

THE CAMBRIDGE COMPANION TO
POSTCOLONIAL POETRY

The Cambridge Companion to Postcolonial Poetry is the first collection of essays to explore postcolonial poetry through regional, historical, political, formal, textual, gender, and comparative approaches. The essays encompass a broad range of English-speakers from the Caribbean, Africa, South Asia, and the Pacific Islands; the former settler colonies, such as Canada, Australia, and New Zealand, especially non-Europeans; Ireland, Britain's oldest colony; and postcolonial Britain itself, particularly black and Asian immigrants and their descendants. The comparative essays analyze poetry from across the postcolonial anglophone world in relation to postcolonialism and modernism, fixed and free forms, experimentation, oral performance and creole languages, protest poetry, the poetic mapping of urban and rural spaces, poetic embodiments of sexuality and gender, poetry and publishing history, and poetry's response to, and reimagining of, globalization. Strengthening the place of poetry in postcolonial studies, this *Companion* also contributes to the globalization of poetry studies.

JAHAN RAMAZANI is University Professor and Edgar F. Shannon Professor of English at the University of Virginia. He is the author of five books: *Poetry and its Others: News, Prayer, Song, and the Dialogue of Genres* (2013); *A Transnational Poetics* (2009), winner of the 2011 Harry Levin Prize of the American Comparative Literature Association, awarded for the best book in comparative literary history published in the years 2008 to 2010; *The Hybrid Muse: Postcolonial Poetry in English* (2001); *Poetry of Mourning: The Modern Elegy from Hardy to Heaney* (1994), a finalist for the National Book Critics Circle Award; and *Yeats and the Poetry of Death: Elegy, Self-Elegy, and the Sublime* (1990). He is a co-editor of the most recent editions of *The Norton Anthology of Modern and Contemporary Poetry* (2003) and *The Norton Anthology of English Literature* (2006, 2012), and an associate editor of *The Princeton Encyclopedia of Poetry and Poetics* (2012). He has received a Guggenheim Fellowship, an NEH Fellowship, a Rhodes Scholarship, the William Riley Parker Prize of the Modern Language Association, and the Thomas Jefferson Award, the University of Virginia's highest honor. In 2016, he was elected to the American Academy of Arts and Sciences.

A complete list of books in the series is at the back of this book.

THE CAMBRIDGE
COMPANION TO
POSTCOLONIAL POETRY

EDITED BY
JAHAN RAMAZANI
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For Lorna Goodison

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Mourning: The Modern Elegy from Hardy to Heaney (1994), a finalist for the National Book Critics Circle Award; and *Yeats and the Poetry of Death: Elegy, Self-Elegy, and the Sublime* (1990). An associate editor of *The Princeton Encyclopedia of Poetry and Poetics* (2012), he co-edited the most recent editions of *The Norton Anthology of Modern and Contemporary Poetry* (2003) and *The Twentieth Century and After* in *The Norton Anthology of English Literature* (2006, 2012).

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Ray Ryan's persistent prodding and shrewd guidance brought this book into being. I thank the contributors to this volume for collaborating with me despite having to give up time for other important projects. At the University of Virginia, I have benefited from the generous support of my splendid dean, Ian Baucom, my outstanding department chairs, Cynthia Wall and Stephen Arata, and my wonderfully thoughtful colleagues in the English Department. Peter Miller and Cara Lewis provided quick, careful, and smart research assistance. I am grateful for the candor, acuity, and love of my wife, Caroline Rody; for the enlivening companionship of my sons, Gabriel and Cyrus; and for the long-lived support and encouragement of my mother, Nesta, and of my father, Ruhi, a scholar of international politics who, sadly, died while the book was in production. Without the multifaceted and brilliant achievement of poets from across much of the English-speaking world, there would have been no reason for this book to exist. It is dedicated to one of them in particular, with gratitude for the gifts of her humanity and poetry.

