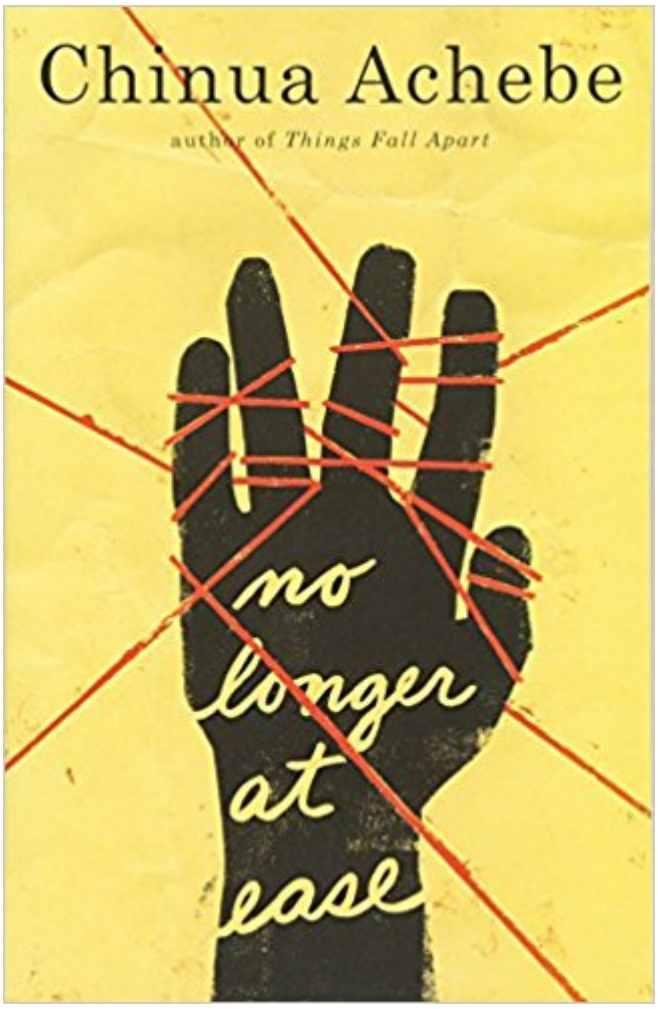
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No Longer At Ease



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Synopsis

A classic story of moral struggle in an age of turbulent social change and the final book in Chinua AchebeÃ¢â ¬â„¢sÃ Â The African Trilogy When Obi OkonkwoÃ¢â ¬â •grandson of Okonkwo, the main character inÃ Â Things Fall ApartÃ¢â ¬â •returns to Nigeria from England in the 1950s, his foreign education separates him from his African roots. He has become a part of a ruling elite whose corruption he finds repugnant. Forced to choose between traditional values and the demands of a changing world, he finds himself trapped between the expectations of his family, his village, and the colonial world.Showing a man lost in cultural limbo, and a nation entering a new age of disillusionment,Ã Â No Longer at EaseÃ Â concludes Achebe's remarkable trilogy.Ã Â From the author of Things Fall Apart, a novel with more than twenty million copies sold and translated into fifty-seven languages, these works imagine an African community upended by the forces of colonialism from the first arrival of the British to the waning days of empire.

Book Information

Paperback: 194 pages

Publisher: Anchor; Reprint edition (September 16, 1994)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0385474555

ISBN-13: 978-0385474559

Product Dimensions: 5.4 x 0.8 x 8.2 inches

Shipping Weight: 3.2 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.0 out of 5 stars   88 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #43,930 in Books (See Top 100 in Books)   #30 inÃ Â Books > Literature & Fiction > World Literature > African   #212 inÃ Â Books > Literature & Fiction > Genre Fiction > Historical > Cultural Heritage   #307 inÃ Â Books > Literature & Fiction > Genre Fiction > Political

Customer Reviews

Praise for Chinua AchebeÃ Â Ã¢â ¬Å"A magical writerÃ¢â ¬â •one of the greatest of the twentieth century.Ã¢â ¬Â• Ã¢â ¬â •Margaret AtwoodÃ Â Ã¢â ¬Å"African literature is incomplete and unthinkable without the works of Chinua Achebe.Ã¢â ¬Â• Ã¢â ¬â •Toni MorrisonÃ Â Ã Â

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Ã Â Ã Â Ã Â Ã Â Ã Â Ã Â Ã Â Ã Â Â Ã¢â ¬Å“Chinua Achebe is gloriously gifted with the magic of an ebullient, generous, great talent.Ã¢â ¬Â• Ã¢â ¬â •Nadine GordimerÃ Â Ã¢â ¬Å“AchebeÃ¢â ¬â„¢s influence should go on and on . . . teaching and reminding that all humankind is one.Ã¢â ¬Â• Ã¢â ¬â •The NationÃ Â Ã¢â ¬Å“The father of African literature in the English language and undoubtedly one of the most important writers of the second half of the twentieth century.Ã¢â ¬Â• Ã¢â ¬â •Caryl Phillips,Ã Â The ObserverÃ Â Ã¢â ¬Å“We are indebted to Achebe for reminding us that art has social and moral dimensionÃ¢â ¬â •a truth often obscured.Ã¢â ¬Â• Ã¢â ¬â •Chicago TribuneÃ Â Ã¢â ¬Å“He is one of the few writers of our time who has touched us with a code of values that will never be ironic.Ã¢â ¬Â• Ã¢â ¬â •Michael OndaatjeÃ Â Ã¢â ¬Å“For so many readers around the world, it is Chinua Achebe who opened up the magic casements of African fiction.Ã¢â ¬Â• Ã¢â ¬â •Kwame Anthony AppiahÃ Â Ã¢â ¬Å“[Achebe] is one of world literatureÃ¢â ¬â„¢s great humane voices.Ã¢â ¬Â• Ã¢â ¬â •Times Literary SupplementÃ Â Ã¢â ¬Å“Achebe is one of the most distinguished artists to emerge from the West African cultural renaissance of the post-war world.Ã¢â ¬Â• Ã¢â ¬â •The Sunday TimesÃ Â (London)Ã Â Ã¢â ¬Å“[Achebe is] a powerful voice for cultural decolonization.Ã¢â ¬Â• Ã¢â ¬â •The Village VoiceÃ Â Ã¢â ¬Å“Chinua Achebe has shown that a mind that observes clearly but feels deeply enough to afford laughter may be more wise than all the politicians and journalists.Ã¢â ¬Â• Ã¢â ¬â •TimeÃ Â Ã¢â ¬Å“The power and majesty of Chinua AchebeÃ¢â ¬â„¢s work has, literally, opened the world to generations of readers. He is an ambassador of art, and a profound recorder of the human condition.Ã¢â ¬Â• Ã¢â ¬â •Michael Dorris

