

# Achille Mbembe

## A Bibliography

Compiled by John L. Novak  
with the assistance of Melissa Fernandez

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### Texts by Achille Mbembe

#### 1982-1983

"Les pratiques politiques et les protestations populaires au Cameroun, de 1930 à 1960." Villes et problèmes urbains contemporains en Afrique noire. Afrique noire no. 7 (1982-1983): 116-131.

#### 1984

"Présentation et notes." Le problème national kamerunais. Ruben Um Nyobè. Paris: L'Harmattan, 1984. 8-92.

**Note:** Mbembe's introduction consists of the first three chapters in the "Première partie" of Nyobè's work. Contents below:

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#### 1985

Les jeunes et l'ordre politique en Afrique noire. Logiques sociales. Paris: L'Harmattan, 1985.

"La palabre de l'indépendance: Les ordres du discours nationaliste au Cameroun, 1948-1958." Revue française de science politique 35.3 (1985): 459-87.

## 1986

"Postface." Le mouvement nationaliste au Cameroun. Ed. R. Joseph. Paris: Karthala, 1986. 363-74.

"Pouvoir des morts et langages de vivants: les errances de la mémoire nationaliste au Cameroun." Politique africaine 22 (1986): 37-72.

## 1988

Afriques indociles. Christianisme, pouvoir et État en société postcoloniale. Paris: Karthala, 1988.

## 1989

"L'argument matériel dans les églises catholiques d'Afrique noire: Le cas du Zimbabwe (1975-1987)." Politique Africaine 35 (1989): 50-65.

"Bureaucratie et forces marchandes dans le Cameroun de l'entredeux-guerres, 1920-1938." The Political Economy of Cameroon Historical Perspectives. Eds. P. Geschiere and P. Konings. Leiden: ASC Research Report, 1989. 785-809.

"Economic liberalisation and the post colonial African state." Beyond Autocracy in Africa. Atlanta: Carter Center. Emory University, 1989. 42-58.

"État, violence et accumulation." Au coeur de l'Afrique 52.1 (1989): 22-41.

with R. Um Nyobè. "L'État-historien." Écrits sous maquis. Paris: L'Harmattan, 1989. 7-42.

"Le spectre et l'État: Des dimensions politiques de l'imaginaire historique dans le Cameroun postcolonial." Histoire de l'Afrique. Revue de la Bibliothèque Nationale; 34, 1989.

"Le spectre et l'État: Des dimensions politiques de l'imaginaire historique dans le Cameroun postcolonial." Bibliothèque Nationale, Revue 34 (1989): 2-13.

The state, violence, and accumulation: the case of Sub-Saharan Africa. Leiden, Netherlands: Centre of Non Western Studies, University of Leiden, 1989. Title: État, violence et accumulation.

(translated by Achille Mbembe and E. Nguematcha). Njeuma, M. Z. Histoire du Cameroun : (XIXe-début XXe s.). Racines du présent; Paris: Editions de l'Harmattan, 1989.

### **1990**

Bayart, Jean-Francois. "L'afropessimisme par le bas: Réponse à Achille Mbembe, Jean Copans et quelques autres." Politique Africaine 40 (1990): 103.

"Le Cameroun après la mort d'Ahmadou Ahidjo." Politique Africaine 37 (1990): 117-22.

"The Issue of Paganism in the Post-Colonial Era African Perspectives." Popular Religion, Liberation and Contextual Theology. Eds. Jacques Van Nieuwenhove and Berma Klein Goldewijk. Nijmegen, The Netherlands: University of Nijmegen, (1990): 15-51.

"Pouvoir, violence et accumulation." Politique Africaine 39 (1990): 7-24.

### **1991**

"Désordres, résistances et productivité." Politique africaine 42 (1991): 2-8.

"Domaines de la nuit et autorité onirique dans les maquis du Sud-Cameroun, 1955-1958." Journal of African History 32.2 (1991): 89-121.

"Power and Obscenity in the Post-Colonial Period -- the Case of Cameroon." Rethinking Third World Politics. Ed. James Manor. London: Longman, 1991. 166-82.

### **1992**

"The Banality of Power and the Aesthetics of Vulgarity in the Postcolony." Trans. Janet Roitman. Public Culture 4.2 (1992): 1-30.

(translated by Achille Mbembe). Bayart, Jean-Francois. "The Historicity of African Societies." Journal of International Affairs 46.1 (1992): 55-79.