CHRONOLOGY

Year	Work/Event
1900	First Pan-African Conference, London
1900	“Boxer Rebellion” in China
1901	Death of Queen Victoria; reign of King Edward VII begins
1901	Australia becomes an independently self-governing Commonwealth state
1902	End of the Anglo-Boer War in South Africa
1905	Founding of Sinn Féin, the Irish nationalist party
1905	Launch of <i>swadeshi</i> (“of our own country”) movement in India to protest British partition of Bengal
1907	Britain grants dominion status to its self-governing (white) colonies, including New Zealand
1909	Mohandas K. Gandhi, <i>Hind Swaraj</i> (“Indian Home Rule”)
1912	Founding of the African National Congress (ANC)
1912	Rabindranath Tagore, <i>Gitanjali</i>
1912	Claude McKay, <i>Songs of Jamaica</i> and <i>Constab Ballads</i>
1912	E. Pauline Johnson, <i>Flint and Feather</i>
1913	Rabindranath Tagore wins Nobel Prize in Literature
1914	Beginning of First World War
1915	Kobina Sekyi, <i>The Blinkards</i>
1916	Easter Rising in Ireland
1916	Rabindranath Tagore, <i>The Home and the World</i>
1917	February and October Revolutions in Russia
1918	End of First World War
1919	League of Nations created at Peace Conference, Versailles
1919	Gandhi calls for all-India protest movement against Rowlatt Acts allowing imprisonment without trial
1919	Amritsar Massacre in India
1919–21	Irish War of Independence

CHRONOLOGY

1920	Gandhi launches Non-Cooperation movement
1922	Irish Free State established
1922	T. S. Eliot, <i>The Waste Land</i>
1922	James Joyce, <i>Ulysses</i>
1922	Claude McKay, <i>Harlem Shadows</i>
1923	W. B. Yeats awarded Nobel Prize in Literature
1924	E. M. Forster, <i>A Passage to India</i>
1927	International Conference Against Imperialism and Colonial Oppression, Brussels
1928	W. B. Yeats, <i>The Tower</i>
1929	The Great Depression begins in Britain
1929	Virginia Woolf, <i>A Room of One's Own</i>
1930	Gandhi leads "Salt March" in India
1930	Ezra Pound, <i>A Draft of XXX Cantos</i>
1930	Una Marson, <i>Tropic Reveries</i>
1931	Aimé Césaire, Léopold Sédar Senghor, and Léon Damas meet in Paris, leading to the formation of negritude
1931	Independence from Britain granted to white minority government in South Africa
1936	Beginning of Spanish Civil War
1936	Arab revolt in Palestine against British rule and Zionist settlement is crushed by British
1937	Nationalist riots in Trinidad
1937	Léon Damas, <i>Pigments</i>
1938	Labor riots against British rule in Jamaica
1938	Jomo Kenyatta, <i>Facing Mount Kenya</i>
1939	Beginning of Second World War
1939	Aimé Césaire, <i>Cahier d'un retour au pays natal (Notebook of a Return to the Native Land)</i>
1939	W. B. Yeats, <i>Last Poems and Two Plays</i>
1940	W. H. Auden, <i>Another Time</i>
1940–41	London Blitz
1941–45	The Holocaust
1942	Indian National Congress launches Quit India movement of mass civil disobedience
1942	Patrick Kavanagh, <i>The Great Hunger</i>
1942	Louise Bennett, <i>Jamaica Dialect Verses</i>
1943	Independence of Lebanon
1943	Bengal Famine causes death of over 3 million people in South Asia
1943–58	<i>Caribbean Voices</i> , BBC literary radio program
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CHRONOLOGY

