

Cambridge University Press

978-1-107-13281-8 - The Cambridge Companion to the Postcolonial Novel

Ato Quayson

Frontmatter

[More information](#)

THE CAMBRIDGE COMPANION
TO THE POSTCOLONIAL NOVEL

The Cambridge Companion to the Postcolonial Novel provides an engaging account of the postcolonial novel, from Joseph Conrad to Junot Díaz, Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie, and others. Reflecting the development of postcolonial literary studies into a significant and intellectually vibrant field, this *Companion* explores genres and theoretical movements such as magical realism, crime fiction, ecocriticism, and gender and sexuality. Written by a host of leading scholars in the field, this book offers insight into the representative movements, cultural settings, and critical reception that define the postcolonial novel. Covering subjects from disability and diaspora to the sublime and the city, this *Companion* reveals the myriad traditions that have shaped the postcolonial literary landscape, and will serve as a valuable resource to students and established scholars alike.

Ato Quayson is Professor of English and Director of the Centre for Diaspora and Transnational Studies at the University of Toronto. He is Fellow of both the Ghana Academy of Arts and Sciences and of the Royal Society of Canada. His books include *Postcolonialism: Theory, Practice or Process*; *Calibrations: Reading for the Social*; and *Aesthetic Nervousness: Disability and the Crisis of Representation*.

Cambridge University Press

978-1-107-13281-8 - The Cambridge Companion to the Postcolonial Novel

Ato Quayson

Frontmatter

[More information](#)

Cambridge University Press

978-1-107-13281-8 - The Cambridge Companion to the Postcolonial Novel

Ato Quayson

Frontmatter

[More information](#)

THE CAMBRIDGE
COMPANION TO
THE POSTCOLONIAL
NOVEL

ATO QUAYSON

University of Toronto



CAMBRIDGE
UNIVERSITY PRESS

Cambridge University Press
 978-1-107-13281-8 - The Cambridge Companion to the Postcolonial Novel
 Ato Quayson
 Frontmatter
[More information](#)

CAMBRIDGE
 UNIVERSITY PRESS

32 Avenue of the Americas, New York, NY 10013-2473, USA

Cambridge University Press is part of the University of Cambridge.

It furthers the University's mission by disseminating knowledge in the pursuit of education, learning, and research at the highest international levels of excellence.

www.cambridge.org

Information on this title: www.cambridge.org/9781107588059

© Cambridge University Press 2016

This publication is in copyright. Subject to statutory exception and to the provisions of relevant collective licensing agreements, no reproduction of any part may take place without the written permission of Cambridge University Press.

First published 2016

Printed in the United States of America

A catalog record for this publication is available from the British Library.

Library of Congress Cataloging-in-Publication Data

The Cambridge companion to the postcolonial novel / [edited by] Ato Quayson, University of Toronto.

pages cm. – (Cambridge companions to literature)

Includes bibliographical references and index.

ISBN 978-1-107-13281-8 (Hardback)

1. Postcolonialism in literature. 2. Fiction—20th century—History and criticism. 3. Fiction—21st century—History and criticism. I. Quayson, Ato, editor.

PN56.P555C36 2016

809'.93358—dc23 2015033499

ISBN 978-1-107-13281-8 Hardback

ISBN 978-1-107-58805-9 Paperback

Cambridge University Press has no responsibility for the persistence or accuracy of URLs for external or third-party Internet Web sites referred to in this publication and does not guarantee that any content on such Web sites is, or will remain, accurate or appropriate.

CONTENTS

<i>List of Contributors</i>	<i>page</i> vii
<i>Acknowledgments</i>	ix
<i>Chronology of Political and Literary Events</i>	x
1 Introduction: Changing Contexts of the Postcolonial Novel ATO QUAYSON	1
2 The Colonial Novel TIM WATSON	15
3 The Postcolonial Novel in the Wake of 1989 DEBJANI GANGULY	35
4 Magical/Realist Novels and “The Politics of the Possible” ZOE NORRIDGE	60
5 Nature, Ecocriticism, and the Postcolonial Novel ANTHONY CARRIGAN	81
6 Disability and the Postcolonial Novel CLARE BARKER	99
7 Gender, Sexuality, and the Postcolonial Novel EVAN MWANGI	116
8 The Postcolonial Novel and Diaspora YOON SUN LEE	133

CONTENTS

9	Itineraries of the Sublime in the Postcolonial Novel PHILIP DICKINSON	152
10	The Postcolonial Crime Novel STEPHEN KNIGHT	166
11	The Gleam and the Darkness: Representations of the City in the Postcolonial Novel RASHMI VARMA	188
12	Space and the Postcolonial Novel ROBERT ZACHARIAS	208
13	Tragedy and the Postcolonial Novel ATO QUAYSON	230
	<i>Recommended Reading</i>	248
	<i>Index</i>	255

CONTRIBUTORS

ATO QUAYSON is Professor of English and inaugural Director of the Centre for Diaspora Studies at the University of Toronto. He is the author of *Strategic Transformations in Nigerian Writing* (1997), *Postcolonialism: Theory, Practice, or Process?* (2000), *Calibrations: Reading for the Social* (2003), *Aesthetic Nervousness: Disability and the Crisis of Representation* (2007), and *Oxford Street: City Life and the Itineraries of Transnationalism* (2014); co-editor of *African Literature: An Anthology of Criticism and Theory* (with Tejumola Olaniyan; 2007) and *Companion to Diaspora and Transnationalism* (with Girish Daswani; 2013); and also editor of the two-volume *Cambridge History of Postcolonial Literature* (2012).

TIM WATSON is Associate Professor in the Department of English at the University of Miami. He is the author of *Caribbean Culture and British Fiction, 1780–1870* (2008) and editor, with Candace Ward, of a new edition of the 1827 novel, *Hamel, the Obea Man* by Cynric R. Williams (2010).