Mbembe, Achille, Jean-François Bayart and Comi M. Toulabor eds. Le Politique par le bas en Afrique noire: contributions à une problématique de la démocratie. Les Afriques; Variation: Collection Les Afriques. Paris: Karthala, 1992.

**Note:** Contains articles previously published in *Politique africaine* and *Revue française de science politique* between 1981 and 1990.

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<i>J.F. Bayart</i>	

"Pouvoir et économie politique en Afrique contemporaine -- une réflexion."  
Afrique 2000 8 (1992): 51-71.

"Prosaics of Servitude and Authoritarian Civilities." Trans. Janet Roitman. Public Culture 5.1 (1992): 123-45.

"Provisional Notes on the Postcolony." *Africa* 62.1 (1992): 3-37.

"Traditions de l'autoritarisme et problèmes de gouvernement en Afrique sub-saharienne." Africa Development. Afrique et Développement. 17.1 (1992): 37-64.

### 1993

- "Crise de légitimité, restauration autoritaire et déliquescence de l'État au Cameroun." Itinéraires d'accumulation au Cameroun = Pathways to accumulation in Cameroon. Eds. Peter Geschiere and Piet Konings. Hommes et sociétés. Paris: Karthala, 1993. 345-73.
- "Diagnostic sur les dérapages de la transition démocratique en Afrique." Afrique 2000 12 (1993): 57-63.
- "Écrire l'Afrique à partir d'une faille." Politique africaine 51 (1993): 69-97.
- "Prolifération du divin et régimes du merveilleux en postcolonie." Les politiques de Dieu. Ed. G. Kepel. Paris: Le Seuil, 1993. 177-201.
- "Regard: Images coloniales sur l'Afrique noire." Images et colonies: iconographie et propagande coloniale sur l'Afrique française de 1880 à 1962. Paris: Association Connaissance de l'histoire de l'Afrique contemporaine, 1993. 280-85.

### 1994

- Mbembe, Achille. "Déflation de l'État, civilité et citoyenneté en Afrique noire." GEMDEV, L'intégration régionale dans le monde. Innovations et ruptures. Paris: Karthala, 1994. 273-86.
- "Rome et les églises africaines." Afrique 2000 17 (1994): 87-98.

### 1995

- with Janet Roitman. "Figures of the Subject in Times of Crisis." Public Culture 7.2 (1995): 323-52.
- "Notes provisoires sur la postcolonie." Politique Africaine 60 (1995): 76-109.
- "Le temps qui S'agité." Afrique 2000 21 (1995): 83-96.

### 1996

- "La 'chose' et ses doubles dans la caricature camerounaise." Cahiers D'Etudes Africaines 36.141/142 (1996): 143-70.

"Une économie de prédation: Les rapports entre la rareté matérielle et la démocratie en Afrique subsaharienne." Afrique 2000 24 (1996): 67-81.

"Figures of the Subject in Times of Crisis." The Geography of Identity. Trans. Janet Roitman. Ed. Patricia Yaeger. Ann Arbor: University of Michigan Press, 1996. 153-86.

La naissance du maquis dans le Sud-Cameroun (1920-1960) Histoire des usages de la raison en colonie. Paris: Karthala, 1996.

**Note:** English title: The Birth of the Resistance in Southern Cameroon.

"Des rapports entre la rareté matérielle et la démocratie en Afrique subsaharienne." Sociétés africaines et diaspora no.1 (1996): 13-39.

"The 'Thing' and Its Double in Cameroonian Cartoons." Readings in African Popular Culture. Ed. K. Barber. London: James Currey, 1996. 151-63.

### **1997**

with Mamdou Diouf, and Memêl Fote. "L'état-civil de l'État en Afrique: débat entre Mamadou Diouf, Achille Mbembe et Memêl Fote." GEMDEV: Les Avatars de l'Etat en Afrique. Paris: Karthala, 1997.

"Introduction: L'état civil de Dieu et ses biographies dans l'Afrique contemporaine" = "Introduction: The Civil Status and Biographies of God in Contemporary Africa." Afrika Zamanj no. 5-6 (1997-1998): 1-12.

**Note:** Introduction to this journal is printed in both English and French.

### **1999**

"L'idée de sciences sociales." Revue Africaine de Sociologie = African Sociological Review 3.2 (1999): 129-41.

"God's Phallus." Public Culture 11.3 (1999): 475-98.