- 1943 *Jamaica Gleaner* begins publishing Louise Bennett's poems weekly
- 1943 T. S. Eliot, *Four Quartets*
- 1945 Atomic bombs dropped on Hiroshima and Nagasaki; Japanese surrender and end of Second World War
- 1945 Foundation of the United Nations
- 1945 Independence of Syria
- 1945 Pan-African Conference, in Manchester
- 1945 Léopold Sédar Senghor, *Chants d'ombre (Shadow Songs)*
- 1945 George Campbell, *First Poems*
- 1946 Muslim-Hindu violence breaks out in India when both the Muslim League and the majority-Hindu Congress Party emerge dominant in general elections
- 1946 Independence of Philippines
- 1946–62 US tests atomic bombs in Pacific Islands
- 1947 Indian and Pakistani partition and independence, beginning breakup of British Empire
- 1947 Partition of Palestine
- 1947–48 India and Pakistan go to war over disputed territory in Kashmir
- 1948 Creation of state of Israel
- 1948 Independence of Ceylon (Sri Lanka) and Burma (Myanmar)
- 1948 British Nationality Act allows Commonwealth citizens to immigrate into Britain; *Empire Windrush* lands at Tilbury Docks, carrying 492 people, the first large group of West Indian immigrants to the UK
- 1948 Afrikaner Nationalist Party comes to power in South Africa, institutes apartheid
- 1948 Gandhi assassinated by Hindu extremist in Delhi, India
- 1948 Derek Walcott, *25 Poems*
- 1949 *Commonwealth Electoral Act* expands voting rights for Indigenous Australians
- 1949 Republic of Ireland established outside the British Commonwealth; Northern Ireland remains within the UK
- 1950–53 US-Korean War
- 1951 Independence of Libya
- 1951 Iran nationalizes its oil industry
- 1952 Frantz Fanon, *Peau noire, masques blancs (Black Skin, White Masks)*
- 1952–60 Mau Mau Rebellion against British rule in Kenya
- 1953 Uprising against colonialism in British Guiana

CHRONOLOGY

- 1954 Martin Carter, *Poems of Resistance from British Guiana*
 1955 Bandung Conference of independent Asian and African states
 upholds principles of national sovereignty and human rights
 1955–75 US war in Vietnam
 1956 Suez Crisis
 1956 Independence of Sudan
 1956 First Congress of Black Writers, in Paris
 1957 Ghana becomes first nation in sub-Saharan Africa to gain
 independence
 1957 Kwame Nkrumah, *The Autobiography of Kwame Nkrumah*
 1957 James K. Baxter, *In Fires of No Return: Poems*
 1958 Independence of Guinea
 1958 Notting Hill race riots in London
 1958 Chinua Achebe, *Things Fall Apart*
 1958 Claudia Jones founds *The West Indian Gazette* in London
 1958–62 West Indies Federation, including Jamaica, Barbados, and
 Trinidad and Tobago
 1959 Second Congress of Black Writers and Artists, in Rome
 1960 Year of Africa, in which over fifteen African countries,
 including Nigeria, gain independence
 1960 Sharpeville Massacre in South Africa
 1960 Harold Macmillan's "wind of change" speech in Cape Town
 1960 Wole Soyinka, *A Dance of the Forests*
 1961 Independence of Cameroon, Sierra Leone, and Tanzania
 1961 Republic of South Africa withdraws from the British
 Commonwealth
 1961 Berlin Wall erected
 1961–74 War of Independence, Portuguese colonies
 1961 Frantz Fanon, *Les damnés de la terre* (*The Wretched of the
 Earth*)
 1961 V. S. Naipaul, *A House for Mr. Biswas*
 1962 Independence of Algeria, Burundi, Jamaica, Rwanda,
 Trinidad and Tobago, and Uganda
 1962 Cuban missile crisis
 1962 Derek Walcott, *In a Green Night*
 1962 Christopher Okigbo, *Heavensgate*
 1962–63 Allen Ginsberg in India
 1963 Martin Luther King, Jr.'s "I have a dream" speech
 1963 Assassination of US President John F. Kennedy
 1963 Independence of Kenya
 1963 Founding of the Organization of African Unity (OAU)
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CHRONOLOGY

