

History Department
University of Wisconsin, Madison
Fall 1985
History 861

Anthropology, Ideology, and History in Modern Africa

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5115 Humanities

263-3945

Office Hours:

Walk-In Time: Friday 1:30-2:30.

Sign-Up Times Thursday and Friday to be Posted each Week

Past anthropological research is a rich source for understanding how modern African society has evolved. Ethnographers made systematic records of domestic organization, local politics, and the content of African thought at the local level -- subjects of vital interest to the historian but difficult to document. Anthropological methods and questions have, meanwhile, entered the mainstream of historical research for those who study all the major world areas. Nevertheless, ethnographic research has not been integrated adequately into historical knowledge about modern Africa. Members of the seminar will work towards achieving that integration by examining reports of major ethnographic research done between 1920 and the early 1960s. We will pay special attention to the way ethnographers defined societies in time and space, and also to thematic foci as well as the definition of social or cultural facts.

Each participant will present two papers. The first is to be brief (about 5 pages) on the underlying assumptions about social reality in one work of anthropology. The second (a longer paper) is to be a history of the same society. The student will make his or her own selection of the most important historical theme or set of issues, will define the limits of the relevant social phenomena in time and space, and by doing so will comment once again on the anthropologist's principles of selection.

The seminar will discuss bibliographic sources for social history. Members are expected to explore many of the bibliographies discussed in Yvette Scheven, *Bibliographies for African Studies, 1970-1975, and 1976-1979.*

Week 1. Introduction.

Week 2. Sep. 10.

Readings: Adam Kuper, Anthropology and Anthropologists, 1-98.

A.R. Radcliffe-Brown, Structure and Function in Primitive Society, 1-14, 178-204.

John Beattie, "Explanation in Social Anthropology: Social Function and Social Structure," pp. 49-64 in Other Cultures.

Week 3. Sep. 17.

Readings: Kuper, pp. 99 to end.

Laura Bohannan on the Tiv in John Middleton and David Tait, Tribes without Rulers.

Griaule and Dieterlen on the Dogon in Daryll Forde, African Worlds.

Week 4. Sep. 24.

Reading: Jane Guyer, "Household and Community in African Studies," African Studies Review,

From week 5: papers, along with selected readings from the ethnographers being discussed.

Selected List of Ethnographers

Students are encouraged to discuss other possibilities with the instructor.

Max Gluckman, The Judicial Process among the Barotse of Northern Rhodesia, also Ideas in Barotse Jurisprudence and other works on the Lozi.

E.E. Evans-Pritchard, works on the Nuer, or the Zande, or the Sanusi of Cyrenaica. Historical reconstruction on these is likely to be relatively difficult.

Audrey Richards, works on the Bemba of Zambia, especially Land, Labour, and Diet.

Eileen Krige, Social Systems of the Zulu, and Realm of the Rain Queen.

Victor Turner, works on symbolism and kinship among the Ndembu of Zambia.

Meyer Fortes, The Web of Kinship among the Tallensi; and The Dynamics of Clanship among the Tallensi.

Jacques Maquet, works on Rwanda.

Aidan Southall, Alur Society

Works by Hilda Kuper on Swaziland, especially An African Aristocracy.

Works by Marcel Griaule, Genevieve Calame-Griaule, and Germaine Dieterlen on the Dogon.

Monica Hunter, Reaction to Conquest on the Mpondo of South Africa; also works on the Nyakyusa of Tanzania.

S.F. Nadel, The Nuba or A Black Byzantium

Georges Balandier, works on either the Fang of Gabon, or the Kongo.

Jan Vansina, Le royaume Kuba

Mary Douglas, The Lele of the Kasai

Claude Meillassoux, Anthropologie economique des Gouro de Cote d'Ivoire.