"Du gouvernement privé indirect: L'état en voie de privatisation." Politique africaine 73 (1999): 103-21, 221.

Du gouvernement privé indirect. Série Etat de la littérature. Dakar, Sénégal: Conseil pour le développement de la recherche en sciences sociales en Afrique, 1999.(s)

## **2000**

"At the Edge of the World: Boundaries, Territoriality, and Sovereignty in Africa."  
Trans. Steven Rendall. *Public Culture* 12.1 (2000): 259-84.

"Everything Can be Negotiated: Ambiguities and Challenges in a Time of  
Uncertainty." *Manoeuvring in an Environment of Uncertainty: Structural  
Change and Social Action in Sub-Saharan Africa*. Eds. Boel Berner and  
Per Trulsson. Aldershot: Ashgate, 2000. 265-76.

*De la postcolonie. Essai sur l'imagination politique dans l'Afrique contemporaine*.  
Paris: Karthala, 2000.

*On Private Indirect Government*. Dakar: CODESRIA, 2000.

"À propos dès écritures africaines de soi." *Politique africaine* 77 (2000): 16-43,  
208.

## **2001**

"African Modes of Self-Writing." *Identity, Culture and Politics* 2.2 (2001): 1-25.

"At the Edge of the World: Boundaries, Territoriality, and Sovereignty in Africa."  
*Beyond State Crisis? Postcolonial Africa and Post-Soviet Eurasia in  
Comparative Perspective*. Eds. Mark R. Beissinger and Crawford Young.  
Baltimore: Woodrow Wilson Center Press, 2001. 53-80.

"Figures of the Subject in Times of Crisis." *Under Siege: Four African Cities*.  
Trans. Janet Roitman. Eds. Okwui Enwezor and et. al. Ostfildern-Ruit:  
Hatje Cantz Publishers, 2002. 99-128.

*On the Postcolony*. Berkeley: University of California Press, 2001.

### **Table of Contents of On the Postcolony**

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"The Subject of the World." Facing Up to the Past: Perspectives on the Commemoration of Slavery from Africa, the Americas and Europe. Ed. Gert Oostindie. Kingston: Ian Randle Publishers, 2001. 21-28.

"Ways of Seeing: Beyond the New Nativism." African Studies Review 44.2 (2001): 1-14.

**Note:** Introduction to special issue "Ways of Seeing: Beyond the New Nativism." Mbembe is also the special guest editor of this issue.

## **2002**

"African Modes of Self-Writing." Trans. Steven Rendall. Public Culture 14.1 (2002): 239-73.

"L'Afrique entre localisme et cosmopolitisme." Esprit October 2002: 65-74.

"As Formas Africanas de Auto-Inscricao." Estudos Afro-Asiaticos 23.1 (2002): 171-209.

"Notes sur le pouvoir du faux: L'Afrique des Africanistes." Le Débat 118 (2002): 49-58.

"The Power of the Archive and its Limits." Refiguring the Archive. Ed. Carolyn Hamilton. Cape Town: David Phillip, 2002. 19-26.

"On the Power of the False." Trans. Judith Ingss. Public Culture 14.3 (2002): 629-41.

## **2003**

"Life, Sovereignty, and Terror in the Fiction of Amos Tutuola." Research in African Literatures 34.4 (Winter 2003): 1-26.

Mbembe, Achille, and Libby the translator Mientjes. "Necropolitics." Public Culture 15.1 (2003): 11-40.

"La part nocturne." Politique africaine (2003).

"Politiques de la vie et violence spéculaire dans la fiction d'Amos Tutuola" Cahiers d'études africaines. (2003) XLIII(4): 791-826.

"Provisional Notes on the Postcolony." Contemporary African Art and Shifting Landscapes. Eds. Sarah Campbell and Gilane Tawadros. London: Institute of International Visual Art, 2003: 53-64.



