBF) assembled in Harare on August 4, 1998. The African Publishers Network (APNET), the Pan-African Booksellers Association (PABA), African writers’ associations, book development councils, and library associations joined Mazrui to bring the project into fruition (Columbia University Libraries, 2021).

A call for submissions of Africa’s 100 best books was put out across the African continent and the rest of the globe. At the ZIBF convened in August of 2001, the complete list of the submissions was displayed. Also displayed were the 100 best books short lists of various regional panels. September 30, 2001 was set as the closing date for submissions (Columbia University Libraries, 2021).

Thereafter, a panel of judges was introduced on February 18, 2002 and charged with making the final determinations of which books should be culled from the short lists and the complete list for inclusion into the final list of “Africa’s 100 Best Books of the 20<sup>th</sup> Century.” The goal was to provide adequate time for the authors whose books were nominated and their publishers to attend the ZIBF of 2002 held from August 3<sup>rd</sup> to the 10<sup>th</sup>. The authors and their publishers that made the final list were celebrated by attendants at the fair (Columbia University Libraries, 2021).

Also, six objectives were delineated for the initiative. They are as follows: (1) “to celebrate the achievements of African writers over the last century”; (2) “to stimulate debate, discussion, reading, criticism and analysis of African writing”; (3) “to foster the publication and development of new titles and those that are currently out of print”; (4) “to encourage translation of different texts”; (5) “to promote the sale and exchange of books continent-wide and throughout the world”; and (6) “above all to increase awareness and knowledge of books and writing by African authors” (Columbia University Libraries, 2021).

In addition, after a lengthy debate about who is qualified to be included as an African author, a consensus was reached for the following definition: “someone either born in Africa or who became a citizen of an African country” (Columbia University Libraries, 2021). The denotation allowed for inclusion of those African writers who have moved from their countries of birth to other continents. It was also agreed that authors who were not by the denotation regarded as African but who reckon themselves to be so or those who have made a significant contribution to African

literature and scholarship would be assessed on their excellence should their books be put forward (Columbia University Libraries, 2021).

Furthermore, the criterion for recommending a book to be included in the list was that it should have “had a powerful, important or affecting influence on the nominator, as an individual, or on society” (Columbia University Libraries, 2021). As can be gleaned from Tables 1.1, 1.2 and 1.3, of the 100 books selected, three were subsumed under the category of “Literature for Children,” 71 under “Creative Writing,” and 26 under “Scholarship/non-fiction.” This means that 74 are literary books. In essence, while the initiative was a noble one, it, nonetheless, buttressed the myth that even when it comes to scholarship, Africans do better in the storytelling disciplines.

**Table 1.1: Literature for Children**

Asare, Meshack	Ghana	Sosu’s Call	Sub-Saharan Publishers
Al-Homi, Hayam Abbas	Egypt	Adventures of a Breath	Atfalna
Mungoshi, Charles	Zimbabwe	Stories from a Shona Childhood	Baobab Books
Tadjo, Veronique	Côte d’Ivoire	Mamy Wata et le monstre	Nouvelles éditions ivoiriennes

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**Table 1.2: Creative Writing**

Abnudi, `Abd al-Rahman	Egypt	al-Mawt `ala al-asfalt	Atlas
Achebe, Chinua	Nigeria	Arrow of God	Heinemann
Achebe, Chinua	Nigeria	Things Fall Apart	Heinemann
Aidoo, Ama Ata	Ghana	Anowa	Longman
Almeida, Germano	Cape Verde	O testamento do Sr. Napumoceno da Silva Araújo	Ed. Caminho