DEBJANI GANGULY is Associate Professor at the Australian National University, where she was Director of the Humanities Research Centre from 2007 to 2015. She has published *Caste and Dalit Lifeworlds: Postcolonial Perspectives* (2008), *Rethinking Gandhi and Nonviolent Relationality: Global Perspectives* (ed. with John Docker; 2007), *Edward Said: The Legacy of a Public Intellectual* (ed. with Ned Curthoys; 2007), and *This Thing Called the World: The Novel in Our Time* (2015).

ZOE NORRIDGE is Lecturer in English and Comparative Literature at King's College, London and author of *Perceiving Pain in African Literature* (2012).

ANTHONY CARRIGAN is Lecturer in Postcolonial Literatures and Cultures at the University of Leeds. He is the author of *Postcolonial Tourism: Literature, Culture, and Environment* (2011) and co-editor with Elizabeth DeLoughrey and Jill Didur, *Global Ecologies and the Environmental Humanities: Postcolonial Approaches* (2015).

CONTRIBUTORS

CLARE BARKER is Lecturer in English Literature at the University of Leeds and is the author of *Postcolonial Fiction and Disability* (2012).

EVAN MWANGI is Associate Professor in English at Northwestern University, he is the author of *Africa Writes Back to Self: Metafiction, Gender, Sexuality* (2009) and co-editor, with Simon Gikandi, of *The Columbia Guide to East African Literature in English since 1945*.

YOON SUN LEE is Mildred Lane Kemper Professor of English at Wellesley College. Her works include *Nationalism and Irony* (2004) and *Modern Minority: Asian American Literature and Everyday Life* (2012).

PHILIP DICKINSON obtained his PhD from the University of Toronto in 2014 and has published in *Mosaic* and *Postcolonial Text*. He is an SSHRC Post-Doctoral Research Fellow at Columbia University.

STEPHEN KNIGHT has had distinguished stints at the University of Sydney, De Montfort University, and the University of Wales, Cardiff. He is Fellow of the Australian Academy of the Humanities and is currently at the University of Melbourne. His publications include *Form and Ideology in Crime Fiction* (1980), *Arthurian Literature and Society* (1983), *Geoffrey Chaucer* (1987), *Robin Hood: A Complete Study* (1994), *Continent of Mystery: A Thematic History of Australian Crime Fiction* (1997), *Merlin: Knowledge and Power* (2009), and *The Mysteries of the Cities* (2012).

RASHMI VARMA is Associate Professor in English at the University of Warwick and the author of *The Postcolonial City and its Subject: London, Nairobi, Bombay* (2011; paperback 2014).

ROBERT ZACHARIAS is Banting Postdoctoral Research Fellow at the University of Waterloo. He is the author of *Rewriting the Break Event: Mennonites and Migration in Canadian Literature* (2013) and is the co-editor, with Smaro Kamboureli, of *Shifting the Ground of Canadian Literary Studies* (2012).

Cambridge University Press

978-1-107-13281-8 - The Cambridge Companion to the Postcolonial Novel

Ato Quayson

Frontmatter

[More information](#)

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

I want to thank my contributors for their patience in bringing this volume to fruition and the University of Toronto for financial support in completing the manuscript. Nia Barbarossa was a very helpful work-study assistant as was Kamran Bozorgmehr, who stepped in to rescue a file without which the entire project might well have collapsed into complete disorder.

Ray Ryan remains, as always, a demanding editor. His persistence in asking the right questions at the wrong times helped to bring work on the volume to a timely conclusion.

CHRONOLOGY OF POLITICAL AND LITERARY EVENTS

This chronology starts from 1854, the year of the establishment of the reconstituted Colonial Office. The primary inspiration for the list of political and literary events laid out here is the one provided in Neil Lazarus's *Cambridge Companion to Postcolonial Literary Studies*. As he notes, highlighting world historical events from the perspective of the formerly colonized world means giving special place to acts of resistance and opposition to colonial and imperial rule, which may not have necessarily had an impact beyond the places from which they were launched yet were very meaningful for the local actors. It also means providing a slightly different inflection to certain significant dates in world history. The year 1945 is a good example of this. This date immediately invokes the end of World War II and it is also a date during which many significant changes were taking place in the formerly colonized world, not all of which had a bearing on war at all. And so, in the same year, we find the following events:

- In Algeria, French repression of nationalists, triggering major uprising; thousands killed.
- Revolution in Vietnam brings Ho Chi Minh's Viet Minh to power; French forces attempt to recapture colonial power; war ensues (1945–1954).
- Philippines liberated from Japanese occupation.
- Syria and Lebanon gain independence.
- Fifth Pan-African Congress held in Manchester, England; proclaims “right of all colonial peoples to control their own destiny.”

The shifts in relations between colonizer and colonized, the alteration of the global political economy, and the rise of different social agents all over the world are best discerned when the chronology is read in comparative terms. At the same time, the correlation of political to literary events is not always self-evident, especially because there is often a lengthy time lag between the occurrence of a major historical event and its representation in literature. Some events have the effect of instituting a sense of immediacy that gets

CHRONOLOGY OF POLITICAL AND LITERARY EVENTS

translated into the literary-aesthetic domain in a short time. That, we might argue, has been the effect of September 11, 2001, which just over a decade after the event has spawned an entire cultural industry of representations. For an event such as the Biafra secessionist bid in Nigeria (1967–1971), the almost immediate profusion of literary representations gave way to a lengthy period of quiet until the publication of Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie's *Half of a Yellow Sun* (2007), which revisits the events from the perspective of someone who grew up well after those events had occurred and yet had her consciousness shaped by the stories that persistently circulated about them. Such a revisiting also represents a reinterpretation of the historical event from a different generational perspective, thus inviting us to return to the event and see its potential world-historical significance in a completely new light. We come to note, for example, the population dispersal that came out of that war and that now creates the diasporic imaginary of an entirely new brand of Igbo and Nigerians. This is but one example of the dialectical relationship between what appears at inception to be a purely local event and its more world-historical dimensions that come to the foreground only with the passage of time.

