

*“The Horn of Africa and Neighboring Countries”*

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The following books represent my work toward a more comprehensive understanding of the African American Experience. The works serve as only a starting point toward that journey. This annotated bibliography is a work in progress and it includes only a glimpse into the lives of African American people. All of the books included in the annotated bibliography are from my own private book collection.

My inspiration for collecting (and yes reading) and seeking to understand the African American experience is two-fold. As a Ph.D. student, my research interests examine the use of technology and its impact on learning in urban schools. Important toward that end, involves linking my empirical research to a larger body of knowledge in the field of technology and couching my research in a larger social historical context. Perhaps, then my research can have some relevance to this historical moment. Secondly, these works represent a difficult quest toward an understanding of my cultural identity as an African American person.

I must insert, however, that this annotated bibliography is only a snapshot of what has contributed toward my understanding of the African American experience. It does not represent the broad scope of knowledge, which stems from my lived experience. Nor does the annotated bibliography capture the breadth of emotion I shared as I deeply connected with its authors--from the courage I felt when I marched alongside the students in Habermas's student movement, or the sheer delight I found in listening to Mile's voice through his horn, or the loneliness I felt while exiled with Baldwin in Europe, or the pain I felt as I sat with King in a Birmingham Jail, or the melancholy I felt as they scrambled for Africa, or the identity confusion I shared with Fanon in France, or the pride I experienced as I set sail with Van Sertima in Mali, or the inspiration I shared with Bell as she transgressed her teaching (and her students) or the Love I felt in Nikki's self affirmed Black love. Rather, these books serve as a window into the life of the mind of a budding scholar.

After I settled on using this medium to visually display my annotated bibliography, I wrestled with the ideal of using a lists or taxonomy to organize the work. These two organizational methods do not adequately represent a holistic model of the sum of my interpretations, i.e., a taxonomy fails to place the collective readings in a systematic order, so that readers (those who do) are able to see the overlaps and the disjointedness in history, like when in the early twentieth century, W.E.B. Dubois and Booker T. Washington debated the role of compensatory education in Black America. Furthermore, this taxonomy fails to interconnect the historical figures and their works across space and time, and across disciplines, like the similarities between Garvey's philosophies in Pan Africanism and Malcom's Nation of Islam Teachings. Like those before me, I was bound by the available tools of that historical moment, although only temporarily. The visual representation of this annotated bibliography is in its formative stage. In the days to

come, I will perhaps use new technologies, like hypertext and flash, to link various authors and time periods, so that readers can scaffold the bibliographies. Perhaps, then a more definitive understanding of the African American experience will be achieved.