Armah, Ayi Kwei	Ghana	The Beautyful Ones Are Not Yet Born	Heinemann
Bâ, Amadou Hampâté	Mali	L'étrange destin de Wangrin	Union générale d'éditions
Bâ, Mariama	Senegal	Une si longue lettre	Nouvelles éditions africaines
Ben Jelloun, Tahar	Morocco	La nuit sacrée	Seuil
Beti, Mongo	Cameroon	Le pauvre Christ de Bomba	Présence africaine
Brink, André	South Africa	A Dry White Season	Penguin
Bugul, Ken	Senegal	Riwan, ou le chemin de sable	Présence africaine
Cheney-Choker, Syl	Sierra Leone	The Last Harmattan of Alusine Dunbar	Heinemann
Chraïbi, Driss	Morocco	Le passé simple	Gallimard
Coetzee, J.M.	South Africa	Life and Times of Michael K	Secker & Warburg
Couto, Mia	Mozambique	Terra sonâmbula	Ed. Caminho
Craveirinha, José	Mozambique	Karingana ua Karingana	Academica
Dadié, Bernard	Côte d'Ivoire	Climbié	Editions Segiers
Dangarembga, Tsitsi	Zimbabwe	Nervous Conditions	Women's Press
Dib, Mohammed	Algeria	Algérie, La grande maison, L'incendie, Le métier à tisser	Le Seuil
Diop, Birago	Senegal	Les contes d'Amadou Koumba	Présence africaine
Diop, Boubacar Boris	Senegal	Murambi ou le livre des ossements	Stock

Djebar, Assia	Algeria	L'amour, la fantasia	J.C. Lattes
Emecheta, Buchi	Nigeria	The Joys of Motherhood	Alison and Busby
Fagunwa, Daniel O.	Nigeria	Ogboju ode ninu igbo irunmale	Nelson
Farah, Nuruddin	Somalia	Maps	Pan Books
Fugard, Athol	South Africa	The Blood Knot	Simondium Publishers
Ghitani, Jamal al-	Egypt	Zayni Barakat	GEBO
Gordimer, Nadine	South Africa	Burgher's Daughter	Jonathan Cape
Head, Bessie	South Africa	A Question of Power	Heinemann
Honwana, Bernardo	Mozambique	Nos matamos o cão tinhoso	Academica
Hove, Chenjerai	Zimbabwe	Bones	Baobab Books
Isegawa, Moses	Uganda	Abessijnse Kronieken	Uigeverij De Bezige Bij
Jordan, Archibald Campbell	South Africa	Ingqumbo yeminyanya	Lovedale Press
Joubert, Elsa	South Africa	Die Swerdjare van Poppie Nongena	Tafelberg
Kane, Cheikh Hamidou	Senegal	L'aventure ambiguë	Editions Juillard
Khosa, Ungulani Ba Ka	Mozambique	Ualalapi	AEMO
Kourouma, Ahmadou	Côte d'Ivoire	Les soleils des indépendances	Le Seuil
Laye, Camara	Guinea	L'enfant noir	Plon
Magona, Sindiwe	South Africa	Living, Loving and Lying Awake at Night	David Philip Publishers

Mahfouz, Naguib	Egypt	The Cairo Trilogy	Maktabet Misr
Marechera, Dambudzo	Zimbabwe	House of Hunger	Heinemann
Mofolo, Thomas	Lesotho	Chaka	Moriya Sesuto Book Depot
Monenembo, Tierno	Guinea	Un attiéké pour Elgass	Le Seuil
Mutwa, Vusamazulu Credo	South Africa	Indaba, My Children	Blue Crane Books
Ngugi wa Thiong'o	Kenya	Caitani Mutharaba-ini	Heinemann
Ngugi wa Thiong'o	Kenya	A Grain of Wheat	Heinemann
Niane, Djibril Tamsir	Senegal	Soundjata ou l'épopée mandingue	Présence africaine
Nyembezi, Sibusiso	South Africa	Inkinnsele yaseMgungundlovu	Shuter and Shooter
Okigbo, Christopher	Nigeria	Labyrinths	Heinemann
Okri, Ben	Nigeria	The Famished Road	Spectrum Books
Oyono, Ferdinand	Cameroon	Le vieux nègre et la médaille	Editions Juillard
P'Bitek, Okot	Uganda	Song of Lawino	Heinemann
Pepetela	Angola	A geração da utopia	Dom Quixote
Saadawi, Nawal El	Egypt	Woman at Point Zero	Zed Books
Salih El Tayyib	Sudan	Season of Migration to the North	Heinemann
Sassine, Williams	Guinea	Le jeune homme de sable	Présence africaine