Despite the fact that the *Companion* has as its central interest the postcolonial novel in English, it would have been impossible to exclusively list only events and literary texts that occurred or were published within the Anglophone-speaking world. The Cuban Revolution, the Algerian liberation struggle, and the Vietnam War have had such an impact on the imagination of postcolonials everywhere as to merit inclusion. Similarly, Ralph Ellison's *Invisible Man* and Toni Morrison's Nobel Prize are significant literary landmarks for all of the postcolonial world. A justification can also be made for critical texts considered to have had a significant impact on the field, such as Vladimir Lenin's *Imperialism: The Highest Stage of Capitalism*, Eric Williams' *Capitalism and Slavery*, and Immanuel Wallerstein's *The Modern World System* (Vols. 1 and 2).

The literary chronology is built on three broad principles of inclusion. The first has been to list texts from as wide a variety of postcolonial literary traditions as possible. This has also meant establishing a balance between texts from the former settler colonies of Canada and Australia and those from the colored majority countries such as Nigeria, India, and South Africa. Even though the inclusion of Ireland under the rubric of postcolonialism is still considered somewhat controversial by some, there has been enough comparative work relating Ireland to the rest of the postcolonial world to justify the inclusion here of at least W.B. Yeats, James Joyce, and Samuel Beckett, all three of whom have wielded a significant influence on postcolonial writing across the world.

CHRONOLOGY OF POLITICAL AND LITERARY EVENTS

When Nobel Prize winners are listed more than once, their dates of birth and death (where applicable) have been entered against their names in the year in which they won the prize. Other writers are listed according to their countries of origin, except in cases where they are considered canonical in the field do not have their dates of birth and death listed. The dates of the founding of significant literary journals in the field from various regions have been provided, along with those for the important literary prizes.

Political Events

Literary Events

- | | | |
|------|--|---|
| 1854 | -Reconstituted Colonial Office established | |
| 1855 | -Britain annexes Oudh, India, and establishes Natal as Crown Colony | |
| 1857 | -Indian mutiny over British rule; siege of Delhi begins; Delhi captured; British enter Cawnpore | |
| 1861 | -American Civil War (until 1865) | |
| 1867 | -British North America Act establishes Dominion of Canada | |
| 1873 | -Republic proclaimed in Spain
-Abolition of slave market and exports in Zanzibar | |
| 1873 | -Britain annexes Fiji islands | 1852 -Harriet Beecher Stowe, <i>Uncle Tom's Cabin</i> |
| 1875 | -Britain buys 176,602 Suez Canal shares from Khedive of Egypt | |
| 1879 | -British Zulu War: Zulus massacre British soldiers in Isandhlwana, British capture Cetewayo
-French Panama Canal Company organized under Ferdinand de Lesseps | |
| 1880 | -France annexes Tahiti
-Transvaal declares itself independent of Britain; Boers led by Kruger declare a republic | |
| 1883 | -British decide to evacuate Sudan | |
| 1884 | -Berlin Conference of 14 European nations on African affairs | |

CHRONOLOGY OF POLITICAL AND LITERARY EVENTS

- 1885 -The Congo becomes a personal possession of King Leopold II of Belgium
 -Germany annexes Tanganyika and Zanzibar
 -Great Britain establishes protectorate over North Bechuanaland, the Niger river region, and south New Guinea; occupies Port Hamilton, Korea
- 1886 -First Indian National Congress meets
- 1887 -First Colonial Conference opens in London
- 1888 -Suez Canal convention
- 1890 -Britain exchanges Helgoland with Germany for Zanzibar and Pemba
- 1893 -Natal granted self-governance
 -Swaziland annexed by Transvaal
 -France acquires protectorate over Laos
- 1894 -Uganda becomes a British protectorate
- 1895 -British South Africa Company territory south of Zambezi becomes Rhodesia
 -Cuba fights Spain for its independence
- 1896 -France annexes Madagascar
- 1882 -James Joyce, Irish novelist, born (died 1941)
- 1883 -Oliver Schreiner (South Africa), *The Story of an African Farm*
- 1898 -Russia obtains lease of Port Arthur, China; Britain, the lease of Kowloon
 -United States declares war on Spain over Cuba; Americans destroy Spanish fleet at Manila; Treaty of Paris between United States and Spain; Spain cedes Cuba, Puerto Rico, Guam, and the Philippines for \$20 million

Cambridge University Press

978-1-107-13281-8 - The Cambridge Companion to the Postcolonial Novel

Ato Quayson

Frontmatter

[More information](#)

CHRONOLOGY OF POLITICAL AND LITERARY EVENTS

- 1899 -Philippines demand independence from United States
- 1900 -Commonwealth of Australia created
- 1901 -Edmund Barton inaugurated as first Prime Minister of Commonwealth of Australia
-The Boers begin organized guerilla warfare
-Cuba Convention makes country a U.S. protectorate
- 1902 -Colonial Conference meets in London
-First meeting of Committee of Imperial Defense
- 1903 -British complete conquest of Northern Nigeria
-King Edward VII visits Paris; French President Loubet visits London, the “Entente Cordiale” established
- 1904 -Hereros and Hottentots revolt in German South-West Africa until 1908
- 1905 -Sinn Fein Party founded
-Alberta and Saskatchewan become provinces of Canada
- 1906 -South Africa Bambatha (Zulu uprising), begins as protest against poll tax
-Algeciras Conference gives France and Spain control of Morocco
-Self-government granted to the Transvaal and Orange River colonies
-U.S. troops occupy Cuba (until 1909) after reconciliation following Liberal revolt fails
- 1907 -New Zealand becomes a dominion within the British Empire
- 1894 -Rudyard Kipling, *The Jungle Book*
- 1897 -Joseph Conrad, *The Nigger of the Narcissus*
- 1899 -Joseph Conrad, *Heart of Darkness*