- 1964 Philip Larkin, *The Whitsun Weddings*
 1964 Patrick Kavanagh, *Collected Poems*
 1964 Hone Tuwhare, *No Ordinary Sun*, first book of Māori poetry in English
 1964 States of Tanzania and Zambia established
 1964 African National Congress leader Nelson Mandela sentenced to life imprisonment in South Africa
 1964 Christopher Okigbo, *Limits*
 1964 Kofi Awoonor, “*Rediscovery*” and *Other Poems*
 1964 Oodgeroo Noonuccal (Kath Walker), *We Are Going*
 1965 White Rhodesian government in South Africa declares unilateral independence from Britain
 1965 Coups in Central African Republic, Congo (Zaire), and Indonesia all lead to the establishment of dictatorships
 1965 Sylvia Plath, *Ariel*
 1965 Kamala Das, *Summer in Calcutta*
 1965 J. P. Clark, *A Reed in the Tide*
 1965 Nelson Mandela, *No Easy Walk to Freedom*
 1966 Formation of the Ulster Volunteer Force (UVF), a loyalist (pro-British) group, in Northern Ireland
 1966 Independence of Guyana, Lesotho, Botswana, and Barbados
 1966 Margaret Atwood, *The Circle Game*
 1966–72 Caribbean Artists’ Movement in London
 1966–76 Green Revolution in India, which greatly increases food production
 1966 Okot p’Bitek, *Song of Lawino*
 1966 Louise Bennett, *Jamaica Labrish*
 1966 A. K. Ramanujan, *The Striders*
 1966 Seamus Heaney, *Death of a Naturalist*
 1966 Jean Rhys, *Wide Sargasso Sea*
 1967 Referendum brings Indigenous Australians under Commonwealth law and includes them in censuses
 1967 Christopher Okigbo killed in Nigerian Civil War
 1967 Civil Rights Association formed in Northern Ireland
 1967 Six-day Arab-Israeli War
 1967–70 Nigerian Civil War
 1967–75 Maoist Naxalite protest in India
 1967 Eavan Boland, *New Territory*
 1967 Gabriel García Márquez, *One Hundred Years of Solitude*
 1967 Wole Soyinka, “*Idanre*” and *Other Poems*
 1967 Ngũgĩ wa Thiong’o, *A Grain of Wheat*

CHRONOLOGY

- 1967 Kamau Brathwaite, *Rights of Passage*
 1968 MP Enoch Powell's anti-immigration "rivers of blood" speech
 1968 Britain limits immigration to those of British (white) family origin
 1968 Civil rights marchers confront police in Derry, the first major violent clash of the Troubles in Northern Ireland
 1968 Assassination of Martin Luther King, Jr.
 1968 Student insurrection and workers' strike in France
 1968 Prague Spring
 1968 Derek Mahon, *Night Crossing*
 1968 Kamau Brathwaite, *Masks*
 1968 Dennis Brutus, *Letters to Martha*
 1969 Britain sends troops to Northern Ireland after violent clashes
 1969 US begins secret bombing campaign in Cambodia
 1969 Apollo moon landing
 1969 Establishment of Provisional Irish Republican Army (IRA)
 1969 Kamau Brathwaite, *Islands*
 1971 Establishment of Women's Equality Day by US Congress
 1971 Idi Amin comes to power in military coup in Uganda
 1971 East Pakistan secedes from Pakistan and becomes the independent nation of Bangladesh; India goes to war with Pakistan to help the new state
 1971 Christopher Okigbo, *Labyrinths*
 1971 Kofi Awoonor, *Night of My Blood*
 1971 V. S. Naipaul, *In a Free State*
 1971 Arthur Yap, *Only Lines*
 1972 Bloody Sunday and Bloody Friday in Northern Ireland
 1972 Britain suspends the Northern Ireland parliament and institutes Direct Rule
 1972 "White Australia" policy ended and Indigenous self-determination recognized
 1972 John Montague, *The Rough Field*
 1972 Derek Mahon, *Lives*
 1972 Seamus Heaney, *Wintering Out*
 1972 Margaret Atwood, *Survival: A Thematic Guide to Canadian Literature*
 1973 Worldwide oil crisis as Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) raises prices and cuts production
 1973 Independence of the Bahamas
 1973 Egypt and Syria attack Israel

