The Cambridge Companion to Postcolonial Literary Studies

The Cambridge Companion to Postcolonial Literary Studies offers a lucid introduction and overview of one of the most important strands in recent literary theory and cultural studies. The volume aims to introduce readers to key concepts, methods, theories, thematic concerns, and contemporary debates in the field. Drawing on a wide range of disciplines, contributors explain the impact of history, sociology, and philosophy on the study of postcolonial literatures and cultures. Topics examined include everything from anticolonial nationalism and decolonization to globalization, migration flows, and the “brain drain” which constitute the past and present of “the postcolonial condition.” The volume also pays attention to the sociological and ideological conditions surrounding the emergence of postcolonial literary studies as an academic field in the late 1970s and early 1980s. The Companion turns an authoritative, engaged, and discriminating lens on postcolonial literary studies.
THE CAMBRIDGE COMPANION TO
POSTCOLONIAL LITERARY STUDIES

EDITED BY
NEIL LAZARUS
For Edward Said (1935–2003), who taught all of us
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Compiling a chronology for a volume such as this is a fraught undertaking. The more inclusive and comprehensive one tries to be, the greater becomes the risk that the whole exercise will end up a baggy monster, shapeless and undiscriminating. Criteria for inclusion and exclusion are always relatively difficult to justify and must, obviously, remain open to challenge. In drawing up the list that follows, I did not want merely to re-present in tabular form the material presented in the various chapters that make up this volume. Rather, my intention was to construct a list that gestures towards the multiplicity and huge diversity, both of the literary works actually or potentially implicated by the term “postcolonial literary studies,” and of the social and political events that provide the overarching contexts for these works. As a field of academic specialization, postcolonial studies has tended (as several of the chapters in this volume suggest) to be overly schematic, restricted – not to say attenuated – in its coverage, range of reference, and field of vision. What follows is intended, therefore, in a rather utopian sense, as the outline of what scholars in the field might – or ought to – consider within their purview.

This chronology takes 1898 as its cut-off date. It would have been possible to begin earlier, of course – in 1870, say, or 1776, depending on what one chose to emphasize; perhaps even much earlier, in 1492. To have done so would have enabled one to reference some of the key historical events relating to colonial conquest and resistance to it, to slavery, maroonage, and emancipation, and to the emergence of creole republicanism, anticolonial revolution, and decolonization in the “New World” of the Americas. However, while an expanded chronology of this kind would obviously have been more encyclopedic in its scope, and perhaps more fully representative of the work done in the field of postcolonial studies, it would also have been much bulkier, more unwieldy, and, arguably, less reader-friendly than the one that follows. Moreover, 1898 does at least make a plausible cut-off date, inasmuch as it is often taken to mark the emergence of the United States as an imperialist power onto the world stage, and therefore to look forward to
the developments of the second half of the twentieth century – developments that would leave the United States, by the end of that century, as the world’s only hegemon and superpower.

With respect to the historical events itemized, I have obviously referenced those that might be said to be world-historical in their significance, as well as those whose significance has resonated far beyond their specific location in time and place. Uncontroversial examples of the first category would include the American destruction of the Spanish fleet in Manila Bay in 1898, the Japanese sacking of Nanking (1937), the nuclear strikes on Hiroshima and Nagasaki (1945), the partition of India (1947), the Chinese and Cuban revolutions, the Vietnamese victory over the French at Dien Bien Phu in 1954, the ethno-genocide in Rwanda in the mid-1990s, and the events of 11 September 2001. Similarly uncontroversial examples of the second category would include the massacre at Jallianwallah Bagh in Amritsar (1919), Abd al-Krim’s armed resistance to colonial domination in Morocco (1921–26), the massacre of Palestinian villagers by Zionist extremists at Dair Yasin (1948), the events at Sharpeville and Soweto in South Africa (1960 and 1976, respectively), the American-assisted ouster and assassination of elected President Salvador Allende in Chile (1973), the Indonesian invasion and occupation of East Timor (1975), and the military crackdown on student demonstrators at Tiananmen Square in Beijing (1989).

In addition to events of these kinds, however, I have also chosen to include references to events that might not themselves be world-historical, but that are nevertheless epochal or otherwise decisive for those involved in them. It seems particularly important to register events of this kind inasmuch as critiques of Eurocentrism and of elitist or top-down historiography have been among the foundational gestures of postcolonial studies from the outset. So while it might be conceded that such events as the uprising against the French in Madagascar (1898–1904), the 1926 riots in Java and Sumatra, and the 1964 overthrow of Cheddi Jagan’s government in Guyana did not in themselves change the map of the world, they were nevertheless deeply consequential for those impacted by them, and they remain deeply consequential for contemporary researchers in postcolonial studies. Indeed, even if such events are deemed relatively inconsequential when considered on their own, their accumulative significance, as individual events in a sequence of events of a similar kind, is salutary. Thus if, between Madagascar in 1898 and the East Indies in 1926, one inserts such events as the Ashanti Rebellion of 1900 in the Gold Coast, the 1904 uprisings by theNama and Herero peoples in South West Africa and the Acehnese in Sumatra, the Maji Maji revolt of 1905–7 in Tanganyika, the Bambatha Rebellion of 1906 in South Africa, insurrections in Cuba (1906) and Nicaragua (1909), the onset of the Mexican
indicative chronology

revolution in 1910, and the overthrow of the empire and the establishment of a republic in China (1911), one comes very quickly to an understanding of how ubiquitous and how continuous has been the resistance to colonial rule and imperialist domination.