Cambridge University Press

978-1-107-13281-8 - The Cambridge Companion to the Postcolonial Novel

Ato Quayson

Frontmatter

[More information](#)

CHRONOLOGY OF POLITICAL AND LITERARY EVENTS

- Britain grants dominion status to its self-governing (white) colonies
- 1908 -Leopold II transfers the Congo (his private possession since 1885) to Belgium
-Union of South Africa established
-Dutch establish rule in Bali
- 1909 -Anglo-German discussions on control of Baghdad Railroad
-India: Morely-Minto reforms
-U.S. troops occupy Nicaragua (until 1925)
- 1910 -Egyptian Premier Boutros Ghali assassinated
-Union of South Africa becomes a dominion within the British Empire with Louis Botha as premier
-W.E.B. Du Bois founds National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP) in United States
-Start of the Mexican revolution
-Korea: annexation by Japan (colonial rule until 1945)
- 1911 -China: Revolution ends imperial regime, establishes provisional republic
- 1913 -Mahatma Gandhi, leader of Indian Passive Resistance Movement, arrested
-South Africa: Native Land Act
- 1914 -Northern and Southern Nigeria united
- Rudyard Kipling, *The White Man's Burden*
- 1900 -Joseph Conrad, *Lord Jim*
-Solomon T. Plaatje (South Africa), *Boer War Diary*
-José Enrique Rodó (Uruguay), *Ariel*
- 1901 -Rudyard Kipling, *Kim*
-Nobel Prize for Literature established
- 1902 -J.A. Hobson, *Imperialism*
- 1903 -E.D. Morel, *The Congo Slave State*
- 1904 -Joseph Conrad, *Nostramo*
- 1907 -Rudyard Kipling, Nobel Prize for Literature (20 Dec. 1865-18 Jan. 1936),
- 1908 -Rabindranath Tagore (India),

Cambridge University Press

978-1-107-13281-8 - The Cambridge Companion to the Postcolonial Novel

Ato Quayson

Frontmatter

[More information](#)

CHRONOLOGY OF POLITICAL AND LITERARY EVENTS

- | | | | |
|------|---|------|---|
| | -General Zamon becomes President of Haiti | | <i>Home and the World</i> |
| | -Start of World War I | | |
| | -Gandhi returns to India and supports government | 1909 | -Mohandas K. Gandhi (India), <i>Hind Swaraj</i> |
| 1915 | -Ceylon: Sinhala anti-Muslim riot; colonial government declares martial law | | |
| | -U.S. troops occupy Haiti | | |
| 1916 | -T.E. Lawrence (“Lawrence of Arabia”) appointed British political and liaison officer to Emir Faisal’s army | | |
| 1917 | -United States purchases Dutch West Indies | | |
| | -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 | -British government abandons Home Rule for Ireland | 1911 | -Iliya Abu Madi (Lebanon), <i>The Memorial of the Past</i> |
| | -Armistice treaty signed, brings First World War to an end Declaration of the Irish Republic | | -J.E. Casely-Hayford (Gold Coast), <i>Ethiopia Unbound</i> |
| | | | -Muhammad Iqbal (India), <i>Complaint</i> |
| 1919 | -Peace Conference opens in Versailles | 1912 | -Léon Damas born (died 1978) |
| | -German colonies in Africa to Britain, France, and Belgium as Mandates | 1913 | -Rabindranath Tagore (India), Nobel Prize for Literature (7 May 1861–7 Aug. 1941) |
| | -India: Montagu–Chelmsford reforms permitting limited self-government; Rowlatt Act gives police wide powers to investigate and | 1914 | -E.R. Burroughs: <i>Tarzan of the Apes</i> |

Cambridge University Press

978-1-107-13281-8 - The Cambridge Companion to the Postcolonial Novel

Ato Quayson

Frontmatter

[More information](#)

CHRONOLOGY OF POLITICAL AND LITERARY EVENTS

- prosecute opposition; Gandhi calls for all-India mass protest movement; massacre of civilians at Jallianwallah Bagh in Amritsar
- 1915 -President Wilson presides over first League of Nations meeting in Paris
- War between British, Indian, and Afghan forces
- Edward Carson demands repeal of Home Rule in Ireland
- U.S. House of Representatives moves to curtail immigration
- Third British–Afghan War
- First Palestinian National Congress rejects Balfour Declaration, calls for Arab independence
- 1920 -In Paris, League of Nations comes into being
- Government of Ireland Act passed by British Parliament Northern and Southern Ireland each to have own Parliament
- India: Gandhi launches Non-Cooperation Movement
- Indonesia: Communist Party (PKI) formed
- 1921 -First Indian Parliament meets
- Winston Churchill becomes Colonial Secretary
- Britain and Ireland sign peace treaty
- Lord Reading appointed Viceroy of India, succeeding Lord Chelmsford
- Ireland: outbreak of civil war (until 1921)
- 1922 -Gandhi sentenced to six years imprisonment for civil disobedience
- League of Nations approves mandates for Egypt and Palestine
- Declaration of Irish Free State
- Arab Congress at Nablus rejects British mandate for Palestine
- Gabriela Mistral (Chile), *Sonnets of Death*
- 1915 -Nikolai Bukharin, *Imperialism and World Economy*
- Mariano Azuela (Mexico), *The Underdogs*
- 1916 -Rabindranath Tagore (India), *Nationalism*
- Yi Kwang-su (Korea), *Heartlessness*
- 1917 -Vladimir Lenin, *Imperialism: The Highest Stage of Capitalism*
- 1918 -U.S. Post Office burns installments of James Joyce's *Ulysses* published in *Little Review*
- 1919 -Chu Yo-han (Korea), *Fireworks*
- 1920 -Albert Memmi born (15 Dec.)

