



# Afrocentrism: Mythical Pasts and Imagined Homes

By Stephen Howe

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In this provocative study, Stephen Howe traces the sources and ancestries of the Afrocentric movement, and closely analyses the writings of its leading proponents. Hard-hitting yet subtle and scholarly in its appraisal of Afrocentric ideas, and based on wide-ranging research in the histories both of Afro-America and of Africa itself, *Afrocentrism* not only demolishes the mythical “history” taught by black ultra-nationalists but suggests paths towards a true historical consciousness of Africa and its diaspora.

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## Afrocentrism: Mythical Pasts and Imagined Homes By Stephen Howe Bibliography

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### Editorial Review

From Publishers Weekly

Afrocentrism, asserts Oxford historian Howe in this forceful scholarly critique, is a dogmatic ideology promoting a mythical vision of the past that involves an erroneous belief in fundamentally distinct African ways of knowing and feeling. Using archaeological and other studies, he refutes the claims of influential Afrocentrist Senegalese historian Cheikh Anta Diop, who held that ancient Egypt was a black African civilization and that a single cultural system unified the African continent. Howe deftly exposes the shaky underpinnings of Cornell historian Martin Bernal's popular tome, *Black Athena*, which claims that classical Greece was massively indebted to Egyptian and Semitic sources, and to Egyptian colonization. Tracing the evolution of Afrocentric views from 19th-century pamphleteers, romantic anthropologists, occultists and political activists both black and white through contemporary Black Muslim doctrine and what he considers the distortions of U.S. academics such as Leonard Jeffries, Ron Karenga and Molefi Asante, Howe finds that much Afrocentric writing "slips from ethnocentrism and neoconservatism into full-blown racism, sexism and homophobia." A major contribution to the debate, this dense study will appeal mostly to scholars. Photos not seen by PW.

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From Library Journal

Howe (Ruskin Coll., Oxford Univ.) sees "Afrocentrism" as "Ethnonationalism" and as a concept that "is accompanied by a mass of invented traditions, by a mythical vision of the past, and by a body of racial pseudoscience." Here he offers a provocative and critical analysis of the philosophical and historicist validity of Afrocentrism. Howe critically analyzes, and in some cases debunks, notions of prominent Africanists such as Marcus Garvey and Frantz Fanon, providing a useful overview of some of the ideological differences between African American scholars in their debates on multiculturalism vs. Afrocentricity. Unfortunately, he fails to realize that, however flawed, Afrocentrism is the newest concept emphasizing the social cohesion of African-origin people rather than the American individualism of the older Anglo conformity. Overall, Howe's book is an effective polemic that will appeal to scholars and students alike working on developing critical interpretations and/or a historical understanding of Afrocentrism, and he is to be commended for providing scholars with easier access to source materials and for his extensive bibliography and footnotes. Recommended for special collections. A Edward G. McCormack, Univ. of Southern Mississippi, Gulf Coast  
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Review

"The bravest work to appear from the academy in years."—*Financial Times* Books of the Year (1998)

"Precise and courageous ... Howe's book is a landmark."—Brian Appleyard, *Sunday Times*

"A spirited, meticulously researched polemic ... With unrelenting energy and intellectual rigour, Howe traces the history and development of Afrocentric ideas."—Kate Teltscher, *Guardian*

"Stephen Howe's candid book goes right to the heart of one of the most vexing of contemporary America's problems ... A great service for all who are interested in the intellectual study of race and racism in the US."—Caryl Phillips, *Financial Times*

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#### **John Cleveland:**

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What do you regarding book? It is not important together with you? Or just adding material when you want something to explain what the ones you have problem? How about your time? Or are you busy particular person? If you don't have spare time to accomplish others business, it is gives you the sense of being bored faster. And you have free time? What did you do? Everybody has many questions above. They should answer that question due to the fact just their can do that. It said that about book. Book is familiar on every person. Yes, it is suitable. Because start from on pre-school until university need this particular Afrocentrism: Mythical Pasts and Imagined Homes to read.

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#### **Terry Crabtree:**

Playing with family in a park, coming to see the sea world or hanging out with pals is thing that usually you will have done when you have spare time, after that why you don't try thing that really opposite from that. Just one activity that make you not sensation tired but still relaxing, trilling like on roller coaster you already been ride on and with addition of information. Even you love Afrocentrism: Mythical Pasts and Imagined Homes, it is possible to enjoy both. It is good combination right, you still would like to miss it? What kind of hang-out type is it? Oh seriously its mind hangout people. What? Still don't buy it, oh come on its named reading friends.

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