By the same token, let us think of the ouster of Cheddi Jagan in 1964 not on its own but alongside such other more or less contemporaneous events as the following: the military coup in Thailand (1959) that served to usher in Sarit Thanarat’s dictatorship; the crisis in the Congo (1960) occasioned by the overthrow and then subsequently the murder of Patrice Lumumba; the toppling of the US-sponsored dictatorship of Syngman Rhee in the April 19 revolution of 1960, followed, all too soon, by General Park Chung-hee’s military coup and the restoration of dictatorship in South Korea; the US-sponsored Bay of Pigs episode (1961); the massive clamp-down on leftists in Peru (1963); the escalation of the US military campaign against Vietnam throughout the mid-1960s; the US-backed military coup against a left-wing government in Brazil (1964); the Western-assisted military coups of Bokassa in the Central African Republic, Mobutu in the Congo, Suharto in Indonesia, and Boumedienne in Algeria (all 1965); the intervention of US troops in the Dominican Republic and the installation there of a puppet regime (1965); the assassination of Mozambican liberation struggle leader Eduardo Mondlane (1965); and the ousting of Kwame Nkrumah of Ghana in a military coup (1966). To consider these events together is to understand that if it has, self-evidently, been hideously difficult to construct democracy in the postcolonial world, one of the primary reasons for this has been the continuous and active subversion of democracy and the “will of the people” by imperialist intrigue and military might, deriving invariably (in the post-1945 world) from the United States.

The Chronology includes dates for the acquisition of political independence in numerous former colonial territories, from Syria and Lebanon in 1945, the Philippines in 1946, and India in 1947 to Namibia in 1990 and Eritrea in 1993. It does not, however, detail the formation of the myriad parties, organizations, fronts, and alliances that fought for independence in all these territories. The one exception to this is the Indonesian Communist Party (PKI), formed in 1920, which warrants special mention both because it grew to become the largest such party outside the Soviet Union, and because it was so brutally crushed, with the physical liquidation of hundreds of thousands of its members, by the police and military of Suharto’s “New Order” regime in 1965–66.

Also not included in the Chronology are details relating to the “white” Anglophone settler colonies of Canada, New Zealand, and Australia. There has been some debate in postcolonial studies over the status of these societies
as erstwhile colonies and therefore contemporary “post-colonies.” Without going into this debate, however, it seems to me that little would be gained by treating twentieth-century developments in Canada, New Zealand, Australia, and, for that matter, the United States in analogy with developments in such societies as Cuba, East Timor, Mali, Malaysia, and Mexico.

The left-hand column in the Chronology is devoted to “Political/Historical Events,” in terms of the criteria specified above. The right-hand column is then devoted to writings of various kinds. These writings can be categorized under the following rubrics:

a) instances of colonial discourse (fictional or non-fictional) – examples include Joseph Conrad’s *Heart of Darkness* and Albert Sarraut’s *The Economic Development of the French Colonies*;

b) writings by Western authors that have proved valuable to the general cause of anticolonialism or anti-imperialism – examples include E. D. Morel’s *The Congo Slave State* and Lenin’s *Imperialism: The Highest Stage of Capitalism*;

c) important political writings by representatives of “colonial” peoples – examples include M. N. Roy’s *India in Transition* and Sun Yat-sen’s *The Three Principles of the People*;

d) works of literature by colonial and postcolonial writers – examples include Rabindranath Tagore’s *Home and the World* and Nizar Qabbani’s *On Entering the Sea*;

e) important critical and/or scholarly writings by colonial and postcolonial authors: examples include José Enrique Rodó’s *Ariel* and Eric Williams’s *Capitalism and Slavery*;

f) key texts in the academic field of postcolonial studies: examples include Edward W. Said’s *Culture and Imperialism* and Declan Kiberd’s *Inventing Ireland: The Literature of the Modern Nation*.

I have used the following abbreviations to signal the status of the writings cited:

- A autobiography
- CD colonial discourse
- D drama
- F fiction
- NF non-fiction
- P poetry
- KT key text in postcolonial studies

In most cases, writers are cited only once – to signal their entry into prominence or else their most significant work. Thus the Ghanaian writer Ayi Kwei Armah is listed under 1968, the date of publication of his first, and still his best-known, novel, *The Beautiful Ones Are Not Yet Born*. In some
limited cases, however, writers are cited more than once, to signal their writing of a second (or even third) especially significant work. Thus Gabriel García Márquez is listed under 1967 (the date of publication of One Hundred Years of Solitude) but also 1985 (the date of publication of Love in the Time of Cholera, which many consider to be an even greater work); and the same is true of Nadine Gordimer, Ngugi wa Thiong’o, and Salman Rushdie, among others. Still other writers receive double (or multiple) citations because their work has been important in different contexts: thus Wole Soyinka appears as the author of the drama The Road in 1965, the volume of poetry, Idanre in 1967, the critical volume Myth, Literature and the African World in 1976, and of course as the recipient of the Nobel Prize for Literature in 1986.