CHRONOLOGY OF POLITICAL AND LITERARY EVENTS

- | | | | |
|------|--|------|---|
| | -Mustafa Kemal proclaims Turkey a republic | | |
| | -Irish Free State officially proclaimed | | |
| 1924 | -India: communalist violence between Hindus and Muslims; Gandhi begins hunger strike as a “penance and a prayer” | | |
| 1925 | -Cyprus becomes a British Crown Colony | | |
| | -British Dominions office established | | |
| 1927 | -International Conference Against Imperialism and Colonial Oppression, Brussels | | |
| 1928 | -Italy signs 20-year treaty of friendship with Ethiopia | 1921 | -Frederick Lugard, <i>The Dual Mandate in British Tropical Africa</i> |
| 1929 | -Inter-Americas Treaty of Arbitration signed in Washington | 1922 | -Herman Hesse, <i>Siddartha</i> |
| | -Nigeria: Aba women’s riots | | -Frederick Lugard, <i>The Dual Mandate in British Tropical Africa</i> |
| | -Geneva Convention signed, regulating treatment of prisoners of war | | -M.N. Roy (India), <i>India in Transition</i> |
| | | | -René Maran (Martinique), <i>Batouala</i> |
| 1930 | -India: Gandhi launches Civil Disobedience Movement | 1923 | -William Butler Yeats (Ireland), Nobel Prize for Literature (13 June 1865–28 Jan. 1939) |
| | -Vietnam: peasant uprising, coincides with formation of Communist Party | | -Albert Sarraut, <i>The Economic Development of the French Colonies</i> |
| 1931 | -British Commonwealth of Nations created | 1924 | -EM Forester, <i>A Passage to India</i> |
| | | | -Pablo Neruda (Chile), <i>20 Love</i> |

Cambridge University Press

978-1-107-13281-8 - The Cambridge Companion to the Postcolonial Novel

Ato Quayson

Frontmatter

[More information](#)

CHRONOLOGY OF POLITICAL AND LITERARY EVENTS

- Poems and a Song
of Despair*
- | | | | |
|------|---|------|---|
| 1932 | -Indian Congress declared illegal;
Gandhi arrested | 1925 | -Thomas Mofolo
(Lesotho), <i>Chaka</i> |
| 1933 | -U.S. congress votes independence
for Philippines | 1926 | -Hô Chí Minh
(Vietnam), <i>Colon-
ization of Trial</i>
-Ricardo Güiraldes
(Argentina), <i>Don
Segundo Sombra</i>
-Martin Luis Guz-
mán (Mexico), <i>The
Eagle and the
Serpent</i>
-Thomas Mofolo
(South Africa),
<i>Chaka</i> |
| 1934 | -Gandhi suspends civil disobedience
campaign in India | 1927 | -André Gide,
<i>Voyage to the
Congo</i>
-Taha Husain
(Egypt), <i>The Days</i>
(Vol. 2, 1939)
-José Vasconcelos,
Calderon (Mexico),
<i>The Cosmic Race</i> |
| 1935 | -Mussolini's forces invade and
occupy Ethiopia
-Passage of Government of India Act | 1928 | -Édouard Glissant
born
-Mario de Andrade
(Brazil), <i>Macunaima</i>
-José Carlos Mariá-
tegui, <i>Seven Essays
towards an Inter-
pretation of Peru-
vian Reality</i> |
| 1936 | -Eruption of Spanish Civil War
-Palestine: Arab revolt (1939), pro-
testing British rule and disposses-
sions cause by Zionist settlement; | 1929 | -Taha Hussein, <i>The
Days</i> (3 vols.,
1929–1967) |

CHRONOLOGY OF POLITICAL AND LITERARY EVENTS

- crushed by British, with more than
1,000 Palestinian deaths
- 1937 -Jamaica: riots against British rule
(until 1938)
-Trinidad: nationalist riots
- 1938 -U.S. Supreme Court rules the Uni-
versity of Missouri Law School
must admit black students because
of lack of other facilities in the area
-President Roosevelt recalls Ameri-
can ambassador to Germany; Ger-
many recalls ambassador to the
United States
- 1939 -Start of World War II
- 1930 -Chinua Achebe
born (died 2013)
-Mao Tse-tung
(China), “A Single
Spark Can Start a
Prairie Fire”
-Launch of Negri-
tude movement in
Paris by Franco-
phone intellectuals
including Léopold
Sédar Senghor,
Aimé Césaire, and
Léon Damas
-Nicolás Guillén
(Cuba), *Son
Montifs*
-Solomon T. Plaatje
(South Africa),
Mhudi
- 1932 -Evelyn Waugh,
Black Mischief
-Gregorio López y
Fuentes (Mexico),
The Land
-Ahmad Shawqi
(Egypt), *Diwan*
- 1933 -Mulk Raj Anand
(India),
Untouchable
-Tewfiq al-Hakim
(Egypt), *People of
the Cave*
-Claude McKay
(Jamaica), *Banana
Bottom*
-Mao Tun (China),
Midnight

Cambridge University Press

978-1-107-13281-8 - The Cambridge Companion to the Postcolonial Novel

Ato Quayson

Frontmatter

[More information](#)

