

CFR Resources

Claire Felter, "[Ethiopia: East Africa's Emerging Giant.](#)"

An accessible backgrounder on current events in Ethiopia, from the Council on Foreign Relations. (2,400 words)

Claire Felter, "[Nigeria's Battle With Boko Haram.](#)"

An accessible backgrounder on one of the largest terrorist groups in Africa. (1,700 words)

Claire Felter, "[Somaliland: The Horn of Africa's Breakaway State.](#)"

An accessible backgrounder on Somaliland that touches on larger political and strategic themes. (1,200 words)

Claire Felter and Danielle Renwick, "[The Ebola Virus.](#)"

An accessible backgrounder on the disease endemic to Africa that has posed significant public health challenges over the last few years. (1,600 words)

Claire Felter, Jonathan Masters, and Mohammed Aly Sergie, "[Al-Shabab.](#)"

An accessible backgrounder on the largest insurgent group in Somalia. (1,900 words)

Articles

Ahmed H. Adam, "[Are We Witnessing a 'New Scramble for Africa'?](#)," Al Jazeera, March 27, 2018.

An opinion piece that summarizes the various ways in which world powers are seeking influence in Africa. (1,500 words)

Deborah Bräutigam, "[U.S. Politicians Get China in Africa All Wrong.](#)" *Washington Post*, April 12, 2018.

An opinion piece that makes the case for why Chinese investment in Africa is not as nefarious as some American politicians think it is. (1,200 words)

Amy Cheng, "[Will Djibouti Become Latest Country to Fall Into China's Debt Trap?](#)" *Foreign Policy*, July 31, 2018.

An explanation and analysis of foreign military bases in Djibouti, and the discomfort produced by having Chinese and American bases within

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few miles of each other. (1,100 words)

Nick Dearden, "[Africa Is Not Poor, We Are Stealing Its Wealth](#)," Al Jazeera, May 24, 2017.

A clearly written argument that corruption and foreign exploitation are impoverishing African economies. (900 words)

Louise Matsakis, "[The Majority of African Migrants Move Between Countries on the Continent](#)," Africa Is a Country.

A journalistic approach to understanding where and why Africans migrate, from an online magazine with a snarky name. (1,000 words)

Dhesigen Naidoo, "[Day Zero on the Back of Drought in Southern Africa: Lessons for the Future](#)," Brookings Institution, February 23, 2018.

An analysis of what led to the severe water shortage in Cape Town, South Africa, and the lessons in water management for other countries in Africa. (1,300 words)

Ben Taub, "[Lake Chad: The World's Most Complex Humanitarian Disaster](#)," *New Yorker*, December 4, 2017.

A detailed piece that moves between travel narrative and historical background, discussing environmental concerns, political unrest, and the rise of Boko Haram around Lake Chad. (8,200 words)

Stephen R. Weissman, "[What Really Happened in Congo](#)," *Foreign Affairs* 93, no. 4 (July/August 2014): 14–24.

A deep dive into U.S. involvement in the Democratic Republic of the Congo in the years immediately following independence. (4,700 words)

Nonfiction Books

Mark Bowden, *Black Hawk Down* (1999).

A riveting, detailed account of the firefight between U.S. soldiers and Somali militia. (400 pages)

Philip Gourevitch, *We Wish to Inform You That Tomorrow We Will Be Killed With Our Families* (1998).

An account of the 1994 Rwandan genocide written in a journalistic style that is accessible without sacrificing detail or a careful consideration of major issues. (369 pages)

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Eliza Griswold, *The Tenth Parallel: Dispatches From the Fault Line Between Christianity and Islam* (2010).

An exploration of communities along ten degrees north latitude in Africa and Asia, where large Christian and Muslim populations live side by side. (336 pages)

Adam Hochschild, *King Leopold's Ghost: A Story of Greed, Terror and Heroism in Colonial Africa* (1998).

A novel that tells the story of the Belgian colonization of what is now the Democratic Republic of the Congo, and of the shipping clerk who worked tirelessly to publicize the inhuman conditions there. (366 pages)

Antjie Krog, *Country of My Skull: Guilt, Sorrow, and the Limits of Forgiveness in the New South Africa* (2000).

An account of the truth and reconciliation commission that sought justice for apartheid in South Africa, written by a renowned South African poet. (423 pages)

Nelson Mandela, *Long Walk to Freedom* (1994).

Autobiography of the South African freedom fighter who went on to become the first black president of South Africa. (684 pages)

Alexis Okeowo, *A Moonless, Starless Sky: Ordinary Women and Men Fighting Extremism in Africa* (2017).

The journalistic accounts of four Africans from diverse backgrounds who are all resisting extremists of one form or another. (257 pages)

Dayo Olopade, *Bright Continent: Breaking Rules and Making Change in Modern Africa* (2014).

An account of travels to seventeen countries that tells the stories of creative and resourceful entrepreneurs who, in the author's view, give Africa a bright future. (288 pages)

Literature

Chinua Achebe, *Things Fall Apart* (1958).

A classic that examines the real complexities of European colonization through the story of a man living in Nigeria in the late nineteenth century. (215 pages)

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Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie, *Half of a Yellow Sun* (2007).

A work of historical fiction that tells the story of the Biafran War in Nigeria in the 1960s. (543 pages)

Ngũgĩ wa Thiong'o, *A Grain of Wheat* (1967).

A work of historical fiction that takes place in Kenya as that country is going through a rebellion against British rule and then gaining independence. (270 pages)

Binyavanga Wainaina, *One Day I Will Write About This Place* (2011).

A memoir, spanning three countries, that as a lens for thinking about identity and politics. (272 pages)

Multimedia

Jad Abumrad, "[Mau Mau](#)," July 3, 2015.

A podcast episode about the Mau Mau Rebellion that provides a lesson about how the study of African history is still shaped by the continent's colonial past. (47 minutes)

"[Global Trade: Africa](#)," Interactive Things.

A detailed visualization of trade statistics for Africa.

"[The Long Walk of Nelson Mandela](#)," *Frontline*, PBS, May 25, 1999.

A feature-length biographical documentary of Nelson Mandela from PBS's *Frontline*. Free to watch. (170 minutes)

News Sources

[Quartz](#)

A news website with excellent coverage of Africa.

[Al Jazeera](#)

A Middle East-based broadcaster that has excellent news coverage and opinion columns about the global south, including Africa.

[Mail & Guardian](#)

South Africa's leading newspaper, which covers the entire continent.

[Christian Science Monitor](#)

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A Pulitzer Prize-winning publication that, as part of its mission to “embrace the human family,” has outstanding coverage of international news, including of Africa.