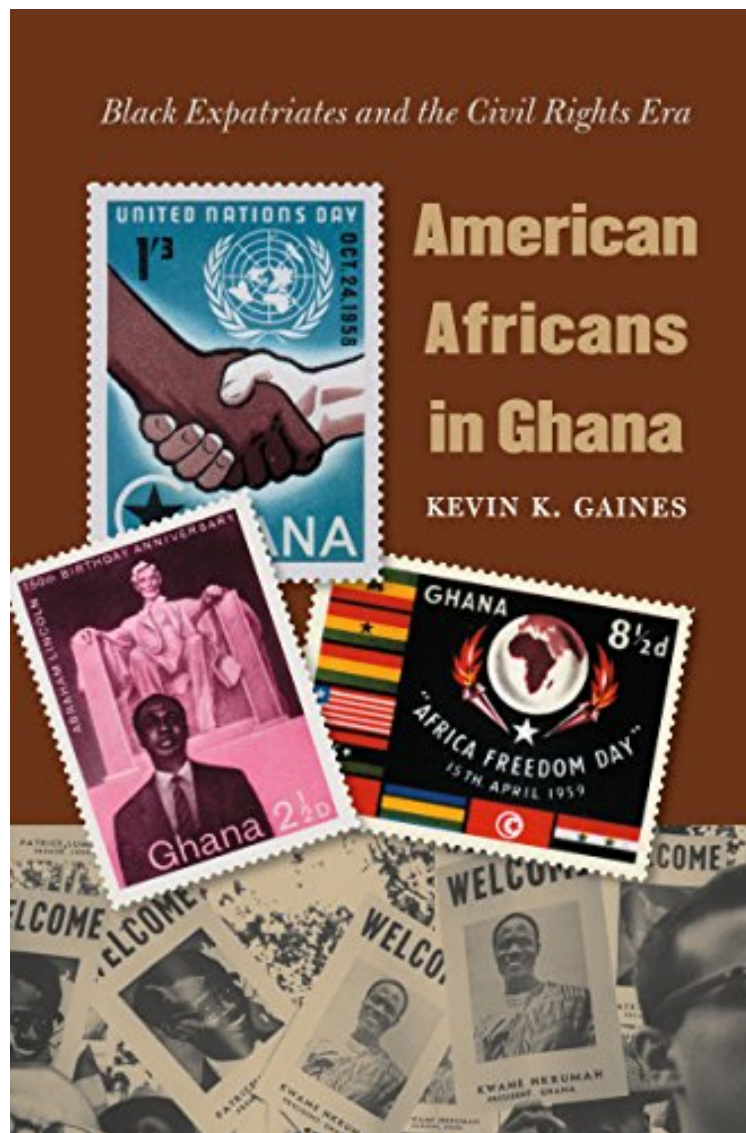


[Library ebook] American Africans in Ghana: Black Expatriates and the Civil Rights Era (The John Hope Franklin Series in African American History and Culture)

## American Africans in Ghana: Black Expatriates and the Civil Rights Era (The John Hope Franklin Series in African American History and Culture)

Kevin K. Gaines

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#612351 in Books Kevin K Gaines 2008-02-25 2008-02-25 Original language: English PDF # 1 9.25 x .90 x 6.131, 1.12 #File Name: 0807858935360 pages American Africans in Ghana Black Expatriates and the Civil Rights Era | File size: 31.Mb

Kevin K. Gaines : American Africans in Ghana: Black Expatriates and the Civil Rights Era (The John Hope Franklin Series in African American History and Culture) before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it

would be worth my time, and all praised American Africans in Ghana: Black Expatriates and the Civil Rights Era (The John Hope Franklin Series in African American History and Culture):

1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Informative, Historical, Perceptive, AnalyticalBy BarbKevin Gaines provides a detailed, personal but objectively written, history of the motivations, experiences, disappointments, triumphs, and contributions of African Americans who went to Ghana in the 1950-80s. Their reasons included seeking a better life away from the oppressive discrimination and second-class citizenship in America or/as well as to participate along with Ghanaians in the building of the post-Independence Ghana. Experiences and visits of many travelers such as Maya Angelou, Malcolm X, Julian Mayfield (Gaines includes a lot about him), St. Clair Drake, Robert Lee, among others are told from someone who seems to be a close associate or confidante. The Epilogue looks at current relationships and encounters of African Americans in Ghana (including immigrants and culture/historical tourists). It ends with a challenge as well as a prescription for the expansion of what it means to be African American citizen of the U.S., of Africa, and the world.3 of 3 people found the following review helpful. Reconnecting with AfricaBy Lionel S. TaylorAmerican Africans in Ghana by Kevin K. Gaines is similar to a previous book that I reviewed in that it traces the African American expatriate community in Ghana. Rather than treat them as a group, however, this book focuses on individuals and their personal experiences in the country. This approach has its strengths and weaknesses and this book shows both. The main problem with focusing on just a handful of people is that it is hard to get enough documentable evidence of their feeling and reasons for their actions in Ghana. The author is forced to speculate on the subjects' motives. The main problem is that for one who is not all that familiar with the history of Ghana before the coup, it is hard to follow what is going on in the country as a whole. That being said there are also many advantages. By focusing on individuals, the author can delve into question that would be more of a challenge just looking through the macro picture. Questions such as what role can these expatriates play in Ghana and how do they stay in contact with what is going on back in the U.S. are asked by the author. An especially interesting part of the book for me was the description of how many such as Richard Wright had trouble adjusting to life in Africa and in the end failed to achieve the feeling of home coming that many left the states to do. While this book does tend to drag in places it is interesting and would be a useful resource for anyone wanting to learn more about the people profiled and question like where do African Americans fit into the larger African Diaspora community. This book sheds some light on some prominent African American leaders in a part of their lives that is seldom seen.0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. A must-read for those interested in black radical historiesBy FGThis is a fascinating book that draws on lots of unpublished and rare sources from the early days of Ghanaian independence and its political intertwinement with the aims of African American radicals of the era. Gaines' work adds a wonderful international context to the American civil rights movement, and I'm glad I found this book when searching for a political history of Ghana.