CHRONOLOGY OF POLITICAL AND LITERARY EVENTS

- Gilberto Freyre,
The Master and the Slaves
- 1941 -Ethiopia: Allies capture Addis Ababa, allowing Haile Selassie to return after a five-year absence
- 1942 -India: Gandhi launches Quit India Movement
-Japanese forces capture Singapore, Java, Burma, and the Philippines and attack Solomon Islands and Papua New Guinea
- 1943 -India: armed struggle under leadership of Subhas Chandra Bose launched against British forces in the northeast; devastating famine in Bengal (until 1944) kills estimated 4 million people
- 1944 -Vietnam: major famine kills 2 million people
- 1934 -George Orwell,
Burmese Days
-Jorge Icaza (Ecuador), *Huasiungo*
-Alfred Mendes (Trinidad), *Pitch Lake*
- 1935 -Jorge Luis Borges (Argentina), *A Universal History of Infamy*
-Mulk Raj Anand (India), *Untouchable*
- 1936 -Mao Tse-tung,
Problems of Strategy in China's Revolutionary War
-Jayaprakash Narayan (India), *Why Socialism*
-Jawaharlal Nehru,
An Autobiography
-Manik Bandopadhyay (India), *The History of Puppets*
-C.L.R. James (Trinidad), *Minty Alley*
-Lao She (China), *Camel Hsiang-tzu*
-Premchand (India), *The Gift of a Cow*

CHRONOLOGY OF POLITICAL AND LITERARY EVENTS

- United States: Bretton Woods conference; foundation of International Monetary Fund (IMF) and World Bank
- 1945 -End of World War II
- United States drops nuclear bombs on Hiroshima and Nagasaki in Japan, leading to surrender of Japan
- Algeria: French repression of nationalists, triggering major uprising; thousands killed
- Revolution in Vietnam brings Ho Chi Minh's Viet Minh to power; French forces attempt to recapture colonial power; war ensues (until 1954)
- 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"
- 1937 -Karen Blixen (Denmark), *Out of Africa*
- Hafiz Ibrahim (Egypt), *Diwan*
- R.K. Narayan (India), *The Bachelor of Arts*
- Siburapha (Thailand), *Behind the Painting*
- 1938 -C.L.R. James, *The Black Jacobins*
- Jomo Kenyatta (Kenya), *Facing Mount Kenya*
- D.O. Fagunwa (Nigeria), *The Forest of a Thousand Daemons*
- Raja Rao (India) *Kanthapura*
- 1939 -James Joyce, *Finnigan's Wake*
- Margaret Atwood born
- Joyce Cary, *Mr Johnson*
- Aimé Césaire (Martinique), "Notebook of a Return to the Native Land"
- 1940 -Australian journal *Meanjin* established
- Fernando Ortiz (Cuba), *Cuban Counterpoint: Tobacco and Sugar*

Cambridge University Press

978-1-107-13281-8 - The Cambridge Companion to the Postcolonial Novel

Ato Quayson

Frontmatter

[More information](#)

CHRONOLOGY OF POLITICAL AND LITERARY EVENTS

- 1946 -United Nations convenes for the first time
 -Thailand: military overthrows nationalist leader Pridi Phanomyong
 -Philippines gains independence
- 1947 -India is proclaimed independent and partitioned into India and Pakistan; hundreds of thousands die in intercommunal violence; estimated 8.5 million refugees cross border in both directions
 -Palestine: UN announces plans for partition, granting bulk of land to Jewish population
 -Burma: U Aung San, hero of the independence movement is assassinated
- 1948 -Gandhi assassinated
 -State of Israel comes into existence
 -Indo-Pakistan war over disputed Kashmir
 -British Citizenship Act grants British passports to all Commonwealth citizens
 -Burma, Sri Lanka (Ceylon) gain independence
 -South Africa: Afrikaner Nationalist Party comes to power, implements policy of *apartheid*
 -UN adopts Declaration of Human Rights
- 1941 -H.I.E Dhlomo (South Africa), *Valley of a Thousand Hills*
 -Edgar Mittelholzer (Guyana), *Cortentyne Thunder*
 -Ibrahim Tuqan (Palestine), *Diwan*
- 1942 -Albert Camus, *The Outside*
- 1943 -Ishaq Musa al-Husaini (Palestine), *A Chicken's Memoirs*
- 1944 -José Maria Arguedas (Peru), *Everyone's Blood*
 -Ismat Chughtai (India), *The Quilt and Other Stories*
 -Jacques Roumain (Haiti), *Masters of the Dew*
 -Eric Williams, *Capitalism and Slavery*
- 1945 -Gabriela Mistral (Chile), Nobel Prize for Literature (7 April 1889–10 Jan. 1957)
 -Gopinath Mohanty (India), *Paraja*

Cambridge University Press

978-1-107-13281-8 - The Cambridge Companion to the Postcolonial Novel

Ato Quayson

Frontmatter

[More information](#)

CHRONOLOGY OF POLITICAL AND LITERARY EVENTS

- 1949 -India adopts constitution as federal republic
-Holland transfers sovereignty to Indonesia; France to Vietnam
-The Commonwealth of Nations is formerly constituted comprising mostly former territories of the British Empire.
- 1950 -Outbreak of U.S.–Korea war (until 1953); casualties top 1 million
-China invades Tibet, assumes control
-Indonesia gains independence under Sukarno
-Jordan annexes West Bank, absorbing 600,000 Palestinians
- 1951 -Libya gains independence
-Egypt launches guerilla war against British forces in the Suez Canal Zone
-Iran nationalizes its oil industry
- 1952 -Honolulu Conference of three-power Pacific Council (Australia, the United States, and New Zealand)
-South Africa: African National Congress launches Defiance Campaign
- 1946 -Jawaharlal Nehru (India), *The Discovery of India*
-Peter Abrahams (South Africa), *Mine Boy*
- 1947 -Salman Rushdie born
-Jawaharlal Nehru delivers “Tryst with Destiny” speech
-Babani Bhattacharya (India), *So Many Hungers!*
-Birago Diop (Senegal), *Tales of Amadou Koumba*
-Suryakant Tripathi “Nirala” (India), *The Earthly Knowledge*
-Badr Shakir al-Sayyab (Iraq), *Withered Fingers*
- 1948 -Graham Greene, *The Heart of the Matter*
-Alan Paton (South Africa), *Cry, the Beloved Country*