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CHRONOLOGY

- 1973 Michael Longley, *An Exploded View: Poems 1968–72*
 1973 Paul Muldoon, *New Weather*
 1973 Arthur Nortje, *Dead Roots*
 1973 Dennis Scott, *Uncle Time*
 1973 Kamau Brathwaite, *The Arrivants: A New World Trilogy*
 1973 Derek Walcott, *Another Life*
 1973 Mervyn Morris, *The Pond*
 1974 Independence of Grenada and Guineau-Bissau
 1974 Philip Larkin, *High Windows*
 1974 Chief Dan George, *My Heart Soars*
 1975 Independence of Angola, Mozambique, Cape Verde, Papua New Guinea
 1975 Waitangi Tribunal established in New Zealand to investigate violations of the Waitangi Treaty and seek redress for the Māori
 1975–90 Civil war in Lebanon
 1975 Seamus Heaney, *North*
 1975 Linton Kwesi Johnson, *Dread, Beat and Blood*
 1975 Derek Mahon, *The Snow Party*
 1976 British Race Relations Act, incorporating the earlier acts of 1965 and 1968, prohibits discrimination on the grounds of race, color, nationality, and ethnic and national origin
 1976 Soweto Uprising across South Africa
 1976 Independence of the Seychelles
 1976 Jayanta Mahapatra, *A Rain of Rites*
 1976 Adil Jussawalla, *Missing Person*
 1976 Wole Soyinka, *Myth, Literature, and the African World*
 1976 Arun Kolatkar, *Jejuri*, winner of Commonwealth Poetry Prize
 1976 Derek Walcott, *Sea Grapes*
 1977 Marjorie Oludhe Macgoye, *Song of Nyarloka and Other Poems*
 1977 Martin Carter, *Poems of Succession*
 1978 Mass demonstrations against the shah in Iran
 1978 Camp David accords between Egypt and Israel
 1978 Edward Said, *Orientalism*
 1979 Margaret Thatcher becomes prime minister in Britain
 1979 Independence of Saint Lucia
 1979 Soviet invasion of Afghanistan
 1979 Islamic Revolution in Iran: American Embassy occupied, and the shah flees
 1979 Seamus Heaney, *Field Work*

CHRONOLOGY

- 1979 Derek Mahon, *Poems, 1962–1978*
 1979 Eunice de Souza, *Fix*
 1979 Michael Ondaatje, *There's a Trick with a Knife I'm Learning to Do: Poems, 1963–1978*
 1980 Independence of Zimbabwe
 1980 Seamus Heaney, *Selected Poems, 1965–1975*
 1980 J. M. Coetzee, *Waiting for the Barbarians*
 1980 Linton Kwesi Johnson, *Inglan is a Bitch*
 1980 Lorna Goodison, *Tamarind Season*
 1980 Martin Carter, *Poems of Affinity*
 1980 Arthur Yap, *Down the Line*
 1981 Independence of Antigua and Barbuda
 1981 Culmination of Irish Republican hunger strikes
 1981 Race riots in Brixton, in London
 1981 AIDS identified
 1981 Salman Rushdie, *Midnight's Children*
 1981 Edouard Glissant, *Caribbean Discourse*
 1982 Falklands War
 1982 Derek Mahon, *The Hunt By Night*
 1982 Medbh McGuckian, *The Flower Master*
 1982 Louise Bennett, *Selected Poems*
 1983 US invasion of Grenada
 1983 Tamil revolt in Sri Lanka
 1983 Paul Muldoon, *Quoof*
 1983 Grace Nichols, *I Is a Long Memored Woman*
 1983 Kamau Brathwaite, *Third World Poems*
 1983 Paddy Roe, *Gularabulu*
 1984 Seamus Heaney, *Station Island*
 1984 Kamau Brathwaite, *History of the Voice*
 1984 Grace Nichols, *The Fat Black Woman's Poems*
 1985 Riots in London districts of Brixton, Toxteth, and Peckham
 1985 Hanif Kureishi, *My Beautiful Laundrette*
 1985 Maud Sulter, *As a Black Woman*
 1985 John Agard, *Mangoes & Bullets*
 1985 Fred D'Aguiar, *Mama Dot*
 1985 Fred Wah, *Waiting for Saskatchewan*, winner of Governor General's Award in Canada
 1986 Wole Soyinka becomes first black African writer to be awarded Nobel Prize in Literature
 1986 Derek Walcott, *Collected Poems*
 1986 Christopher Okigbo, *Collected Poems*

