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978-0-521-53418-5 - The Cambridge Companion to Postcolonial Literary Studies

Edited by Neil Lazarus

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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.

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THE CAMBRIDGE
COMPANION TO
POSTCOLONIAL
LITERARY STUDIES

EDITED BY
NEIL LAZARUS



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For Edward Said (1935–2003), who taught all of us

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INDICATIVE CHRONOLOGY

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 indiscriminating. 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

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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 Jallianwallagh 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 the Nama and Herero peoples in South West Africa and the Acehese 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

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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

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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

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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 lézarde* 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 lézarde*.

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

Chronology

Date	Political/historical events	Literary and other writings
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	Joseph Conrad, <i>Heart of Darkness</i> (F; CD) Rudyard Kipling, <i>The White Man's Burden</i> (NF; CD)
1899	Sudan: Battle of Omdurman, Mahdist forces defeated by British Madagascar: revolt against French colonial power (–1904) South Africa: outbreak of Anglo-Boer War (–1902)	Solomon T. Plaatje (South Africa), <i>Boer War Diary</i> (NF) José Enrique Rodó, <i>Ariel</i> (NF)
1900	China: Boxer Rebellion, anti-Western uprisings; forcibly put down Foraker Act renders Puerto Rico a colony of the US Gold Coast: Ashanti rebellion First Pan-African Conference, London	Rudyard Kipling, <i>Kim</i> (F; CD) J. A. Hobson, <i>Imperialism</i> (NF)
1901	Cuba: Platt Amendment; US appropriates part of Guantánamo Bay; imposes quasi-protectorate status on Cuba	E. D. Morel, <i>The Congo Slave State</i> (NF)
1902	US occupies Panama, forcing its separation from Colombia	Joseph Conrad, <i>Nostromo</i> (F; CD)
1903	Russo-Japanese War, ends (1905) with defeat of Russians	Joseph Conrad, <i>Nostromo</i> (F; CD)
1904	Namibia: uprising of Herero and Nama against German rule East Indies: revolt by Acehnese in Sumatra; forcibly put down	Joseph Conrad, <i>Nostromo</i> (F; CD)
1905	India: launch of <i>swadeshi</i> (“of our own country”) movement (–1908), in protest at British decision to partition Bengal Tanganyika: Maji Maji revolt (–1907)	(cont.)

Date	Political/historical events	Literary and other writings
1906	South Africa: Bambatha Rebellion (Zulu uprising), begins as protest against poll tax US troops occupy Cuba (–1909)	Ch'oe Nam-son (Korea), “From the Sea to a Youth” (P) Rabindranath Tagore (India), <i>Home and the World</i> (F)
1907	Britain grants dominion status to its self-governing (white) colonies	Mohandas K. Gandhi (India), <i>Hind Swaraj</i> (NF)
1908		
1909	India: Morley–Minto reforms US troops occupy Nicaragua (–1925)	
1910	Korea: annexation by Japan; colonial rule to 1945 Mexico: revolution begins with constitutional and guerrilla challenges to the dictatorship of Porfirio Díaz	
1911	China: Revolution ends imperial regime, establishes provisional republic Mexico: Díaz regime falls; liberal reformer Francisco Madero assumes presidency	Iliya Abu Madi (Lebanon), <i>The Memorial of the Past</i> (P) J. E. Casely-Hayford (Gold Coast), <i>Ethiopia Unbound</i> (F) Muhammad Iqbal (India), “Complaint” (P)
1912	Cuba: uprising led by Independent Movement of People of Color; forcibly put down with assistance of US	
1913	South Africa: Native Land Act Mexico: Madero deposed, then murdered; Pancho Villa resumes guerrilla campaign	Rabindranath Tagore wins Nobel Prize for Literature
1914	Outbreak of First World War	Gabriela Mistral (Chile), <i>Sonnets of Death</i> (P)

- 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
- 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
- 1918 Armistice treaty signed, brings First World War to an end
Declaration of the Irish Republic
- 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
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
- Nikolai Bukharin, *Imperialism and World Economy* (NF)
Mariano Azuela (Mexico), *The Underdogs* (F)
- V. I. Lenin, *Imperialism: The Highest Stage of Capitalism* (NF)
Rabindranath Tagore (India), *Nationalism* (NF)
Yi Kwang-su (Korea), *Heartlessness* (F)
Lu Hsun (China), “A Madman’s Diary” (F)
- Li Ta-chao (China), “A New Era” (NF)
Chu Yo-han (Korea), *Fireworks* (P)
- (cont.)