CHRONOLOGY OF POLITICAL AND LITERARY EVENTS

- Kenya: State of Emergency declared as anticolonial insurrection (“Mau Mau”) intensifies
- Vietnam: France launches massive offensive against Viet Minh forces
- 1953 -London Conference of Commonwealth prime ministers
- Cuba: Fidel Castro leads abortive assault on Moncada Baracks in Santiago de Cuba; many of the militants are killed, others, including Castro, are captured
- British Guiana: uprising, led by People’s Progressive Party, against colonialism; put down by military force; constitution suspended
- 1954 -Start of Algerian War of Independence (until 1962)
- Vietnamese army led by Ho Chi Minh defeats French colonial forces; France sues for peace; Viet Minh take Hanoi
- Egypt: Gamel Abdel Nasser takes power
- Algeria: war of independence begins (until 1962)
- 1955 -Bandung Conference of independent Asian and African states;
- G. V Desani (India), *All About H Hatterr*
- Saadat Hasan Manto (Pakistan), “Toba Tek Singh”
- Jean-Paul Sartre, “Black Orpheus”
- 1949 -Miguel Angel Asturias (Guatemala), *Men of Maize*
- Alejo Carpentier (Cuba), *The Kingdom of This World*
- Khalil Mutran (Lebanon), *Diwan*
- V.S. Reid (Jamaica), *New Day*
- 1950 -Pablo Neruda (Chile), *Canto général*
- Octavio Paz, *Labyrinth of Solitude*
- Doris Lessing, *The Grass Is Singing*
- Aimé Césaire, *Discourse on Colonialism*
- 1951 -Nirad C. Chaudhuri (India), *The Autobiography of an Unknown India*
- 1952 -Samuel Beckett, *Waiting for Godot*

Cambridge University Press

978-1-107-13281-8 - The Cambridge Companion to the Postcolonial Novel

Ato Quayson

Frontmatter

[More information](#)

CHRONOLOGY OF POLITICAL AND LITERARY EVENTS

- declaration upholds principles of national sovereignty, human rights, and equality among states
- South Africa: Freedom Charter adopted at Congress of the People
- Frantz Fanon, *Black Skin, White Masks*
- Ralph Ellison, *Invisible Man*
- Ralph de Boissière (Trinidad), *Crown Jewel*
- Andrée Chedid (Egypt), *From Sleep Unbound*
- Mochtar Lubis (Indonesia), *A Road with No End*
- Amos Tutuola (Nigeria), *The Palm-Wine Drinkard*
- 1956 -Sudan proclaimed independent democratic republic
- Nasser nationalizes Suez Canal; Egypt invaded by Israel, with British and French support
- Fidel Castro lands in Cuba with intent to overthrow dictator Fulgencio Batista
- Morocco, Tunisia gain independence
- Yemen: anti-British strikes in Aden; clashes between British and Yemeni troops
- Hungary: anti-Stalinist uprising crushed by Soviet troops
- China: Mao introduces “Hundred Flowers” campaign (“Let a hundred flowers bloom, let a hundred schools of thought”)
- 1957 -Gold Coast gains independence, changing its name to Ghana
- Peninsular Malaya becomes Malaysia in 1963 with
- 1953 -Fidel Castro (Cuba), “History will absolve me”
- Alejo Carpentier (Cuba), *The Lost Steps*
- George Lamming (Barbados), *In the Castle of My Skin*
- Camara Laye (Guinea), *The African Child*
- Roger Mais (Jamaica), *The Hills Were All Joyful Together*
- 1954 -Sahitya Akademi Award established

Cambridge University Press

978-1-107-13281-8 - The Cambridge Companion to the Postcolonial Novel

Ato Quayson

Frontmatter

[More information](#)

CHRONOLOGY OF POLITICAL AND LITERARY EVENTS

- incorporation of Sarawak, Sabah and Singapore)
- Indonesia: Sukarno declares martial law; revoked in 1963
 - Algeria: Battle of Algiers
- 1958
- Pakistan: military coup brings Mohammed Ayub Khan to power
 - Guinea gains independence
 - Cameroun: Rueben Um Nyobé, UPC leader, killed
 - All-African People's Conference held in Accra, Ghana
 - Sri Lanka: Riots erupt, as Sinhala militants attack Tamils; hundreds killed; state of emergency eventually declared
- 1959
- Cuba: overthrow of Batista regime; Fidel Castro assumes power
 - China: devastating famine (1961) kills as many as 40 million
 - Zambia: Kenneth Kaunda imprisoned by British colonial government; leads civil disobedience campaign when released
 - Tibet: rebellion crushed by Chinese forces; Dalai Lama flees into exile
- Samira 'Azzam (Palestine), *Little Things*
 - Martin Carter (Guyana), *Poems of Resistance*
 - Driss Chraïbi (Morocco), *The Simple Past*
 - Kamala Markandaya (India), *Nectar in a Sieve*
 - Nicanor Parra (Chile), *Poems and Antipoems*
 - Abd al-Rahman Shasrawi (Egypt), *The Earth*
- 1955
- Aimé Césaire (Martinique), *Discourse on Colonialism*
 - Amrita Pritam (India), *Messages*
 - Juan Rulfo (Mexico), *Pedro Paramo*
 - Saadi Youssef (Iraq), *Songs Not for Others*
- 1956
- Octavio Mannoni, Pamela Powesland, *Prospero and Caliban: The Psychology of Colonization*
 - First international conference of black writers and artists (Paris)