Sembene, Ousmane	Senegal	Les bouts de bois de Dieu	Le livre contemporain
Senghor, Léopold Sédar	Senegal	Oeuvre poétique	Le Seuil
Serote, Mongane	South Africa	Third World Express	David Philip Publishers
Shabaan, Robert Bin	Tanzania	Utenzi wa vita vya uhuru	East African Literature Bureau
Sony Labou Tansi	Congo	La vie et demie	Seuil
Sow Fall, Aminata	Senegal	La grève des battus	Nouvelles éditions africaines
Soyinka, Wole	Nigeria	Death and the King's Horsemen	Spectrum
Tchicaya U Tam'si	Congo	Le mauvais sang - feu de brousse - à trisse-cœur	P.J. Swald
Tutuola, Amos	Nigeria	The Palm-wine Drinkard	Faber
Vera, Yvonne	Zimbabwe	Butterfly Burning	Baobab Books
Vieira, José Luandino	Angola	Nós os do Makulusu	[União dos Escritores Angolanos]
Vilakazi, B.W.	South Africa	Amal'eZulu	Witwatersrand University Press
Yacine, Kateb	Algeria	Nedjma	Le Seuil

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**Table 1.3: Scholarship/non-fiction**

Amin, Samir	Egypt	Accumulation on a World Scale	Monthly Review Press
Amadiume, Ifi	Nigeria	Male Daughters, Female Husbands	Zed Books
Andrade, Mario de	Angola	Os nacionalismos africanos	Sa da Costa
Appiah, Anthony	Ghana	In My Father's House	Oxford University Press
Cabral, Amilcar	Guinea-Bissau	Unity and Struggle	Monthly Review Press
Chimera, Rocha	Kenya	Kiswahili, past, present and future horizons	Nairobi University Press
Diop, Cheikh Anta	Senegal	Antériorité des civilisations nègres	Présence africaine
Doorkenoo, Efua	Ghana	Cutting the Rose	Minority Rights Group
Hayford, J.E. Casely	Ghana	Ethiopia Unbound	Cass
Hountondji, Paulin	Benin	Sur la philosophie africaine	François Maspero
Johnson, Samuel	Nigeria	The History of the Yorubas	G. Routledge & Sons
Kenyatta, Jomo	Kenya	Facing Mount Kenya	Secker & Warburg
Ki-Zerbo, Joseph	Burkina Faso	Histoire de l'Afrique noire	Hatier
Krog, Antjie	South Africa	Country of My Skull	Jonathan Cape
Mama, Amina	Nigeria	Beyond the Mask, Race, Gender and	Routledge

		Identity	
Mamdani, Mahmood	Uganda	Citizen and Subject	James Currey Publishers
Mandela, Nelson	South Africa	Long Walk to Freedom	Little Brown
Marais, Eugene	South Africa	Die Siel van die Mier	J.L. van Schaik
Memmi, Albert	Tunisia	Portrait du colonisé suivi de portrait du colonisateur	L'Etincelle
Mondlane, Eduardo	Mozambique	The Struggle for Mozambique	Penguin
Mphahlele, Ezekiel	South Africa	Down Second Avenue	Faber & Faber
Mudimbe, V.Y.	Dem. Rep. of Congo	The Invention of Africa	Indiana University Press
Nkrumah, Kwame	Ghana	Ghana: The Autobiography of Kwame Nkrumah	Nelson
Plaatje, Sol	South Africa	Native Life in South Africa	P.S. King
Soyinka, Wole	Nigeria	Ake: The Years of Childhood	Rex Collings
Van Onselen, Charles	South Africa	The Seed is Mine	David Philip Publishers

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## Great African Book Contributions to Civilization

The aim of the collaboration between Amazon A-Store and California News Reel (AASCNR) for establishing the listing of the “Great African Book Contributions to World Civilization” is to make known the various African scholars and scientists whose works are testimonies that modern



human behavior is correlated directly with anatomically modern humans going back about 200,000 years found only in Africa. It is therefore hoped that these African contributions would remove the veil that has prevented, distorted and destroyed the truth of Africans' accomplishments from prehistoric to modern times. The website was developed to present this evidence in a timely fashion, as technology has made it possible to document and accurately date the African contributions to civilization (AASCNR, 2006).