Date	Political/historical events	Literary and other writings
1920	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)	
1921	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	Frederick Lugard, <i>The Dual Mandate in British Tropical Africa</i> (NF; CD) M. N. Roy (India), <i>India in Transition</i> (NF) René Maran (Martinique), <i>Batoutala</i> (F)
1922	Declaration of the Irish Free State	Albert Sarraut, <i>The Economic Development of the French Colonies</i> (NF; CD) Zhu Ziqing (China), “Destruction” (P)
1923	Ceylon: general strike, militant fusion of nationalist and class-based demands	E. M. Forster, <i>A Passage to India</i> (F; CD) Pablo Neruda (Chile), <i>Twenty Love Poems and a Song of Despair</i> (P)
1924	Mexico: Pancho Villa murdered China: Sun Yat-sen dies; leadership of Kuomintang (National People’s Party) assumed by the anti-communist Chiang Kai-shek India: communalist violence between Hindus and Muslims; Gandhi begins hunger strike as “a penance and a prayer”	José Eustasio Rivera (Colombia), <i>The Vortex</i> (F) Sun Yat-sen (China), <i>The Three Principles of the People</i> (NF) Kim So-wol (Korea), <i>Azaleas</i> (P)
1925	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 Nanch'ang and Hunan are crushed
Nicaragua: rebellion against authoritarian regime of Adolfo Díaz; US intervention, successfully resisted by forces under Augustino César Sandino
- 1927 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
- 1929 Nigeria: Aba "women's riots"
India: Meerut Conspiracy Case against 31 labor leaders
Palestine: riots sparked by founding of the Jewish Agency; several hundred killed, many by British soldiers
Geneva Convention signed, regulating treatment of prisoners of war
- 1930 India: Gandhi launches Civil Disobedience Movement
Vietnam: peasant uprising, coincides with formation of Communist Party
Brazil: military coup
- Ho Chi Minh (Vietnam), *Colonization on Trial* (NF)
Ricardo Güiraldes (Argentina), *Don Segundo Sombra* (F)
Martín Luis Guzmán (Mexico), *The Eagle and the Serpent* (F)
Thomas Mofolo (South Africa), *Chaka* (F)
- André Gide, *Voyage to the Congo* (NF; CD)
Cho Myong-hui (Korea), *The Nakdonggang River* (F)
Taha Husain (Egypt), *The Days* (vol. II, 1939) (A)
José Vasconcelos, *The Cosmic Race* (NF)
Mário de Andrade (Brazil), *Macunaíma* (F)
José Carlos Mariátegui, *Seven Essays towards an Interpretation of Peruvian Reality* (NF)
Rómulo Gallegos (Venezuela), *Doña Bárbara* (F)
Wen I-to (China), *Dead Water* (P)
- Mao Tse-tung (China), "A Single Spark Can Start a Prairie Fire" (NF)
Launch of Négritude movement in Paris by Francophone intellectuals including Léopold Sédar Senghor, Aimé Césaire, and Leon Damas
Nicolás Guillén (Cuba), *Son Motifs* (P)
Solomon T. Plaatje (South Africa), *Mbudi* (F) (cont.)