## **Selected Reviews of Achille Mbembe's books**

### **Mbembe's De la postcolonie = On the Postcolony**

- Adeeko, Adeleke . "Bound to Violence?: Achille Mbembe's On the Postcolony." *West Africa Review*. 3.2 (2002).  
**Online here:** <http://www.westafricareview.com/war/vol3.2/adeeko.html>
- Adepitan, Titi. "Views of the Postcolony." *Canadian Literature* 178 (Autumn 2003): 155-156.
- Chabal, Patrick. "Rev. of De la postcolonie: essai sur l'imagination politique dans l'Afrique contemporaine." *International Affairs* 77.4 (2001): 1021-22.
- Coquery-Vidrovitch, Catherine. "Rev. of De la Postcolonie. Essai sur l'imagination politique dans l'Afrique contemporaine." *Cahiers d'Études Africaines*. 42.167 (2002): 602-12.
- Ellis, Stephen. "Rev. of On the Postcolony." *African Affairs* 100.401 (2001): 670-71.
- Lee, Catherine. "Rev. of On the Postcolony." *Development and Change* 34.5 (2003): 968-969.
- McGregor, JoAnn. "Rev. of On the Postcolony." *Progress in Human Geography* 27.1 (2003): 133-34.
- McNee, Lisa. "Rev. of On the Postcolony." *International Journal of African Historical Studies* 34.1 (2001): 164-65.
- Porter, Mary A. "Rev. of On the Postcolony." *American Anthropologist* 105.3 (2003): 635-37.  
**Note:** Mbembe's book is reviewed alongside Guarav Desai's book [Subject to Colonialism: African Self-Fashioning and the Colonial Library](#).
- Quayson, Ato. "Rev. of On the Postcolony." *African Studies Review* 44.2 (2001): 151-65.
- Sichone, Owen. "Rev. of On the Postcolony." *Social Dynamics* 27.2 (2001): 181-82.
- Terretta, M. "Rev. of On the Postcolony." *Canadian Journal of African Studies* 36.1 (2002): 162-64.
- Webster, E.C. "Rev. of On the Postcolony." *International Affairs* 78.3 (2002): 661-63.

### **Mbembe's On Private, Indirect Government**

Lee, Earl. "Rev. of On Private, Indirect Government." *Counterpoise* 6.1/2 (2002): 59.

### **Mbembe's La naissance du maquis dans le Sud-Cameroun**

Eckert, Andreas. "Rev. of La naissance du maquis dans le Sud-Cameroun (1920-1960): histoire des usages de la raison en colonie." *Journal of African History* 40.1 (1999): 151-52.

Hongla, A. "Rev. of La naissance du maquis dans le Sud-Cameroun (1920-1960): histoire des usages de la raison en colonie." *Revue Française d'Histoire d'Outre-Mer* 85.4 (1998): 96-97.

### **Mbembe's Afriques indociles**

Chrétien, Jean-Pierre. "Rev. of Afriques indociles." *Esprit* 12.1/6 (1988): 122.

Guyer, Jane. "Rev. of Afriques indociles: Christianisme, pouvoir et Etat en societe postcoloniale." *American Ethnologist* 16.1 (1989): 169.

Hackett, Rosalind. "Rev. of Afriques indociles. christianisme, pouvoir et etat en societe postcoloniale." *Journal of Religion in Africa* 20.3 (1988): 305-06.

Ibrahim, Jibrin. "Rev. of Afriques indociles - christianisme, pouvoir et etat en societe postcoloniale." *Journal of Modern African Studies* 28.2 (1990): 336-37.

Koss, Bogumil. "Rev. of Afriques indociles." *Etudes Internationales* 20.2 (1989): 417.

Lemarchand, Rene. "Rev. of Afriques Indociles: Christianisme, Pouvoir et Etat en Societe Postcoloniale." *African Studies Review* 32.3 (1989): 153-55.

Paini, Anna. "Rev. of Afriques indociles: christianisme, pouvoir et etat en societe postcoloniale." *Canberra-Anthropology* 15.1 (1992): 123.

### **Mbembe's African Modes of Self-Writing . . .**

Mafeje, A. "Apropos 'African modes of self-writing:' adieu ." *Southern Africa Political & Economic Monthly* 13.12 (Sept/Oct 2000): 33-36.

Wickramasinghe, Nira. "A Comment on 'African Modes of Self-Writing' . . ." *Identity, Culture and Politics* 2.2 (2001): 37-41.

# **Special Issues Edited by or about Achille Mbembe**

## **African Studies Review**

Volume 44, number 2. September 2001

**Note:** According to Mbembe in the introduction: "the primary aim of this special issue is to highlight a significant body of social science research conducted in Africa by African researchers living and working there -- as insiders . . . this issue was conceived with the goal of giving a voice to those who have remained in Africa" (p. 4).