Cambridge University Press

978-1-107-13281-8 - The Cambridge Companion to the Postcolonial Novel

Ato Quayson

Frontmatter

[More information](#)

CHRONOLOGY OF POLITICAL AND LITERARY EVENTS

- George Padmore (Trinidad), *Pan Africanism or Communism?*
- Carlos Bulosan (Philippines), *America is in the Heart*
- Mongo Beti (Cameroon), *The Poor Christ of Bomba*
- David Diop (Senegal), *Hammer Blows*
- Faiz Ahmed Faiz (Pakistan), *Prison Thoughts*
- Nagiub Mahfouz (Egypt), *Cairo Trilogy* (finished 1957)
- Samuel Selvon (Trinidad), *The Lonely Londoners*
- Octavio Paz (Mexico), *Sunstone*
- 1960 -Belgian Congo granted full independence
- Harold Macmillan's "winds of change" speech
- South Africa: Sharpsville 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, and Togo gain independence
- Congo: attempted secession of Katanga province; martial law declared by ne President Patrice Lumumba;
- 1957 -Albert Memmi, *The Colonizer and the Colonized*
- Kwame Nkrumah (Ghana), *Ghana: Autobiography*
- 1958 -Chinua Achebe (Nigeria), *Things Fall Apart*
- Édouard Glissant (Martinique), *The Ripening*
- NVM Gonzalez (Phillipines), *Bread of Salt*

CHRONOLOGY OF POLITICAL AND LITERARY EVENTS

- | | | | |
|------|---|------|---|
| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> military seizes power, supported by United States and Belgium; Lumumba arrested | | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Ludu U. Hla (Burma), <i>The Caged Ones</i> |
| 1961 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -UN General Assembly condemns apartheid -U.S.-sponsored Bay of Pigs invasion of Cuba thwarted -Cameroon, Sierra Leone, Tanzania attain independence -Lumumba murdered while in custody -Angola: armed struggle begins -South Africa: Albert Luthuli, President of the ANC, awarded Nobel Peace Prize -First Conference of Non-Aligned Nations, Belgrade | 1959 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Qurratulain Hyder (India), <i>River of Fire</i> -Es'kia Mphahlele (South Africa), <i>Down Second Avenue</i> |
| 1962 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Algeria, Burundi, Jamaica, Rwanda, Trinidad and Tobago, Uganda gain independence -Border war between India and China -Cuban missile crisis: U.S. President Kennedy authorizes blockade of Cuba in bid to prevent deployment of Soviet nuclear weapons | 1960 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Wilson Harris (Guyana), <i>Palace of the Peacock</i> -Ousmane Sembene (Senegal), <i>God's Bits of Wood</i> -George Lamming, <i>The Pleasures of Exile</i> |
| 1963 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Kenya becomes independent -Formation of the Organization of African Unity | | |
| 1964 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Zanzibar declared a republic and unites with Tanganyika to form Tanzania -Malawi, Zambia, Malaya gain independence -Mozambique: FRELIMO launches armed struggle -Guyana: Cheddi Jagan's government is overthrown -South Africa: ANC leaders Nelson Mandela and Walter Sisulu sentenced to life imprisonment for | 1961 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Frantz Fanon, <i>The Wretched of the Earth</i> -Rajat Neogy (Uganda) founds <i>Transition Magazine: An International Review</i> -Nnamdi Azikiwe (Nigeria), <i>Zik: Selected Speeches</i> |

Cambridge University Press

978-1-107-13281-8 - The Cambridge Companion to the Postcolonial Novel

Ato Quayson

Frontmatter

[More information](#)

CHRONOLOGY OF POLITICAL AND LITERARY EVENTS

- treason – incarcerated on Robben Island
- Martin Luther King, Jr., Nobel Peace Prize (15 Jan. 1929–4 April 1968)
- 1965 -Gambia becomes independent replacing 1921 law based on nationality
- Rhodesian Unilateral Declaration of Independence, Britain imposes oil embargo on Rhodesia
- Central African Republic: Jean Bedel Bokassa takes power in coup; has himself crowned *Emperor*; dictatorship until 1979
- Congo (Zaire): Mobuto Sese Sekou takes power in coup; dictatorship until 1997
- Indonesia: Suharto takes power in coup; initiates pogrom (until 1966) against the left: half a million people are murdered; hundreds of thousands more imprisoned in brutal conditions
- Thailand: rural insurgency, led by Communist Party (until 1978)
- Ernesto “Che” Guevara (Argentina/Cuba), *Guerrilla Warfare*
- Adonis (Syria), *Songs of Muhyar the Damascene*
- Cyprian Ekwensi (Nigeria), *Jagua Nana*
- Attia Hossain (India), *Sunlight on a Broken Column*
- Cheikh Hamidou Kane (Senegal), *Ambiguous Adventure*
- VS Naipaul (Trinidad), *A House for Mr. Biswas*
- 1962 -Alan Hill at Heinemann initiates its African Writers Series (AWS)
- Mehdi Ben Barka (Algeria), “Resolving the Ambiguities of National Sovereignty”
- Kenneth Kaunda (Zambia), *Zambia Shall Be Free*
- Patrice Lumumba (Congo), *Congo My Country*
- Albert Luthuli (South Africa), *Let My People Go*
- Carlos Fuentes (Mexico), *The*