Date	Political/historical events	Literary and other writings
1931	British Commonwealth of Nations created Japanese invade Manchuria	Evelyn Waugh, <i>Black Mischief</i> (F; CD) Gregorio López y Fuentes (Mexico), <i>The Land</i> (F) Ahmad Shauqi (Egypt), <i>Diwan</i>
1932	Thailand: absolute monarchy overthrown in bloodless civilian–military coup El Salvador: insurrection led by Farabundo Martí crushed; supported by US, dictator Maximiliano Hernández oversees pogrom in which 30,000 are killed	Mulk Raj Anand (India), <i>Untouchable</i> (F) Tewfiq al-Hakim (Egypt), <i>The People of the Cave</i> (D) Claude McKay (Jamaica), <i>Banana Bottom</i> (F) Mao Tun (China), <i>Midnight</i> (F) Gilberto Freyre, <i>The Master and the Slaves</i> (NF)
1933	Nicaragua: take-over of power by Anastasio Somoza García, supported by US; Sandino murdered	George Orwell, <i>Burmese Days</i> (F; CD) Hsiao Hung (China), <i>The Field of Life and Death</i> (F) Jorge Icaza (Ecuador), <i>Huaspungo</i> (F) Alfred Mendes (Trinidad), <i>Pitch Lake</i> (F) Shen Ts'ung-wen (China), <i>Border Town</i> (F) Hu Shih, <i>The Chinese Renaissance</i> (NF)
1934	China: “Long March” begins, as Mao Tse-tung and his supporters trek to remote Yenan to escape liquidation by KMT forces	Jorge Luis Borges (Argentina), <i>A Universal History of Infamy</i> (F)
1935	Mussolini's forces invade and occupy Ethiopia Passage of Government of India Act Wave of strikes in Central African copper-belt China: Japanese forces seize Beijing, set up puppet regime in north	Meo Tse-tung (China), <i>Problems of Strategy in China's Revolutionary War</i> (NF) Jayaprakash Narayan (India), <i>Why Socialism?</i> (NF) Jawaharlal Nehru (India), <i>An Autobiography</i> Manik Bhandopadhyay (India), <i>The History of Puppets</i> (F) C. L. R. James (Trinidad), <i>Minty Alley</i> (F) Lao She (China), <i>Camel Hsiang-tzu</i> (F) Premchand (India), <i>The Gift of a Cow</i> (F)
1936	Spanish Civil War erupts Paraguay: military coup; fascist regime installed Palestine: Arab revolt (–1939), protesting British rule and dispossessions caused by Zionist settlement; brutally crushed by British, with more than 1,000 Palestinian deaths	

- 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
- 1938 Jomo Kenyatta (Kenya), *Facing Mount Kenya* (NF)
 Ciro Alegria (Peru), *The Hungry Dogs* (F)
 María 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 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 Khorchim Banner* (F)
- 1940 Fall of France to Nazi forces
 Vietnam: revolts in southern Mekong Delta
- (cont.)

Date	Political/historical events	Literary and other writings
1941	Ethiopia: Allies capture Addis Ababa from Italians, enabling Haile Selassie to return after five-year absence Japanese troops capture Cambodia, Vietnam, Thailand; in response, Ho Chi Minh launches Viet Minh independence movement Japan bombs US fleet in Pearl Harbor, precipitating US into War; Japanese invade and occupy Hong Kong, Malaya	H. I. E. Dhlomo (South Africa), <i>Valley of a Thousand Hills</i> (P) Edgar Mittelholzer (Guyana), <i>Corentyne Thunder</i> (F) Ibrahim Tuqan (Palestine), <i>Du'uan</i>
1942	India: Gandhi launches Quit India Movement Japanese forces capture Singapore, Java, Burma, and the Philippines; attack Solomon Islands and New Guinea	Albert Camus, <i>The Outsider</i> (F; CD) Jorge Amado (Brazil), <i>The Violent Land</i> (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), <i>A Chicken's Memoirs</i> (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), <i>Everyone's Blood</i> (F) Ismat Chughtai (India), <i>The Quilt and Other Stories</i> Jacques Roumain (Haiti), <i>Masters of the Dew</i> (F) Eric Williams, <i>Capitalism and Slavery</i> (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 Mohanthy (India), <i>Paraja</i> (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 fledgling 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. Hattarr* (F) (cont.)