The story of a man whose foreign education has separated him from his African roots and made him parts of a ruling elite whose corruption he finds repugnant. More than thirty years after it was first written, this novel remains a brilliant statement on the challenges still facing African society.

Great book and very interesting story told from the eyes of a Nigerian tribe at the time of English

colonization. The only thing I disliked was the fact that besides the main character which is quite complex and suffers from all sorts of internal struggles, the others are fairly cookie cutter personas, inserted there for the sole purpose of moving the story forward. Yet none of them really stand out or make the reader form an attachment to them or care for their plight. I also particularly liked the writing style, which uses simple words and short sentences but evokes powerful images in the mind of the reader. Very similar to Hemingway's prose in my opinion.

After reading Things Fall Apart, I decided to check out the next book in the series.This is the story of Okonkwo's grandson, who becomes the first person from their village to earn a college degree in the United Kingdom and return to Nigeria. The first scene in the book is his trial for corruption, and then it goes back in time and tells the story of how he got to that point. The story shows the dilemma of a split upbringing of educated Africans through Obi's struggles upon his return to Nigeria. He doesn't quite fit in with the Africans from his village anymore due to his education and experience abroad, but he also isn't considered white and therefore isn't a part of that community either. In the beginning he is super ambitious and wants to change the world. Eventually, he gets sucked into the cyclical nature of corruption and debt that plauges Africa. What I found most interesting about this book is how Achebe uses the one story of Obi to illustrate the plight of colonial Africa.The idea of belonging to two cultures, a stacked system, societal expectations, and the hypocrisy of religion and culture clashing were really interesting to me especially because all of these are topics i've discussed in my African politics class this semester. Great read.

For those readers who like to experience the literature of other worlds, the famed THINGS FALL APART trilogy of Chinua Achebe continues to offer an insight into how other cultures operate and contrast with others' ways of life. In this second of the three books about the downfall of traditional African societies, Mr. Achebe continues his story of an African chief's family, as it tumbles from community grace and fortune, under the advance of Western powers' influx and influence, on the African continent.In this second novel, we find the grandson of chief Obi Okonkwo being sent to the West to study the white man's language, culture and ways. When the grandson, also named Obi, returns to Lagos, Nigeria from England, he secures a prestigious desk job that takes him far away from his cultural and ancestral roots, back in his bush village. But the long arm of his traditional community reaches and influences him, even while he tries to learn and accommodate to the ways of modern Nigeria. In the process, the new, young functionary finds city women, personal finances, white coworkers, his higher education and changing life habits to be an overwhelming challenge.

Soon the younger Obi finds that he truly cannot escape his past, in order to satisfy his present life. As much as the hero Obi tries to overcome the demands of his new city life, he is ever pulled down into the morass of public failure, as he strives to be a modern, Western-educated Nigerian.In the conclusion, the inevitable happens to Obi, due mostly to his naivete about how to navigate the new Nigeria, as a savvy and city-experienced modern man of Lagos. The main character is a typical good guy caught between the old and the new. As a result, Chinue Achebe's trilogy are continuing cautionary tales about how one can appear as one thing on the outside but can also be quite another kind of evolving being, on the inside.If one enjoys the famed works of Mr. Achebe, other worthwhile, African authors are: Nadine Gordimer, Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie, Zakes M'day, M. J. Vassanji, Abdulrazak Gurnah or Ben Okri. All are masterful authors about how Africa thinks and works of Africans.

This book was required for my global studies class and I really enjoyed it. I have been meaning to read "Things Fall Apart" , the book to which this one is a sequel, for some time now and reading this had made me want to even more.I do feel that this edition is lacking due to the omission of "The Journey of the Magi" at the beginning. One of the questions posed to us about this in class was "Why do you think he started the book with a poem by Eliot?" and those of us with this edition had no idea what he was talking about.

Achebe's first book, "Things Fall Apart" was a small masterpiece in my view. His second doesn't match. The story, while interesting is less complex. It speaks about the common experience of the expatriate from the developing country returning home and trying to fit into his now uncomfortable mother-land, but it doesn't generalize philosophically as does "Things Fall Apart". In the first novel we are exposed, not only to two cultures clashing, enriching, and destroying each other, but the universal law of unintended consequences.However, "No Longer at Ease" is a good, definitely worthwhile read.

I find it very interesting to learn more about Africa and Africans. And I find the trilogy has broadened my perception about what Africa and Africans (in the part of Africa it is situated) are. And how the contemporary African life deals with the clash of its ancient culture, its relatively recent colonial past and the life today. Tricky, I can see.The novel has ways of telling these stories, of showing the culture and the personal complications that usually does not enter the newspaper-articles and the documentaries on TV about "Africa today".Africa is complicated. Read about it!

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