In 1957 Ghana became one of the first sub-Saharan African nations to gain independence from colonial rule. Over the next decade, hundreds of African Americans--including Martin Luther King Jr., George Padmore, Malcolm X, Maya Angelou, Richard Wright, Pauli Murray, and Muhammad Ali--visited or settled in Ghana. Kevin K. Gaines explains what attracted these Americans to Ghana and how their new community was shaped by the convergence of the Cold War, the rise of the U.S. civil rights movement, and the decolonization of Africa. Kwame Nkrumah, Ghana's president, posed a direct challenge to U.S. hegemony by promoting a vision of African liberation, continental unity, and West Indian federation. Although the number of African American expatriates in Ghana was small, in espousing a transnational American citizenship defined by solidarities with African peoples, these activists along with their allies in the United States waged a fundamental, if largely forgotten, struggle over the meaning and content of the cornerstone of American citizenship--the right to vote--conferred on African Americans by civil rights reform legislation.

Inspiring. . . . A valuable addition to the debate about the history of Pan-Africanism in Africa.--Journal of African HistoryGaines has written an excellent and important book.--The NationGaines's signal achievement is that he skillfully has placed this narrative in the broad context of black internationalism. . . . Gaines has demonstrated how the expatriate experience is linked to the expansive history of antiracist and anticolonial thought and practice in the African diaspora. He has written a book that is indispensable for a complete grasp of that history.--Journal of American HistoryGaines has written a detailed and engaging book which explores a neglected aspect of US foreign policy, joining a small but significant cadre of authors dedicated to highlighting the racial dimensions of US foreign policy.--Modern African StudiesHighly recommended for all academic libraries.--Multicultural A superb, scholarly text on pan-Africanism. Gaines gives a detailed analysis of the interconnections between African American and Caribbean activists and the pioneers of African decolonization in Ghana. The author leaves no stone unturned, providing details about Western complicity in the death of Lumumba, the silencing of black intellectuals during the Cold War, and African American activism in the anti-apartheid movement. Gaines profoundly discusses the

intersection of the Civil Rights Movement, political decolonization, and US foreign policy. In the process, he charts the course of numerous distinguished personalities in the contemporary US.--ChoiceContributes to various subfields of African American history, including the modern Civil Rights Movement, African American-centered Pan-Africanist thought, African American intellectual history, Afro-diasporic consciousness, and the vital, enduring African American-African political connection.--Journal of African American HistoryA superb, scholarly text on pan-Africanism. Gaines gives a detailed analysis of the interconnections between African American and Caribbean activists and the pioneers of African decolonization in Ghana. The author leaves no stone unturned. . . . Essential.--ChoiceThis is an important book that opens up new dimensions in the Pan-African history of the relationships established between Africa and the African diaspora in the modern period.--American Historical AssociationAmerican Africans in Ghana, Kevin Gaines offers a richly detailed portrait of the community that gathered in Ghana around Nkrumah. He skillfully connects the lives of the 'returnees' with the wider history of the civil rights era in the United States and the politics of the cold war.--The New York TimesAmerican Africans in Ghana is much more than a story of U.S. black expatriates in Ghana, although that remains a central theme. It is also a study of transnational intellectual and social movement amidst the tumult of three historical processes: the United States' post-World War II pursuit of global hegemony, the modern struggle for black equality within the United States, and the movement for African decolonization. Above all, the book demonstrates the fruition of the decades-long development of a transnational black radical activist tradition, as many of its major protagonists converged upon independent Ghana. Ever attuned to contingency and contradiction, Gaines explores how modern black radicalism negotiated the complexities and strictures of U.S. Cold War intrigues on the one hand, and the perils and possibilities of postcolonial state-building on the other hand.--Nikhil P. Singh, University of WashingtonThe product of a decade of research on both sides of the Atlantic, this study is destined to be known as a classic of the new intellectual history of diaspora. Gaines unearths the complex and shifting roles of African American and Caribbean artists and activists in Nkrumah's Ghana during the early years of independence. With its breathtaking cast of characters--expatriates, exiles, pilgrims, transients--this book gives unprecedented insight into both the promise and the challenge of Pan-Africanism.--Brent Hayes Edwards, author of *The Practice of Diaspora: Literature, Translation, and the Rise of Black Internationalism*Gaines's book is groundbreaking in many respects. He shows that the expatriates were not disengaged from what was happening in the United States; on the contrary, their perspective was shaped invariably by their location in Nkrumah's Ghana. They understood freedom and liberation not in national terms but in global terms, linking the struggles in the United States with anticolonial movements around the world. Gaines looks at how these transnational intellectual exchanges shaped black politics and culture on both sides of the Atlantic, providing ample evidence to challenge contemporary nationalist notions of diaspora as cultural unity to show, instead, that diaspora is made through engagement, travel, exchange, and struggle.--Robin D. G. Kelley, Columbia UniversityFrom the Inside FlapWhen Ghana became one of the first sub-Saharan African nations to gain independence from colonial rule in 1957, hundreds of African Americans--including Martin Luther King Jr., George Padmore, Malcolm X, Maya Angelou, Richard Wright, Pauli Murray, and Muhammed Ali--visited or settled in Ghana. Gaines explains what attracted these expatriates to Ghana and how their new community was shaped by the convergence of the Cold War, the rise of the U.S. civil rights movement, and the decolonization of Africa.