Date	Political/historical events	Literary and other writings
	<p>Indo-Pakistan war over disputed state of Kashmir</p> <p>India: Gandhi assassinated</p> <p>Palestine: fighting between Palestinians and Zionists escalates into civil war; massacre of Palestinian villagers at Dair Yasin by Zionist ultras; Palestinians driven out of their homes and off their land; independent Jewish state declared; declaration immediately recognized by US; by year's end, number of Palestinian refugees estimated at 1 million</p> <p>Malaya: massive, communist-inspired insurgency, guerrilla war against British colonial rule (~1953); eventually defeated</p> <p>Philippines: Huk rebellion – peasant struggle against landed oligarchy – begins; eventually crushed (1954)</p> <p>Cambodia gains independence</p> <p>UN adopts Declaration of Human Rights</p>	<p>Saadat Hasan Manto (Pakistan), “Toba Tek Singh” (F)</p> <p>Ernesto Sábato (Argentina), <i>The Tunnel</i> (F)</p> <p>Léopold Sédar Senghor, ed. <i>Anthologie de la nouvelle poésie nègre et malgache de langue française</i> (P)</p> <p>Jean-Paul Sartre, “Black Orpheus” (NF)</p>
1949	<p>China: victory of communist forces under Mao Tse-tung; People's Republic proclaimed; Chiang Kai-shek's nationalists take refuge in Taiwan</p> <p>Indonesia gains independence under Sukarno</p> <p>Laos gains independence</p>	<p>Miguel Angel Asturias (Guatemala), <i>Men of Maize</i> (F)</p> <p>Alejo Carpentier (Cuba), <i>The Kingdom of This World</i> (F)</p> <p>Khalil Mutran (Lebanon), <i>Diwan</i></p> <p>V. S. Reid (Jamaica), <i>New Day</i> (F)</p> <p>Ma'ruf al-Rusafi (Iraq), <i>Diwan</i></p> <p>Ting Ling (China), <i>The Sangkan River</i> (F)</p>
1950	<p>Outbreak of US–Korean war (~1953); casualties will top 1 million</p> <p>Tibet: China invades, assumes control</p> <p>Jordan annexes West Bank, absorbing 600,000 Palestinians</p>	<p>Doris Lessing, <i>The Grass is Singing</i> (F; CD)</p> <p>Pablo Neruda (Chile), <i>Canto general</i> (P)</p> <p>Octavio Paz, <i>Labyrinth of Solitude</i> (NF)</p>
1951	<p>Egypt: guerrilla war against British forces in Suez Canal Zone</p> <p>Libya gains independence</p> <p>Iran nationalizes its oil industry</p>	<p>Nirad C. Chaudhuri (India), <i>The Autobiography of an Unknown Indian</i></p>

- 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 Chéhid (Egypt), *From Sleep Unbound* (F)
 Mochtar Lubis (Indonesia), *A Road with No End* (F)
 Amos Tutuola (Nigeria), *The Palm-Wine Drinkard* (F)
 Frantz 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 Chraïbi (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)
 Saadi Yousef (Iraq), *Songs Not for Others* (P)
 Wang Meng (China), *The Young Newcomer* (F)
 (cont.)

Date	Political/historical events	Literary and other writings
1956	<p>Egypt: Nasser nationalizes Suez Canal; Egypt invaded by Israel, with British and French support; withdrawal of these forces negotiated</p> <p>Sudan gains independence; armed resistance continues in the south (–1972)</p> <p>Morocco, Tunisia gain independence</p> <p>Cuba: Castro initiates revolution when he returns to Cuba with small armed force</p> <p>Yemen: anti-British strikes in Aden; clashes between British and Yemeni troops (–1957)</p> <p>Soviet Union: at 20th Congress of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union, Nikita Khrushchev denounces Stalin's crimes; initiates de-Stalinization</p> <p>Hungary: anti-Stalinist uprising crushed by Soviet troops</p> <p>China: Mao introduces “Hundred Flowers” campaign (“Let a hundred flowers bloom, let a hundred schools of thought contend”)</p>	<p>First international conference of black writers and artists (Paris)</p> <p>George Padmore (Trinidad), <i>Pan Africanism or Communism?</i> (NF)</p> <p>Carlos Bulosan (Philippines), <i>America is in the Heart</i> (A)</p> <p>Mongo Beti (Cameroon), <i>The Poor Christ of Bomba</i> (F)</p> <p>Chang Ai-ling (China), <i>Naked Earth</i> (F)</p> <p>David Diop (Senegal), <i>Hammer Blows</i> (P)</p> <p>Faiz Ahmed Faiz (Pakistan), <i>Prison Thoughts</i> (P)</p> <p>João Guimarães Rosa (Brazil), <i>The Devil to Pay in the Backlands</i> (F)</p> <p>Naguib Mahfouz (Egypt), <i>Cairo Trilogy</i> (–1957) (F)</p> <p>Ferdinand Oyono (Cameroon), <i>Houseboy</i> (F)</p> <p>Samuel Selvon (Trinidad), <i>The Lonely Londoners</i> (F)</p> <p>Kushwant Singh (India), <i>Train to Pakistan</i> (F)</p>
1957	<p>Ghana gains independence; also peninsular Malaya (becomes Malaysia in 1963 with incorporation of Sarawak, Sabah and Singapore)</p> <p>Indonesia: Sukarno declares martial law; revoked 1963</p> <p>Algeria: Battle of Algiers</p>	<p>Kwame Nkrumah (Ghana), <i>Ghana: Autobiography</i></p> <p>Octavio Paz (Mexico), <i>Sunstone</i> (P)</p> <p>Albert Memmi, <i>The Colonizer and the Colonized</i> (NF)</p>
1958	<p>Pakistan: military coup brings Mohammed Ayub Khan to power</p> <p>Guinea gains independence</p> <p>Cameroun: Reuben Um Nyobé, UPC leader, killed</p> <p>All-African People's Conference, Accra</p>	<p>Chinua Achebe (Nigeria), <i>Things Fall Apart</i> (F)</p> <p>Edouard Glissant (Martinique), <i>The Ripening</i> (F)</p> <p>N. V. M. Gonzalez (Philippines), <i>Bread of Salt</i> (F)</p> <p>Ludu U Hla (Burma), <i>The Caged Ones</i> (F)</p>