CHRONOLOGY

- 1986 Lorna Goodison, *I Am Becoming My Mother*
 1986 A. K. Ramanujan, *Second Sight*
 1986 Vikram Seth, *The Golden Gate*
 1986 Niyi Osundare, *The Eye of the Earth*
 1986 Ngũgĩ wa Thiong'o, *Decolonising the Mind: The Politics of Language in African Literature*
 1987 Kamau Brathwaite, *X/Self*
 1987 Agha Shahid Ali, *The Half-Inch Himalayas*
 1988 Salman Rushdie publishes *The Satanic Verses*, and the Ayatollah Khomeini in Iran declares a *fatwa* in February 1989, sentencing Rushdie to death
 1988 Medbh McGuckian, *On Ballycastle Beach*
 1988 Eunice de Souza, *Women in Dutch Painting*
 1988 Lorna Goodison, *Heartease*
 1988 Imtiaz Dharker, *Purdah, and Other Poems*
 1988 Rita Joe, *Song of Eskasoni*
 1988 Jean “Binta” Breeze, “*Riddym Ravings*” and *Other Poems*
 1988 Gayatri Chakravorty Spivak, “Can the Subaltern Speak?”
 1988 David Dabydeen, *Coolie Odyssey*
 1989 Fall of the Berlin Wall
 1989 Tiananmen Square demonstration and massacre in Beijing, China
 1989 Nissim Ezekiel, *Collected Poems*
 1989 M. NourbeSe Philip, *She Tries Her Tongue, Her Silence Softly Breaks*
 1989 Grace Nichols, “*Lazy Thoughts of a Lazy Woman*” and *Other Poems*
 1990 Poll Tax riots culminate in Britain
 1990 Nelson Mandela freed from prison in South Africa, where the government begins to dismantle apartheid
 1990 Mandal Commission report in India attempts to widen access to education and government jobs for castes classified as “backward”
 1990 Oka Crisis in Canada, land dispute between a group of Mohawk people and the city of Oka, Quebec
 1990–91 First Gulf War, in which US-led forces bomb Iraq after its invasion of Kuwait
 1990 Derek Walcott, *Omeros*
 1990 Eavan Boland, *Outside History*
 1990 Eunice de Souza, *Ways of Belonging: Selected Poems*
 1990 Lesego Rampolokeng, *Horns for Hondo*

