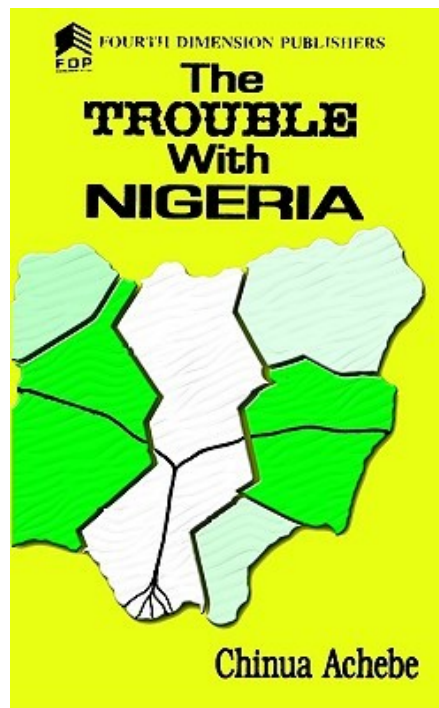




The Trouble with Nigeria

Chinua Achebe

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The Trouble with Nigeria Chinua Achebe

The eminent African novelist and critic, here addresses Nigeria's problems, aiming to challenge the resignation of Nigerians and inspire them to reject old habits which inhibit Nigeria from becoming a modern and attractive country. In this famous book now reprinted, he professes that the only trouble with Nigeria is the failure of leadership, because with good leaders Nigeria could resolve its inherent problems such as tribalism; lack of patriotism; social injustice and the cult of mediocrity; indiscipline; and corruption.

The Trouble with Nigeria Details

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Author : Chinua Achebe

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Genre : Cultural, Africa, Nonfiction, Western Africa, Nigeria, History, Politics, Literature, African Literature

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From Reader Review The Trouble with Nigeria for online ebook

Pie says

Good lesson of what patriotism really is.

Yaw Asare says

This is a book not only applicable to Nigeria but Africa as a whole. Should be in the breast pocket of every African leader and citizen. The words in this are a word to the wise.

Ewa says

its a great work from a great literal writer.

Jeff Schauer says

Short review <http://californiamwananchi.blogspot.c...>

Udeme Ralph says

Brief, concise, interesting and revealing. Surprisingly, Chinua Achebe wrote this book decades ago, but the realities he spoke about are still largely evident today in the present Nigerian society. It seems, therefore, that the book, The Trouble with Nigeria is a prognosis, a prophetic writing with unrivaled effect.

Gichana Crispin says

I like this book. a lot. it talks about the trouble with Africa only that it uses examples largely from Nigeria.

Jerome Kuseh says

Chinua Achebe analyses the sociopolitical challenges that Nigeria faced back in the 1980s. He describes a country held back by corruption, ethnocentrism, indiscipline, social injustice and inequality. It's a short and insightful critique with which many people from other African countries relate. And though 33 years have passed, the critique remains relevant to this day.

Musa Obed says

It's really short and explains Achebe's view on Nigeria at his time. Sadly most of what he discusses still prevail today. Nearly nothing has changed.

Mwangi Mugo says

the trouble with nigeria is the same trouble with kenya....

David Towoju says

Every Nigerian should read this book.

Darkowaa says

!!! review: <http://africanbookaddict.com/2015/05/...>

Simply brilliant. Short and straight to the point. All Africans should read this, especially politicians. We have to do better as a people and this book explains why with such courage, style and wit. Loved it.

Eric says

Whilst world famous for his novels in particular, Achebe has also published brilliant essays in works like *Morning Yet on Creation Day*, and this "little book" which is very thought-provoking, showcasing many of Achebe's personal beliefs and theories about his mother country. That Nigeria has countless problems cannot be disputed. Achebe posits that (lack of quality) leadership is the real problem and points out what he perceives as personal flaws in early great men like Awolowo and Azikiwe. Yet millions till date would never accept that Awolowo in particular had serious flaws as a leader, considering his legendary status till date in western Nigeria, mainly. Achebe is hard on both men, and others even when he admits that in a country with so many tribes and languages like Nigeria, compromises just have to be made. He is not too impressed with things like the national anthem and national pledge either, and believes a large number of people continue to view the Igbos (Achebe was an Igbo) with suspicion. There is no point over-flogging this aspect, but Achebe does make a lot of sense with many of his comments, especially alleged lack of discipline bedevilling the nation at large; and the extraordinary cacophony and misplaced reverence that goes with things like official cars for leaders, despatch riders and their sirens. He points out that the hero-worship/egotism associated with the leaders, including governors, can be sickening and counter-productive. But nowadays, would most pundits believe that Achebe was essentially right to claim that a lack of leadership continues to bring the country down? Probably...now we are told that fighting corruption is probably the way to go, but we must still note that it is the "leaders", top party functionaries, those in strategic positions et al who have plundered the wealth of the country in horrific fashion...hence cleansing the Augean stables here is commensurate with cleansing the leadership...hmmm

Steven says

It is totally false to suggest, as we are apt to do, that Nigerians are different fundamentally from any other people in the world. Nigerians are corrupt because the system under which they live today makes corruption easy and profitable; they will cease to be corrupt when corruption is made difficult and inconvenient.

The Trouble with Nigeria is an impassioned plea by Achebe for things to change in his home country of Nigeria. Sadly, I think that little has changed since he wrote it in 1983 (I'm thinking in particular of Louis Theroux's recent documentary about Lagos). The case for Nigeria is very similar to that of any country with high levels of underdevelopment and corruption: basically, someone (a leader) needs to stand up and radically change things, change the whole spirit of corrupted politics. But even this is no guarantee for lasting change. It requires much dedication and hard work - from everyone involved, but especially those in a position of power.

Elliard Shimaala says

Google tells me this book was published in 1983 yet Chinua Achebe's description of Nigeria's ills is characteristic of many African countries including mine. This book should have been titled *The Trouble with Africa* because African countries seem to have the same 'troubles' despite their different locations on the continent.

Chinua's book has made me rethink what we have called "African progress" post the colonial era. How is it that in the 21st century Africans are still struggling with tribalism, poor leadership, lack of patriotism and the most annoying cancer of all—corruption? Chinua wrote on these issues in the 80's! The bloody 80's guys! It's 2015 and we are still battling with the same evils and you want to talk about progress? C'mon!

A passage in chapter three, *False Image of Ourselves*, made me laugh at myself. The passage read as follows, "one of the commonest manifestations of underdevelopment is a tendency among the ruling elite to live in a world of make-believe and unrealistic expectations. This is the cargo cult mentality that anthropologists sometimes speak about—a belief by backward people that someday, without any exertion whatsoever on their own part, a fairy ship will dock in their harbour laden with every goody they have always dreamed of possessing". This type of reasoning has caused inertia for the African continent. I'll admit, I found the use of 'backward people' a harsh but I guess something's can't be said in any other way considering how we Africans have behaved and continue to behave.

If you want to reflect on Africa, not just Nigeria, read this book. Read it because *The Trouble with Nigeria* is the trouble with Africa. It will challenge you and inspire you (if you're an African) to tackle the issues hindering meaningful progress for us.

5 stars for *The Trouble with Nigeria*.

Frankie Amett-realtor says

This book should be re-titled "The Trouble with Africa". An excellent exposé on the reason Africa is the way it is and what we can do to change it.
