

The African Origins Of Mathematics And Writing

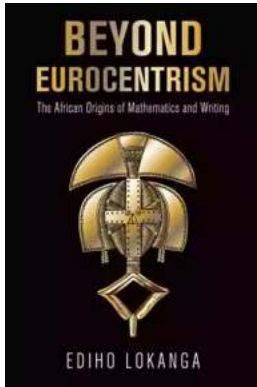


Ancient Africa's contributions to mathematics and writing have often been overlooked and underrated. The Western world often associates these advancements solely with ancient civilizations such as the Greeks and Egyptians. However, it is essential to recognize the rich history and profound contributions made by African cultures to these fields.

Ancient African Mathematics

Ancient African cultures, such as the Egyptians, Nok, and Yoruba, displayed remarkable mathematical skills and knowledge that predated those of other

civilizations. The Egyptians, for example, developed a sophisticated number system known as Egyptian numerals. This system utilized hieroglyphs to represent different values, allowing for complex calculations and trade transactions.



BEYOND EUROCENTRISM: The African Origins of Mathematics and Writing by Ediho Lokanga(Kindle Edition)

★★★★★ 5 out of 5

Language : English
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Text-to-Speech : Enabled
Enhanced typesetting : Enabled
Word Wise : Enabled
Lending : Enabled
Screen Reader : Supported
Print length : 241 pages



The Nok civilization, which thrived in present-day Nigeria around 1500 BCE, left behind intricate terracotta sculptures that depict a deep understanding of geometric principles. These sculptures feature symmetrical patterns, intricate designs, and precise measurements, showcasing the Nok people's mathematical prowess.

The Yoruba people of present-day Nigeria also showcased advanced mathematical abilities. They created intricate bead designs known as "adike" and "ileke" to represent complex mathematical concepts. These bead designs served as mnemonic devices for calculating and remembering mathematical formulas and equations.

Advancements in African Writing Systems

Ancient African civilizations developed ingenious writing systems that allowed for the communication and preservation of knowledge. Contrary to popular belief, writing systems existed in Africa long before the arrival of European colonial powers.

One example is the Meroitic script, developed by the ancient Kingdom of Kush around 700 BCE. This writing system, which consisted of more than 23 letters, was used extensively for record-keeping, religious texts, and administrative purposes. The Meroitic script remains undeciphered to this day, adding an air of mystery to the accomplishments of this African civilization.

The Ethiopic script, also known as Geez, was developed around the 5th century BCE. It is widely used in Ethiopia and Eritrea and serves as the foundation for several African languages, such as Amharic and Tigrinya. The Ethiopic script has a unique visual aesthetic and is written from left to right, similar to many modern writing systems.

Africa also boasts numerous oral traditions that have been successfully preserved for centuries. Griots, revered storytellers, have passed down historical accounts, proverbs, and cultural knowledge through generations. These oral traditions serve as a form of indirect writing and contribute to Africa's rich heritage.

Impact and Legacy

The contributions of ancient African cultures to mathematics and writing have had a significant impact on global knowledge and continue to influence modern understanding in these fields.

For instance, the ancient Egyptian numeral system, with its hieroglyphic representations, influenced later number systems throughout the world. The

Yoruba bead designs not only served practical purposes but also integrated mathematics into cultural practices, promoting a deeper appreciation for the subject.

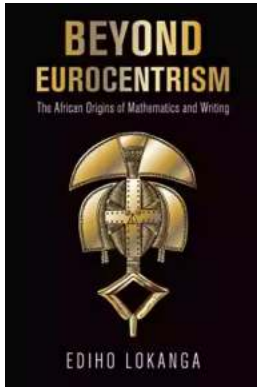
In terms of writing systems, the Ethiopic script has left a lasting legacy as a vital component of Ethiopian culture, contributing to the development of literature, religious texts, and historical records. African oral traditions, passed down through generations, have preserved important knowledge and history that may have been lost in written records.

However, it is vital to recognize that Africa's contributions to mathematics and writing are not confined solely to ancient times. Present-day African mathematicians and writers continue to make significant advancements in these fields and deserve recognition for their important work.

The African origins of mathematics and writing have often been overlooked, but their impact and legacy cannot be underestimated. Ancient African cultures displayed remarkable skills in mathematics and developed sophisticated writing systems, leaving behind a rich legacy that continues to influence our world today. It is crucial to amplify the voices and contributions of African mathematicians and writers, both past and present, and acknowledge their crucial role in shaping our understanding of these vital fields.

Keywords: African origins of mathematics, African origins of writing, African contributions to mathematics, African contributions to writing, ancient African civilizations, mathematical skills in ancient Africa, African writing systems, African oral traditions

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In this remarkable work, Dr. Ediho Lokanga, the author of the bestselling book, *Digital Physics: The Meaning of the Holographic Universe and Its Implications Beyond Theoretical Physics*, presents a synopsis of mathematical activities in Africa over the last few centuries. Relying on several historical works and direct knowledge of various academic sources, combined with his mathematical background, the author draws a rich picture of mathematical activity in Africa, stressing the critical and fundamental contributions made by ancient Africans in the field of mathematics. *Beyond Eurocentrism: The African Origins of Mathematics and Writing* fills a gap in the current literature focusing on Africa, a continent rarely explored by scholars in academia.



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