CHRONOLOGY

- 1991 Collapse of the USSR
 1991 Michael Longley, *Gorse Fires*
 1991 Les Murray, *Collected Poems*
 1991 Jackie Kay, *The Adoption Papers*
 1991 *Field Day Anthology of Irish Writing*
 1991 Agha Shahid Ali, *A Nostalgist's Map of America*
 1992 *Mabo*, decision by High Court of Australia recognizing native title
 1992 National Commission for Women established in India
 1992 Derek Walcott awarded Nobel Prize in Literature
 1992 Kamau Brathwaite, *Middle Passages*
 1992 Lorna Goodison, *Selected Poems*
 1992 Eric Roach, *The Flowering Rock*
 1992 Ama Ata Aidoo, *An Angry Letter in January*
 1993 Edward Said, *Culture and Imperialism*
 1993 Kamau Brathwaite, *The Zee Mexican Diary*
 1993 Jackie Kay, *Other Lovers*
 1993 Karen Press, *Bird Heart Stoning the Sea*
 1994 IRA ceasefire
 1994 End of apartheid and election of Nelson Mandela as president of South Africa
 1994 Civil war and ethnic massacre in Rwanda
 1994 Eunice de Souza, *Selected and New Poems*
 1994 Judith Wright, *Collected Poems, 1942–1985*
 1994 David Dabydeen, *Turner: New and Selected Poems*
 1995 *Bringing Them Home*, Australian report on separation of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children from their families
 1995 Seamus Heaney awarded the Nobel Prize in Literature
 1995 Eavan Boland, *Collected Poems*
 1995 A. K. Ramanujan, *Collected Poems*
 1995 Lorna Goodison, *To Us, All Flowers Are Roses*
 1995 Anne Carson, *Plainwater and Glass, Irony, and God*
 1995 Patience Agbabi, *R.A.W.*
 1995 Lionel Fogarty, *New and Selected Poems: Munaldjali, Mutuerjaraera*
 1996 Taliban takes power in Afghanistan
 1996 Thomas Kinsella, *Collected Poems, 1956–1994*
 1997 Britain formally returns Hong Kong to China
 1997 Arundhati Roy, *The God of Small Things*
 1997 Agha Shahid Ali, *The Country without a Post Office*

CHRONOLOGY

- 1997 Bernardine Evaristo, *Lara*
 1998 Belfast Good Friday Agreement largely ends Troubles in Northern Ireland
 1998 India begins tests of nuclear weapons
 1998 Reestablishment of the Scottish Parliament and creation of the National Assembly for Wales
 1998 Seamus Heaney, *Opened Ground: Selected Poems, 1966–1996*
 1998 Eavan Boland, *The Lost Land*
 1998 Jackie Kay, *Off Colour*
 1998 Michael Ondaatje, *Handwriting*
 1998 Margaret Atwood, *Eating Fire: Selected Poetry 1965–1995*
 1998 Dilip Chitre, *The Mountain: A Series of Poems*
 1998 Karen Press, *Echo Location: A Guide to Sea Point for Residents and Visitors*
 1999 East Timor votes for independence from Indonesia
 1999 NATO forces bomb Serbia
 1999 Derek Mahon, *Collected Poems*
 1999 Carol Ann Duffy, *The World's Wife*
 1999 Lorna Goodison, *Turn Thanks*
 1999 Robert Sullivan, *Star Waka*
 1999 Lesego Rampolokeng, *The Bavino Sermons*
 2000 British Race Relations Amendment Act establishes the statutory duty of public bodies to promote race equality
 2000 Zadie Smith, *White Teeth*
 2000 Lorna Goodison, *Guinea Woman: New and Selected Poems*
 2000 Patience Agbabi, *Transformatrix*
 2000 Jean “Binta” Breeze, “*The Arrival of Brighteye*” and *Other Poems*
 2000 John Agard, *Weblines*
 2000 Karen Press, *Home*
 2001 Establishment of the African Union (AU), successor supranational organization to the Organization of African Unity (OAU) and African Economic Community (AEC)
 2001 September 11 terrorist attacks on the World Trade Center
 2001 Kamau Brathwaite, *Ancestors*
 2001 Paul Muldoon, *Poems 1968–1998*
 2001 George Elliott Clarke, *Execution Poems*, winner of Governor General’s Award in Canada
 2001 Roy Miki, *Surrender*, winner of 2002 Governor General’s Award in Canada

