



Chinua Achebe: A Biography

By Ezenwa-Ohaeto

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"... some 10 years of painstaking enquiry are presented with sustained energy... Ezenwa-Ohaeto has completed a remarkable feat..." ?West Africa

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"... in this meticulously researched work, [Ezenwa-Ohaeto] provides a wealth of information that should prove invaluable to all future studies of Achebe." ?Library Journal

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This is the first biography of the internationally acclaimed author of *Things Fall Apart*, the most widely read African novel, first published in 1958 and now a classic, with more than 12 million copies in print. *Things Fall Apart* is a defining moment in African and world literature.

Ezenwa-Ohaeto's biography is the first comprehensive account of Achebe's life to date. Based on extensive research and numerous interviews, this is also the first work to trace the story of Achebe's life while putting his achievement into a social and historical context.

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Editorial Review

Amazon.com Review

Chinua Achebe is the founding father of modern African literature. His novels, from *Things Fall Apart* (1958) to *Anthills of the Savannah* (1987), set the standard for all writers who aspire to portray the continent's complex colonial and tribal legacy. This respectful biography by former student Ezenwa-Ohaeto thoroughly delineates the tangled history of Achebe's native Nigeria and chronicles his courageous support of human rights, frequently violated by Nigeria's government. Achebe's magical fiction needs no explication, but with this biography Western readers will gain a new understanding of the man who created it.

From Library Journal

There have been several good books in recent years on Achebe, the world-renowned African writer, including C.L. Innes's Chinua Achebe (Cambridge, 1990) and Simon Cikandi's Reading Chinua Achebe: Language and Ideology (Heinemann, 1991). But Ezenwa-Ohaeto has provided the first biography on the author. He sheds light on all aspects of Achebe's life from his youth through 1993, describing not only his literary contributions as novelist, poet, essayist, children's writer, and editor but also his role in Nigeria's stormy political history. The book is peppered with quotations by and about Achebe, many from sources not easily available. Ezenwa-Ohaeto was a former student of Achebe's at the University of Nigeria, and at times he seems to hold his subject in awe. However, in this meticulously researched work, he provides a wealth of information that should prove invaluable to all future studies of Achebe. Full primary and secondary bibliographies are included. ?Louis J. Parascandola, Long Island Univ., Brooklyn Campus

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Review

"What a treat! This biography of one of the world's most distinguished and honored writers is a welcome arrival. Achebe has done more than any other single person to draw international attention to the literature of the sub-Saharan, and he is well served by this study. The book details Achebe's life from his birth in 1930 to 1993, showing his growth as a novelist, poet, and critic. The author includes a good treatment of the firestorm that occurred after Achebe called *Heart of Darkness* a racist work; his work as a Biafran patriot during the aborted war of secession; and his encouragement of other African writers, primarily but not exclusively those from Nigeria, to show their work to the world. Indeed, to read this book is to be present at the beginning of the careers of such acclaimed writers as Ngugi (Ngugi) wa Thiongo, Wole Soyinka, and Christopher Okigbo. This rewarding study veers now and then toward hagiography (Ezenwa-Ohaeto is a former student), but that is not a serious flaw. Those wishing for a closer reading of the novels (which was clearly not the author's intent) should read Simon Gukandi's *Reading Chinua Achebe* (CH, May'92) or *Chinua Achebe: A Celebration*, edited by Kirsten Petersen and Anna Rutherford (1991). Every library should add Ezenwa-Ohaeto's book to its collection." ?P. W. Stine, Gordon College, Choice, May 1998

Users Review

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Do you have favorite book? Should you have, what is your favorite's book? Book is very important thing for us to know everything in the world. Each guide has different aim as well as goal; it means that publication

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