

How Europe Underdeveloped Africa

author: Walter Rodney, Angela Y. Davis - foreword

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Synopsis

author	Walter Rodney, Angela Y. Davis - foreword
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The classic work of political, economic, and historical analysis, powerfully introduced by Angela Davis.

In his short life, the Guyanese intellectual Walter Rodney emerged as one of the leading thinkers and activists of the anticolonial revolution, leading movements in North America, South America, the African continent, and the Caribbean. In each locale, Rodney found himself a lightning rod for working class Black Power. His deportation catalyzed 20th-century Jamaica's most significant rebellion, the 1968 Rodney riots, and his scholarship trained a generation how to think politics at an international scale. In 1980, shortly after founding of the Working People's Alliance in Guyana, the 38-year-old Rodney would be assassinated.

In his magnum opus, *How Europe Underdeveloped Africa*, Rodney incisively argues that grasping "the great divergence" between the West and the rest can only be explained as the exploitation of the latter by the former. This meticulously researched analysis of the abiding repercussions of European colonialism on the continent of Africa has not only informed decades of scholarship and activism, it remains an indispensable study for grasping global inequality today.

Reader's comments

comment 1: Sophia Turner

Walter Rodney's 'How Europe Underdeveloped Africa' is a seminal work that meticulously dissects the historical dynamics between Europe and Africa. Through a compelling narrative, Rodney argues that the underdevelopment of Africa is not a natural phenomenon but a direct result of European colonialism and exploitation. The book offers a profound analysis of how economic and social structures were manipulated to favor European interests, leaving a long-lasting impact on African nations. Angela Y. Davis's foreword adds an insightful perspective, emphasizing the book's relevance in understanding contemporary global inequalities. Rodney's rigorous research and clear articulation make this a must-read for anyone interested in post-colonial studies and African history. His ability to connect past injustices with present-day realities is both illuminating and thought-provoking. The book challenges readers to reconsider the historical narratives often taught in Western educational systems and invites a deeper reflection on the systemic roots of inequality. Though dense in information, Rodney's work remains accessible and engaging, making it an essential read for scholars and general readers alike who are committed to understanding and addressing historical injustices.

â€”â€” Sophia Turner (2026-05-30 17:52:47)