CHRONOLOGY

- 2001 Bernardine Evaristo, *The Emperor's Babe*
 2001 Imtiaz Dharker, *I Speak for the Devil*
 2002 Paul Muldoon, *Moy Sand and Gravel*
 2002 Linton Kwesi Johnson, *Mi Revalueshanary Fren*, book by first black poet published in Penguin Classics
 2003 US-led invasion of Iraq
 2003 Albert Wendt et al., *Whetu Moana: An Anthology of Polynesian Poetry*
 2004 Arun Kolatkar, *Kala Ghoda Poems* and *Sarpa Satra*
 2004 Jack Mapanje, *The Last of the Sweet Bananas: New and Selected Poems*
 2004 Lorna Goodison, *Controlling the Silver*
 2005 Terrorist bombing of three London Underground trains and a bus kills 52 and injures 700
 2005 Kamau Brathwaite, *Born to Slow Horses*
 2005 Ogaga Ifowodo, *The Oil Lamp*
 2005 Kendel Hippolyte, *Night Vision*
 2006 Indian Residential School Agreement announced in Canada, recognizing damage inflicted by Indian residential schools and providing \$2 billion in compensation
 2006 Seamus Heaney, *District and Circle*
 2006 Imtiaz Dharker, *The Terrorist at My Table*
 2007 Daljit Nagra, *Look We Have Coming to Dover!* wins Forward Prize
 2007 Dilip Chitre, *As Is, Where Is: Selected English Poems, 1964–2007*
 2007 James Berry, *Windrush Songs*
 2008 Australian government formally apologizes for the Stolen Generations
 2008 Canadian government formally apologizes for Indian residential schools
 2008 M. NourbeSe Philip, *Zong!*
 2008 Patience Agbabi, *Bloodshot Monochrome*
 2008 Anita Heiss and Peter Minter (eds.), *Macquarie PEN Anthology of Aboriginal Literature*
 2008 Epeli Hau'ofa, *We Are the Ocean: Selected Works*
 2008 Craig Santos Perez, *from Unincorporated Territory [hacha]*
 2009 Arun Kolatkar, *The Boatride & Other Poems*
 2010 Robert Sullivan, *Shout Ha! To the Sky*
 2010 Kamau Brathwaite, *Elegguas*

CHRONOLOGY

- 2011 Daljit Nagra, *Tippoo Sultan's Incredible White-Man-Eating Toy Tiger-Machine!!!*
- 2011 Hone Tuwhare, *Small Holes in the Silence: Collected Works*
- 2012 Idle No More protest movement founded in Canada
- 2012 Kaiser Haq, *Published in the Streets of Dhaka: Collected Poems*
- 2012 John Kinsella, *Jam Tree Gully*
- 2012 Karen Press, *Slowly, As If*
- 2013 Death of Seamus Heaney
- 2013 Daljit Nagra, *Ramayana: A Retelling*
- 2013 Lorna Goodison, *Supplying Salt and Light*
- 2013 Edward Baugh, *Black Sand*
- 2013 Hannah Lowe, *Chick*
- 2014 Kei Miller's *The Cartographer Tries to Map a Way to Zion* wins Forward Prize
- 2014 Wagan Watson, *Love Poems and Death Threats*
- 2014 Arvind Krishna Mehrotra, *Collected Poems, 1969–2014*
- 2014 Patience Agbabi, *Telling Tales*
- 2014 Derek Walcott, *White Egrets*
- 2014 Vladimir Lucien, *Sounding Ground*
- 2014 Reina Whaitiri and Robert Sullivan (eds.), *Puna Wai Kōrero: An Anthology of Māori Poetry in English*
- 2015 Tiphonie Yanique, *Wife*
- 2015 Mona Arshi, *Small Hands*
- 2016 Great Britain votes to leave European Union
- 2016 Leaked files detail abuse of asylum seekers on Australian island of Nauru
- 2016 Jackie Kay appointed Scottish Makar
- 2016 “New Pacific Islander Poetry” published by *Poetry* magazine
- 2016 Ishion Hutchinson, *House of Lords and Commons*
- 2016 Vahni Capildeo's *Measures of Expatriation* wins Forward Prize