In almost every case, I have listed the work cited under an English title, even where (as in the case of Yi Kwang-su’s 1917 novel, Heartlessness, or Hafiz Ibrahim’s 1937 Diwan, for example) no translation exists as yet. Where translations into English exist, I have used the available title, but indexed to the date of original publication of the work in question: Edouard Glissant’s La lèzarde was translated into English under the title of The Ripening only in 1985, for instance, but it appears in the Chronology as The Ripening (1958) – the date of original publication of La lèzarde.

Finally, it needs to be said that the list of works of creative literature provided here is not intended to serve as a “postcolonial canon” in any sense. Rather it is meant to testify to the vast range and sheer diversity of the literary works that might be said to fall within the compass of “postcolonial studies” as a field of academic specialization.

Neil Lazarus
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Political/historical events</th>
<th>Literary and other writings</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| 1898 | Spanish–American War: destruction of Spanish fleet in Manila Bay; announces emergence of US as imperialist power; in victory, US acquires Philippines, Cuba, Puerto Rico, and Guam from Spain; US immediately moves to put down insurrection (1896–1902) in the Philippines; Sudan: Battle of Omdurman, Mahdist forces defeated by British | Joseph Conrad, *Heart of Darkness* (F; CD)  
Rudyard Kipling, *The White Man's Burden* (NF; CD) |
|      |                            |                             |
| 1899 | South Africa: outbreak of Anglo-Boer War (−1902) | Solomon T. Plaatje (South Africa), *Boer War Diary* (NF)  
José Enrique Rodó, *Ariel* (NF) |
|      |                            |                             |
| 1900 | China: Boxer Rebellion, anti-Western uprising; forcibly put down Foraker Act renders Puerto Rico a colony of the US Gold Coast: Ashanti rebellion  
|      |                            |                             |
| 1901 | Cuba: Platt Amendment; US appropriates part of Guantánamo Bay; imposes quasi-protectorate status on Cuba | Rudyard Kipling, *Kim* (F; CD) |
|      |                            |                             |
| 1902 | US occupies Panama, forcing its separation from Colombia | E. D. Morel, *The Congo Slave State* (NF)  
Joseph Conrad, *Nostromo* (F; CD) |
<p>| 1903 | Russo-Japanese War, ends (1905) with defeat of Russians Namibia: uprising of Herero and Nama against German rule East Indies: revolt by Acehnese in Sumatra; forcibly put down |                             |
|      | India: launch of <em>swadeshi</em> (“of our own country”) movement (−1908), in protest at British decision to partition Bengal Tanganyika: Maji Maji revolt (−1907) |                             |</p>
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<th>Date</th>
<th>Political/historical events</th>
<th>Literary and other writings</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1906</td>
<td>South Africa: Bambatha Rebellion (Zulu uprising), begins as protest against poll tax</td>
<td>Ch’oe Nam-sun (Korea), “From the Sea to a Youth” (P)</td>
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<td>US troops occupy Cuba (–1909)</td>
<td>Rabindranath Tagore (India), <em>Home and the World</em> (F)</td>
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<td>1907</td>
<td>Britain grants dominion status to its self-governing (white) colonies</td>
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<td>1908</td>
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<td>Mohandas K. Gandhi (India), <em>Hind Swaraj</em> (NF)</td>
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<td>1909</td>
<td>India: Morley–Minto reforms</td>
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<td>US troops occupy Nicaragua (–1925)</td>
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<td>1910</td>
<td>Korea: annexation by Japan; colonial rule to 1945</td>
<td>Iliya Abu Madi (Lebanon), <em>The Memorial of the Past</em> (P)</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Mexico: revolution begins with constitutional and guerrilla challenges to the dictatorship of Porfirio Díaz</td>
<td>J. E. Casely-Hayford (Gold Coast), <em>Ethiopia Unbound</em> (F)</td>
</tr>
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<td>1911</td>
<td>China: Revolution ends imperial regime, establishes provisional republic</td>
<td>Muhammad Iqbal (India), “Complaint” (P)</td>
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<td>Mexico: Díaz regime falls; liberal reformer Francisco Madero assumes presidency</td>
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<td>1912</td>
<td>Cuba: uprising led by Independent Movement of People of Color, forcibly put down with assistance of US</td>
<td>Rabindranath Tagore wins Nobel Prize for Literature</td>
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<td>1913</td>
<td>South Africa: Native Land Act</td>
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<td>Mexico: Madero deposed, then murdered; Pancho Villa resumes guerrilla campaign</td>
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<tr>
<td>1914</td>
<td>Outbreak of First World War</td>
<td>Gabriela Mistral (Chile), <em>Sonnets of Death</em> (P)</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
1915  Ceylon: Sinhala anti-Muslim riots; colonial government declares martial law
US troops occupy Haiti to prevent accession to presidency of Rosalvo Bobo; occupation lasts until 1934
Nikolai Bukharin, *Imperialism and World Economy* (NF)
Mariano Azuela (Mexico), *The Underdogs* (F)