The definition of African authors in the listing is a broad one, and appropriately so. All writers of African ancestry (i.e. persons initiating or comprising an African line of descent) anywhere in the world are considered African. Of the 47 books that have been listed on the AASCNR website, six are by Africans born in the continent. All of these books can be categorized into the previous classification of "Scholarship/non-fiction" (see Table 1.4).

**Table 1.4: Great African Book Contributions to World Civilization**

Bangura, Abdul Karim	Sierra Leone	African Mathematics: From Bones to Computers	University Press of America
Bemath, Abdul Samed	South Africa	The Mazruiana Collection: A Comprehensive Annotated Bibliography of the Published Works of Ali A. Mazrui, 1962-1997	Sterling Publishers
Darkwah, Nana Banchie	Ghana	The Africans Who Wrote the Bible	Aduana Publishing Company
Diop, Cheikh Anta	Senegal	The African Origin of Civilization: Myth or Reality	Lawrence Hill Books
Diop, Cheikh Anta	Senegal	Civilization or Barbarism: An Authentic Anthropology	Lawrence Hill Books

Obenga, Theophile	Republic of the Congo	African Philosophy During the Period of the Pharaohs 2780-330 BCE	Per Ankh
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Source: Self-generated by the Author Using Information from AASCNR (2006)

## Conclusion

A fitting conclusion here is that ample evidence has been provided in the preceding sections to underpin the three aspects intimated at the beginning of this chapter. First, the first book ever written in the world was in Ancient Kemet/Egypt: i.e. *The Teachings of Ptahhotep*. Second, while the “Africa’s Best Books of the 20<sup>th</sup> Century” project was a splendid initiative, it, however, propped the misconception that even when it comes to scholarship, Africans do better in the storytelling disciplines. And, third, only a small number of books written by Africans born in the continent, those who became citizens through marriage to Africans, and those who became naturalized citizens of African countries have been included among the “Great African Book Contributions to Civilization” listing most probably because the definition of African is global.

So, the ultimate question here is the following: What does this book add to the past efforts of presenting to the world the great books written by Africans born in the continent, those who became citizens through marriage to Africans, and those who became naturalized citizens of African countries? The answer to this question is twofold. First, the book is the first attempt to provide a comprehensive account of the great books across the academic disciplines written by Africans born in the continent, those who became citizens through marriage to Africans, and those who became naturalized citizens of African countries. Second, this book transcends merely compiling a list, as the examinations are conceptually grounded according to the disciplines, brief biographies of the authors of the carefully selected books are provided, and sound analyses are done on the books.

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# CHAPTER 2

## ACCOUNTING AND FINANCE

### LILIAN ANYANGO OLICK

This chapter reviews four of the great books authored by Africans on Accounting and Finance (A&F). The concept of A&F applies to businesses, personal affairs, government, non-governmental organizations and other institutions, and its methodologies, models and theoretical frameworks are well developed. The term Accounting is a wider one that can be described as the procedure of documenting and conveying financial information utilized for decision making (Le Moyne, Graybeal and Cooper, 2019). It is also defined as the journalizing, posting and summarizing of an organization's transactions in terms of money, preparation of financial statements, and review or analysis and interpretation of these statements for the information and guidance of management (Sofat and Hiro, 2016). The American Accounting Association describes Accounting as the procedure of distinguishing, measuring and conveying useful economic data to allow guided and informed decisions and judgments by end users of the data (Saleemi, 1998). Accounting is therefore the recording, classifying, summarizing and interpreting of financial and non-financial information of individuals, businesses, or public institutions for utilization by external and internal users for decision making. The two interrelated disciplines form the basis upon which a firm's performance can be monetarily managed, measured, analyzed, evaluated, and controlled.

The term Finance can be characterized as a verb or a noun. As a verb, Finance has to do with managing the assets of individuals, households, firms, and governments in an efficient, effective and appropriate manner; and, in some cases, considering the risks involved (Oxford Reference, 2018). This managing process involves four major decisions: (1) investment, (2) financing, (3) liquidity, and (4) dividend functions. Recent literature delineates Finance as the study of value and its determination since individuals, businesses, corporations, and other institutions regularly use

such information to make strategic decisions that affect the future outcomes of their endeavors. As a noun, the term denotes assets that governments, firms, households, and individuals manage, which are mostly classified as tangible or intangible assets or real and financial assets. Real assets are physical resources that have intrinsic worth due to their substance and properties, while financial assets are those that derive their value from a contractual claim (Oxford Reference, 2018). Generally, the concept has evolved.