- 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
- 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 (–1973)
 Tibet: rebellion crushed by Chinese forces; Dalai Lama flees into exile
 Laos: Pathet Lao communist rebels launch major offensive against state
- 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, Burkino 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
- Qurratulain Hyder (India), *River of Fire* (F)
 Es'kia Mphahlele (South Africa), *Down Second Avenue* (A)
- Wilson Harris (Guyana), *Palace of the Peacock* (F)
 Hwang Sun-won (South Korea), *Trees on a Cliff* (F)
 Ousmane Sembene (Senegal), *God's Bits of Wood* (F)
 George Lamming, *The Pleasures of Exile* (NF)
- (cont.)

Date	Political/historical events	Literary and other writings
1961	<p>US-sponsored Bay of Pigs invasion of Cuba thwarted</p> <p>Cameroon, Sierra Leone, Tanzania gain independence</p> <p>Congo: Lumumba murdered while in custody</p> <p>Angola: armed struggle begins</p> <p>South Africa: Albert Luthuli, President of ANC, awarded Nobel Peace Prize</p> <p>First Conference of Non-Aligned Countries, Belgrade</p>	<p>Nnamdi Azikiwe (Nigeria), <i>Zik: Selected Speeches</i> (NF)</p> <p>Franz Fanon (Martinique), <i>The Wretched of the Earth</i> (NF)</p> <p>Vo Nguyen Giap (Vietnam), <i>People's War People's Army</i> (NF)</p> <p>Ernesto "Che" Guevara (Argentina/Cuba), <i>Guerrilla Warfare</i> (NF)</p> <p>Adonis (Syria), <i>Songs of Mihyar the Damascene</i> (P)</p> <p>Cyprian Ekwensi (Nigeria), <i>Jagua Nana</i> (F)</p> <p>Artta Hosain (India), <i>Sunlight on a Broken Column</i> (F)</p> <p>Cheikh Hamidou Kane (Senegal), <i>Ambiguous Adventure</i> (F)</p> <p>V. S. Naipaul (Trinidad), <i>A House for Mr. Biswas</i> (F)</p>
1962	<p>Algeria, Burundi, Jamaica, Rwanda, Trinidad and Tobago, Uganda gain independence</p> <p>Border war between India and China</p> <p>Cuban missile crisis: US President Kennedy authorizes blockade of Cuba in bid to prevent deployment of Soviet nuclear weapons</p>	<p>Mehdi Ben Barka (Algeria), "Resolving the Ambiguities of National Sovereignty" (NF)</p> <p>Kenneth Kaunda (Zambia), <i>Zambia Shall Be Free</i> (A)</p> <p>Patrice Lumumba (Congo), <i>Congo My Country</i> (NF)</p> <p>Albert Luthuli (South Africa), <i>Let My People Go</i> (NF)</p> <p>Carlos Fuentes (Mexico), <i>The Death of Artemio Cruz</i> (F)</p> <p>F. Sionil José (Philippines), <i>The Pretenders</i> (F)</p> <p>Alex La Guma (South Africa), <i>A Walk in the Night</i> (F)</p> <p>Carlos Martínez Moreno (Uruguay), <i>The Wall</i> (F)</p> <p>Mario Vargas Llosa (Peru), <i>The Time of the Hero</i> (F)</p>