1916  Ireland: Easter Rising

1917  Bolshevik Revolution, first erupts in St. Petersburg
Balfour Declaration, promises a “national home” for Jews in Palestine and protection of civil and religious rights of non-Jews in the territory
V. I. Lenin, *Imperialism: The Highest Stage of Capitalism* (NF)
Rabindranath Tagore (India), *Nationalism* (NF)
Yi Kwang-su (Korea), *Heartlessness* (F)

1918  Armistice treaty signed, brings First World War to an end
Decloration of the Irish Republic
Lu Hsun (China), “A Madman’s Diary” (F)

1919  League of Nations created at Peace Conference, Versailles
German colonies in Africa transferred to Britain, France, and Belgium as Mandates
China: May Fourth Movement – demands radical modernization, opposes imperialism
Li Ta-chao (China), “A New Era” (NF)
Chu Yo-han (Korea), *Fireworks* (P)

- India: Montagu–Chelmsford reforms (permitting limited self-government); Rowlatt Act (gives colonial police widespread powers to investigate and crush opposition); Gandhi calls for all-India mass protest movement; massacre of civilians at Jallianwallah Bagh in Amritsar
Establishment of the Third International (Comintern)
Outbreak of Anglo-Irish War (~1921)
Mexico: rebel leader Emiliano Zapata killed by government troops
Korea: uprising against Japanese colonialism
Third British–Afghan War
First Palestinian National Congress rejects Balfour Declaration, calls for Arab independence

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<th>Date</th>
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<th>Literary and otherwritings</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1920</td>
<td>Britain gains mandate control over Iraq, Trans-Jordan, Palestine; anti-British revolt in Iraq; Government of Ireland Act; India: Gandhi launches Non-Cooperation movement; Mozambique: colonial rule in Mozambique systematized; population subjected to forced labor; Indonesia: Communist Party (PKI) is formed; becomes largest such party in the world outside of socialist state bloc before it is obliterated by Suharto in brutal campaign (1965–66)</td>
<td>Frederick Lugard, <em>The Dual Mandate in British Tropical Africa</em> (NF; CD); M. N. Roy (India), <em>India in Transition</em> (NF); René Maran (Martinique), <em>Batonala</em> (F)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1921</td>
<td>Ireland: outbreak of civil war (–1923); Morocco: armed resistance to French and Spanish domination, led by Abd al-Krim (–1926); China: Sun Yat-sen elected president; civil war breaks out between his regime and warlords in the north</td>
<td>Albert Sarraut, <em>The Economic Development of the French Colonies</em> (NF; CD); Zhu Ziqing (China), “Destruction” (P)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1922</td>
<td>Declaration of the Irish Free State</td>
<td>E. M. Forster, <em>A Passage to India</em> (F; CD); Pablo Neruda (Chile), <em>Twenty Love Poems and a Song of Despair</em> (P); José Eustasio Rivera (Colombia), <em>The Vortex</em> (F)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1923</td>
<td>Ceylon: general strike, militant fusion of nationalist and class-based demands; Mexico: Pancho Villa murdered</td>
<td>Sun Yat-sen (China), <em>The Three Principles of the People</em> (NF); Kim So-wol (Korea), <em>Azaleas</em> (P)</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
| 1924 | China / Hong Kong: massive strike, boycott of foreign goods (–1926); Syria: Druze revolt (–1927) | }
1926

Indonesia: riots in Java and Sumatra, forcibly put down by Dutch.

China: Chiang moves to establish hegemony over parts of the country still under control of warlords; captures Wuhan (1926) and Shanghai (1927); in Shanghai, orchestrates massacre of labor organizers, communists, and other activists; subsequent communist-led uprisings in Nanchang and Hunan are crushed.

1927

Nicaragua: rebellion against authoritarian regime of Adolfo Díaz; US intervention, successfully resisted by forces under Augustino César Sandino.

International Conference Against Imperialism and Colonial Oppression, Brussels.

Bolivia: massive revolt of indigenous people against government.

1928

China: capture of Beijing by Chiang’s forces; he becomes national president.

Vietnam: peasant uprising, coincides with formation of Communist Party.

Brazil: military coup.

1929

India: Gandhi launches Civil Disobedience Movement.

Pakistan: riots sparked by immigration of Muslims to Pakistan.

Palestine: riots sparked by founding of the Jewish Agency; several hundred killed, many by British soldiers.

1930

India: Gandhi launches Civil Disobedience Movement.

Venezuela: peasant uprising, coincides with formation of Communist Party; military coup.