The first part of the journal contains articles that fulfill this goal; the second part contains "reviews of the most significant works written by African researchers living in Africa" (p. 3).

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## **Public Culture: Society for Transnational Cultural Studies**

Volume 5, issue 1. Winter 1992

**Note:** This issue is devoted to the response of different scholars to Achille Mbembe's essay "The Banality of Power and the Aesthetics of Vulgarly in the Postcolony." Below are the Table of Contents of the section relating to Mbembe's article.

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## **Public Culture: Society for Transnational Cultural Studies**

Volume 14, issue 3. Fall 2002

**Note:** The second half of this issue contains articles that are responding to Achille Mbembe's essay "African Modes of Self-Writing."

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## **Selected Works about Mbembe**

Biaya, T.K. "Dérive épistémologique et écriture de l'histoire de l'Afrique contemporaine." *Politique Africaine* 60 (1995): 110-16.

**Note:** Examines Mbembe's essay "Provisional Notes on the Postcolony."

Elenga, Yvon Christian. "Pour que L'Afrique ait un nom: Eléments bibliographiques d'Achille ." *Congo-Afrique* 38.329 (1998): 559-66.

**Note:** An excellent annotated bibliography of Mbembe's work. Captures many of his works and interviews in French magazines and journals. Bibliographer also writes an introduction and conclusion about the listed works and importance of Mbembe.

Guillaumin, A. "Réflexion critique ou influence marxiste? Pour un effort de discernement." *Spiritus* 30.116 (1989): 311-22.

**Note:** Examines Mbembe's work "Afriques indociles."

Höller, Christian. "Africa in Motion: An interview with the Post-Colonialism Theoretician Achille Mbembe." *springerin.3* (2002).

**Note:** Article can be found at this Web site: <http://www.springerin.at/en/>

Karlstroem, Mikael. "On the Aesthetics and Dialogics of Power in the Postcolony." *Africa* 73.1 (2003): 57-76.

**Note:** Addresses Achille Mbembe's "Provisional Notes on the Postcolony."

Osha, Sanya. "Theorising the Postcolony or the Force of the Commandment: Meditations on Achille Mbembe's On the Postcolony." *Quest* 14.2 (2000): 113-21.

Quayson, Ato. "Instrumental and Synoptic Dimensions of Interdisciplinarity in Postcolonial Studies." *Essays and Studies* 52 (1999): 75-94.

**Note:** Examines Mbembe's work in contrast to Theodor Adorno and Homi Bhaba. This essay appears in an issue entitled "Postcolonial Theory and Criticism."

Rakecewitz, Philip. "Mapping Concepts (Cartographier la pensée). Trans. Anne-Maria Boitumelo Makhulu. *Public Culture* 12.3 (2000): 703-706." *Public Culture* 12.3 (2000): 703-06.

**Note:** Translated article that deals with Mbembe's ideas as presented in the article "At the edge of the world . . ."

Weate, Jeremy. "Achille Mbembe and the Postcolony: Going beyond the Text." *Research in African Literatures* 34.4 (2003): 27-41.

# Achille Mbembe

## A Bibliography

John L. Novak with the assistance of Melissa Fernandez

On the Occasion of the 24<sup>th</sup> Wellek Library Lectures

2004

### WELLEK LIBRARY LECTURES

1981	Harold Bloom	The Breaking of the Vessels
1982	Perry Anderson	In the Tracks of Historical Materialism
1983	Frank Kermode	Forms of Attention
1984	Jacques Derrida	Mémoires: For Paul de Man
1985	J. Hillis Miller	The Ethics of Reading
1986	J. F. Lyotard	Peregrinations
1987	Louis Marin	Pascalian Propositions Today
1988	Murray Krieger	The Reopening of Closure
1989	Edward Said	Musical Elaborations
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1992	Geoffrey Hartman	The Fateful Question of Culture
1993	Evelyn Fox Keller	Refiguring Life
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1995	Rosalind E. Krauss	Formlessness
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1997	H.D. Harootunian	History's Disquiet
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1999	Jean Baudrillard	The Murder of the Real, the Final Solution, & the Millennium
2000	Gayatri C. Spivak	The New Comparative Literature
2001	Homi K. Bhabha	Quasi-Colonial; Shadows & Citizens; Global Measure
2002	Paul Gilroy	Elements of Post-colonial Melancholia
2003	Angela Davis	Lectures on Abolition
2004	Achille Mbembe	The Political Life of Sovereignty