Consequently, there are many reasons why this chapter is important and necessary. First, it seeks to show continuity by Africans studying a subject matter that had its roots in Ancient Kemet/Egypt in c. 9000—c. 10000 BC (Oldroyd and Dobie, 2008). Second, it helps to demystify the myth that Africans have contributed no substantive knowledge before colonization. Third, it assists in filling the gap of the absence of the voices of African scholars in mainstream A&F literature. Fourth, it adds to the epistemology of A&F concerning Africans' contributions to the discipline's methods, validity and scope. This aspect is vital because epistemology involves the investigation of what distinguishes justified belief from opinion. Also, the collective review of books from the two fields stems from their interconnectedness. Finally, while the books have received considerable mentions and reviews, they have few citations, a major justification for their selection.

The four books that are the main foci of this chapter are (1) Attiya Waris, *Financing Africa* (2019); (2) Phumelele Ndumo, *From Debt to Riches: Steps to Financial Success* (2011); (3) Nzele David Nzomo, *Basic Accounting: Principles and Procedures* (2002); and (4) Nicholas Thomas Toywa Simiyu, *Taxation in Kenya: Principles, Practice, and Case Law* (2000). The selected books, based on the criteria set forth in the introductory chapter of this book, project greatness because they personify the quality of being scholarly eminent and relevant to the developmental needs of the African continent, both from an academic and an industry-practice perspective. The books also represent selections from the three major A&F sub-branches: (1) personal; (2) public; and (3) business Finance, with an overlapping category, developmental Finance.

Finally, the chapter employs the expository approach using existing literature. The secondary data sources applied for the investigation are obtained online and from a synopsis of other scholars published in the available journals. The content of the chapter is presented in a progressive order: from an introduction to a conceptual discussion and reviewing the four books. The review portion is organized into three sections: (1) a brief biographical sketch of the author of the book, (2) a balanced review of the

book, and (3) an assessment of what makes the book great. The analyses are presented in a reversed chronological order the books were published: i.e. from the most recent to the oldest.

## **Accounting and Finance: A Conceptual Discussion**

A&F are historic concepts that have received much scholarly attention; thus, a consensus on their definitions and purpose has emerged. For instance, numerous studies on two concepts have endeavored to connect and recount the philosophies of the major three historic periods: i.e. pre-historic period, ancient times, and recent developments. There seems to be an agreement on the delineation of the role of Accounting, regardless of the period, in terms of ensuring accuracy, timeliness, and efficient financial reporting for effective decision making (Nwanyanwu, 2006; cited in Onuoha and Enyi, 2019). According to Luca Pacioli, who introduced the concept of “double-entry bookkeeping” in 1494, which still underpins modern and current Accounting procedures and practices, the conventional purpose of Accounting was debatably to quantitatively utilize numbers to financially explain how an institution employed its resources to generate profits, or create and add value to the providers of capital, also known as shareholders, and upon which taxes could be levied (Ackers, 2018).

Years later, Wood and Sangster (1972) defined Accounting as the procedure of identifying, measuring and communicating useful economic data to allow informed judgments and decisions by users of the information. More recently, Warren, Reeves and Duchac (2018) defined Accounting as the information system that provides reports to users about the economic activities and condition of a business. McLaney and Atrill (2018) stated that Accounting is concerned with collecting, analyzing and communicating financial information with the ultimate aim of assisting the users to make informed decisions.

As a civilization, industrialization and modernization set in, business environments evolved; thus, there was an increased need to meet the ever-changing demands made on Accounting by varied interested stakeholders such as employers, shareholders or owners, creditors, management, government, and taxation authorities, among others (Sofat and Hiro, 2016). These developments resulted in the split of Accounting into several branches to meet the needs of its users. These branches are Financial Accounting meant for internal and external purposes; Management Accounting for internal use; Cost Accounting; Auditing; Taxation; and other modern professional divisions such as Fiduciary Accounting; Fund Accounting; and Forensic Accounting (Sofat and Hiro, 2016). According