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<tr>
<td>1931</td>
<td>British Commonwealth of Nations created</td>
<td>Evelyn Waugh, <em>Black Mischief</em> (F; CD)</td>
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<td>Japanese invade Manchuria</td>
<td>Gregorio López y Fuentes (Mexico), <em>The Land</em> (F)</td>
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<td>Ahmad Shauqi (Egypt), <em>Diwan</em></td>
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<td>1932</td>
<td>Thailand: absolute monarchy overthrown in bloodless civilian–military coup</td>
<td>Mulk Raj Anand (India), <em>Untouchable</em> (F)</td>
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<td>El Salvador: insurrection led by Farabundo Marti crushed; supported by US, dictator</td>
<td>Tewfiq al-Hakim (Egypt), <em>The People of the Cave</em> (D)</td>
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<td>Maximiliano Hernández oversees pogrom in which 30,000 are killed</td>
<td>Claude McKay (Jamaica), <em>Banana Bottom</em> (F)</td>
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<td></td>
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<td>Mao Tun (China), <em>Midnight</em> (F)</td>
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<td>Gilberto Freyre, <em>The Master and the Slaves</em> (NF)</td>
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<td>1933</td>
<td>Nicaragua: take-over of power by Anastasio Somoza García, supported by US; Sandino</td>
<td>George Orwell, <em>Burmese Days</em> (F; CD)</td>
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<td></td>
<td>murdered</td>
<td>Hsiao Hung (China), <em>The Field of Life and Death</em> (F)</td>
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<td>Jorge Icaza (Ecuador), <em>Huasipungo</em> (F)</td>
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<td>Alfred Mendes (Trinidad), <em>Pitch Lake</em> (F)</td>
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<td>Shen Ts'ung-wen (China), <em>Border Town</em> (F)</td>
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<td>Hu Shih, <em>The Chinese Renaissance</em> (NF)</td>
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<td>1934</td>
<td>China: “Long March” begins, as Mao Tse-tung and his supporters trek to remote Yenan to</td>
<td>Jorge Luis Borges (Argentina), <em>A Universal History of Infantry</em> (F)</td>
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<td></td>
<td>escape liquidation by KMT forces</td>
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<td>1935</td>
<td>Mussolini’s forces invade and occupy Ethiopia</td>
<td>Meo Tse-tung (China), <em>Problems of Strategy in China’s Revolutionary War</em> (NF)</td>
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<td>Passage of Government of India Act</td>
<td>Jayaprakash Narayan (India), <em>Why Socialism?</em> (NF)</td>
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<td>Wave of strikes in Central African copper-belt</td>
<td>Jawaharlal Nehru (India), <em>An Autobiography</em></td>
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<td>China: Japanese forces seize Beijing, set up puppet regime in north</td>
<td>Manik Bandopadhyay (India), <em>The History of Puppets</em> (F)</td>
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<td>C. L. R. James (Trinidad), <em>Minty Alley</em> (F)</td>
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<td>Lao She (China), <em>Camel Hsiang-tzu</em> (F)</td>
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<td>1936</td>
<td>Spanish Civil War erupts</td>
<td>Premchand (India), <em>The Gift of a Cow</em> (F)</td>
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</table>
1937 China: Shanghai falls to Japanese; Nanking sacked, more than 100,000 killed; Mao issues “National Salvation Program” calling for united front against Japanese; forms temporary military alliance with Chiang’s KMT.
Jamaica: riots against British rule (–1938)
Trinidad: nationalist riots

Karen Blixen (Denmark), *Out of Africa* (NF; CD)
Hafiz Ibrahim (Egypt), *Ditaam*
R. K. Narayan (India), *The Bachelor of Arts* (F)
Siburapha (Thailand), *Behind the Painting* (F)

1938
Jomo Kenyatta (Kenya), *Facing Mount Kenya* (NF)
Ciro Alegría (Peru), *The Hungry Dogs* (F)
Maria Luisa Bombal (Chile), *The House of Mist* (F)
D. O. Fagunwa (Nigeria), *The Forest of a Thousand Daemons* (F)
Sadeq Hedayat (Iran), *The Blind Owl* (F)
Graciliano Ramos (Brazil), *Barren Lives* (F)
Raja Rao (India), *Kanthapura* (F)
George Antonius, *The Arab Awakening* (NF)
C. L. R. James, *The Black Jacobins* (NF)

1939
German invasion of Poland; outbreak of Second World War
Joyce Cary, *Mister Johnson* (F; CD)
Aimé Césaire (Martinique), “Notebook of a Return to the Native Land” (P, revised 1947, 1956)
Juan Carlos Onetti (Uruguay), *The Pit* (F)
Tuan-mu Hung-liang (China), *The Steppe of the Khorchin Banner* (F)

1940
Fall of France to Nazi forces
Vietnam: revolts in southern Mekong Delta
Tarashankar Bandypadhyay (India), “The Witch” (F)
Ts’ao Yü (China), *Peking Man* (D)
César Vallejo (Peru), *Spain, Take This Gap from Me* (P)
Fernando Ortiz, *Cuban Counterpoint: Tobacco and Sugar* (NF)

(cont.)
<table>
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<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Political/historical events</th>
<th>Literary and other writings</th>
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Edgar Mittelholzer (Guyana), Corentyne Thunder (F)  
Ibrahim Tuqan (Palestine), Diwan |
| 1942 | India: Gandhi launches Quit India Movement. Japanese forces capture Singapore, Java, Burma, and the Philippines; attack Solomon Islands and New Guinea. | Albert Camus, The Outsider (F; CD)  
Jorge Amado (Brazil), The Violent Land (F) |
| 1943 | India: armed struggle under leadership of Subhas Chandra Bose launched against British forces in north-east; devastating famine in Bengal (~1944) kills almost 4 million people. | Ishaq Musa al-Husaini (Palestine), A Chicken’s Memoirs (F) |
| 1944 | Vietnam: major famine kills 2 million people. US: Bretton Woods conference; foundation of International Monetary Fund (IMF) and World Bank. Guatemala: regime of General Castañeda overthrown in “October Revolution”. Palestine: Zionist forces begin guerrilla warfare against British; tactics include terror and assassinations. | José María Arguedas (Peru), Everyone’s Blood (F)  
Ismat Chughtai (India), The Quilt and Other Stories  
Jacques Roumain (Haiti), Masters of the Dew (F)  
Eric Williams, Capitalism and Slavery (NF) |
| 1945 | War ends in Europe. US drops nuclear bombs on Hiroshima and Nagasaki in Japan, leading to Japanese surrender. Algeria: French repression of nationalists; major uprising follows; thousands killed. Revolution in Vietnam brings Ho Chi Minh’s Viet Minh to power; French forces attempt to recapture colonial power; war ensues (~1954). | Gabriela Mistral wins Nobel Prize for Literature  
Gopinath Mohanty (India), Paraja (F) |
Indonesia: “Revolution of 1945” in which Republic is declared; fierce fighting as Dutch attempt to reinstall colonial power (–1949); civil war in Java (–1948) in which many leftists are murdered
Philippines liberated from Japanese occupation
Syria, Lebanon gain independence
Fifth Pan-African Congress held in Manchester, England, proclaims “right of all colonial peoples to control their own destiny”

1946 United Nations convenes for the first time
Thailand: military overthrows nationalist leader Pridi Phanomyong
Indochina: fierce resistance to French attempt to reinstall colonial rule after Second World War (–1954)
Argentina: General Juan Perón assumes presidency
Philippines gains independence
Palestine: militant right-wing Zionist guerrillas blow up British Army headquarters in Jerusalem; Arab anti-Zionist protests continue

1947 India gains independence; birth of Pakistan following partition of sub-continent; hundreds of thousands die in inter-communal violence; 8.5 million refugees cross border in both directions
Burma: U Aung San, hero of independence movement, assassinated
Palestine: UN announces plan for partition, granting bulk of land to minority Jewish population
Korea: US establishes Syngman Rhee as leader of government in South; pursues authoritarian policies, targets the mass revolutionary movement that had developed after liberation from Japanese occupation in 1945

1948 Burma, Sri Lanka (Ceylon) gain independence; insurrectionary challenge to fledging Burmese state from left parties
South Africa: Afrikaner Nationalist Party comes to power, implements policy of apartheid

Truong Chinh (Vietnam), The August Revolution (NF)
Jawaharlal Nehru (India), The Discovery of India (NF)
Peter Abrahams (South Africa), Mine Boy (F)
Miguel Angel Asturias (Guatemala), Mr. President (F)

Jawaharlal Nehru delivers “Tryst with Destiny” speech
Babani Bhattacharya (India), So Many Hungers! (F)
Ch’ien Chung-shu (China), Fortress Besieged (F)
Birago Diop (Senegal), Tales of Amadou Koumba (F)
Suryakant Tripathi “Nirala” (India), The Earthly Knowledge (P)
Pa Chin (China), Cold Nights (F)
Badr Shakir al-Sayyab (Iraq), Withered Fingers (P)

Graham Greene, The Heart of the Matter (F; CD)
Alan Paton (South Africa), Cry, the Beloved Country (F; CD)
G. V. Desani (India), All About H. Hatterr (F)

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<th>Date</th>
<th>Political/historical events</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1947</td>
<td>Indo-Pakistan war over disputed state of Kashmir</td>
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<td>Pakistan: fighting between Pakistan and India continues</td>
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<td>Bangladesh: formed from eastern Pakistan and Indian territories</td>
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<td>Palestinian: fighting between Palestinians and Zionists escalates</td>
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<td>Massacres: Dafuri Yassin massacre by Zionist ultranationalists</td>
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<td>Palestinians driven out of their homes and land</td>
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<td>Independent Jewish state declared; declaration immediately recognized by US</td>
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<td>Number of Palestinian refugees estimated at 1 million</td>
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<td>1950</td>
<td>Malaya: massive communist-inspired insurgency against British colonial rule</td>
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<td>Guerrilla war against British forces in Suez Canal Zone</td>
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<td>Tibet: Chinese invades, assumes control</td>
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<td>Jordan annexes West Bank, absorbing 600,000 Palestinians</td>
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<td>1951</td>
<td>Egypt: guerrilla war against British forces in Suez Canal Zone</td>
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<td>Libya gains independence</td>
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<td>Iran nationalizes its oil industry</td>
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</tbody>
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**Literary and other writings**

- **1949**
  - Saadat Hasan Manto (Pakistan), *“Toba Tek Singh”* (F)
  - Ernesto Sabato (Argentina), *The Tumult* (F)
  - Léopold Sédar Senghor, ed., *Anthologie de la nouvelle poésie francophone* (P)
  - Jean Paul Sartre, “Black Orpheus” (NF)
- **1950**
  - Miguel Angel Asturias (Guatemala), *Men of Maize* (F)
  - Alejo Carpentier (Cuba), *The Kingdom of This World* (F)
  - Khalil Mutran (Lebanon), *Diwan* (F)
  - V. S. Reid (Jamaica), *New Day* (F)
  - Ma’ruf al-Rusafi (Iraq), *Diwan* (F)
  - Ting Ling (China), *The Sanggan River* (F)
  - Doris Lessing, *The Grass Is Singing* (F; CD)
  - Pablo Neruda (Chile), *Canto general* (P)
  - Octavio Paz, *Labyrinth of Solitude* (NF)
- **1951**
  - Nirad C. Chaudhuri (India), *The Autobiography of an Unknown Indian*
1952  South Africa: African National Congress launches Defiance Campaign
     Kenya: State of Emergency declared as anti-colonial insurrection
     (“Mau Mau”) intensifies
     Vietnam: France launches massive offensive against Viet Minh forces

1953  Cuba: Fidel Castro leads abortive assault on Moncada Barracks in
     Santiago de Cuba; many of the militants are killed; others, including
     Castro, are captured
     Iran: CIA-backed coup deposes nationalist leader, Mossadegh
     British Guiana: uprising, led by People’s Progressive Party,
     against colonialism; put down by military force; constitution
     suspended

1954  Vietnamese army led by Ho Chi Minh defeats French colonial forces
     at Dien Bien Phu; France sues for peace; the Viet Minh take Hanoi
     Egypt: Gamal Abdel Nasser takes power
     Algeria: war of independence begins (~1962)
     Guatemala: US orchestrates overthrow of nationalist government of
     Jacobo Arbenz

1955  Bandung Conference of independent Asian and African states;
     declaration upholds principles of national sovereignty, human rights,
     and equality among nations and states
     South Africa: Freedom Charter adopted at Congress of the People
     Vietnam: outbreak of civil war in South; Ngo Dinh Diem declares
     South Vietnam a republic

Ralph de Boissiere (Trinidad), Crown Jewel (F)
Andrée Chedid (Egypt), From Sleep Unbound (F)
Mochtar Lubis (Indonesia), A Road with No End (F)
Amos Tutuola (Nigeria), The Palm-Wine Drinkard (F)
Franz Fanon, Black Skin, White Masks (NF)
Fidel Castro (Cuba), “History will absolve me” (NF)
Alejo Carpentier (Cuba), The Lost Steps (F)
George Lamming (Barbados), In the Castle of My Skin (F)
Camara Laye (Guinea), The African Child (F)
Roger Mais (Jamaica), The Hills Were All Joyful Together (F)
Samira ’Azzam (Palestine), Little Things (F)
Martin Carter (Guyana), Poems of Resistance
Driss Chraibi (Morocco), The Simple Past (F)
Kamala Markandaya (India), Nectar in a Sieve (F)
Nicanor Parra (Chile), Poems and Antipoems
Abd al-Rahman Sharqawi (Egypt), The Earth (F)
Aimé Césaire (Martinique), Discourse on Colonialism (NF)
U Nu (Burma), An Asian Speaks (NF)
Amrita Pritam (India), Messages (P)
Juan Rulfo (Mexico), Pedro Páramo (F)
Saadî Youssèf (Iraq), Songs Not for Others (P)
Wang Meng (China), The Young Newcomer (F)

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<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Political/historicalevents</th>
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</table>
| 1956 | Egypt: Nasser nationalizes Suez Canal; Egypt invaded by Israel, with British and French support; withdrawal of these forces negotiated | First international conference of black writers and artists (Paris)  
George Padmore (Trinidad), *Pan Africanism or America in the Caribbean* (NF)  
Carlos Bulosan (Philippines), *America in the Heart* (A)  
Mango Beti (Cameroon), *The Poor Christ of Bomba* (F)  
David Dops (Senegal), *Wax Ahmad Faraz* (Pak.)  
Jim Gundermanns, *Ross* (Brazil), *The Devil to Pay in the Bronx* (F)  
Chang Ailing (China), *Naked Earth* (F)  
Joao Guimaraes Rosa (Brazil), *The Devil to Pay in the Bronx* (F)  
Ferdinand Oyono (Cameroon), *Houseboy* (F)  
Samuel Selvon (Trinidad), *The Lonely Londoners* (F)  
Kushwant Singh (India), *Traint to Pakistan* (NF)  
Kwame Nkrumah (Ghana), *Ghana: Autobiography*  
Chinua Achebe (Nigeria), *Things Fall Apart* (A)  
Octavio Paz (Mexico), *Sunstone* (P)  
N. V. M. Gonzalez (Philippines), *Bread of Salt* (F)  
Ludu U Hla (Burma), *The Caged Ones* (F)  
Alfred Memmi, *The Colonizer and the Colonized* (NF) |
| 1957 | Ghana gains independence; also peninsular Malaysia (becomes Malaysia in 1963 with incorporation of Sarawak, Sabah and Singapore)  
Guinea gains independence  
Cameroun: *Redentur Con* (Nov.)  
Afrikaans (South Africa)  
In 1958, South Africa's martial law is revoked  
1958 | Pakistan: military coup brings Mohammed Ayub Khan to power  
Cameroon: *Redentur Con* (Nov.)  
Afrikaans (South Africa)  
In 1958, South Africa's martial law is revoked  
1958 | Algeria: *Battle of Algiers* |  
France: mass death toll at a hundred flowers bloom, let a hundred schools of thought contend. |
Sri Lanka: riots erupt, as Sinhala chauvinists attack Tamils; hundreds killed; state of emergency eventually declared
Venezuela: dictator Marcos Pérez Jiménez ousted in coup
China: Mao launches “Great Leap Forward”, programme of rapid industrialization and collectivization, marked also by denigration of intellectuals
Venezuela: dictator Marcos Pérez Jiménez ousted in coup
China: devastating famine (~1961), kills as many as 40 million
Zambia: Kenneth Kaunda imprisoned, United Independence Party banned; leads civil disobedience campaign when released
Thailand: Sarit Thanarat seizes power through coup; installs dictatorship, continued by his successors (~1975)
Tibet: rebellion crushed by Chinese forces; Dalai Lama flees into exile

1959
Cuba: overthrow of Batista regime; Fidel Castro assumes power
China: devastating famine (~1961), kills as many as 40 million
Zambia: Kenneth Kaunda imprisoned, United Independence Party banned; leads civil disobedience campaign when released
Thailand: Sarit Thanarat seizes power through coup; installs dictatorship, continued by his successors (~1975)
Tibet: rebellion crushed by Chinese forces; Dalai Lama flees into exile

1960
Harold Macmillan’s “winds of change” speech
South Africa: Sharpeville massacre, as police open fire on unarmed gathering – 67 killed; ANC and Pan-African Congress banned
Benin, Burkina Faso, Central African Republic, Chad, Congo, Gabon, Ivory Coast, Madagascar, Mali, Mauritania, Niger, Nigeria, Senegal, Somalia, Togo gain independence
Congo: attempted secession of Katanga province; martial law declared by new president Patrice Lumumba; military seizes power, supported by US and Belgium; Lumumba arrested
South Korea: April 19 student revolution topples regime of Syngman Rhee; democracy short-lived, as General Park Chung-hee takes power in military coup
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1961</td>
<td>US-sponsored Bay of Pigs invasion of Cuba thwarted</td>
<td>Nnamdi Azikiwe (Nigeria), <em>Zik: Selected Speeches</em> (NF)</td>
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<td>Cameroon, Sierra Leone, Tanzania gain independence</td>
<td>Frantz Fanon (Martinique), <em>The Wretched of the Earth</em> (NF)</td>
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<td>Congo: Lumumba murdered while in custody</td>
<td>Vo Nguyen Giap (Vietnam), <em>People's War People's Army</em> (NF)</td>
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<td>Angola: armed struggle begins</td>
<td>Ernesto “Che” Guevara (Argentina/Cuba), <em>Guerrilla Warfare</em> (NF)</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>South Africa: Albert Luthuli, President of ANC, awarded Nobel Peace Prize</td>
<td>Adonis (Syria), <em>Songs of Mibyar the Damascene</em> (P)</td>
</tr>
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<td>First Conference of Non-Aligned Countries, Belgrade</td>
<td>Cyprian Ekwensi (Nigeria), <em>Jagua Nana</em> (F)</td>
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<td>Attia Hosain (India), <em>Sunlight on a Broken Column</em> (F)</td>
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<td>Cheikh Hamidou Kane (Senegal), <em>Ambiguous Adventure</em> (F)</td>
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<td>V. S. Naipaul (Trinidad), <em>A House for Mr. Biswas</em> (F)</td>
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<td>Mehdi Ben Barka (Algeria), “Resolving the Ambiguities of National Sovereignty” (NF)</td>
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<td>Kenneth Kaunda (Zambia), <em>Zambia Shall Be Free</em> (A)</td>
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<td>Patrice Lumumba (Congo), <em>Congo My Country</em> (NF)</td>
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<td>Albert Luthuli (South Africa), <em>Let My People Go</em> (NF)</td>
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<td>Carlos Fuentes (Mexico), <em>The Death of Artemio Cruz</em> (F)</td>
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<td>F. Sionil José (Philippines), <em>The Pretenders</em> (F)</td>
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<td>Alex La Guma (South Africa), <em>A Walk in the Night</em> (F)</td>
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<tr>
<td>1962</td>
<td>Algeria, Burundi, Jamaica, Rwanda, Trinidad and Tobago, Uganda gain independence</td>
<td>Carlos Martinez Moreno (Uruguay), <em>The Wall</em> (F)</td>
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<td>Border war between India and China</td>
<td>Mario Vargas Llosa (Peru), <em>The Time of the Hero</em> (F)</td>
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<td>Cuban missile crisis: US President Kennedy authorizes blockade of Cuba in bid to prevent deployment of Soviet nuclear weapons</td>
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