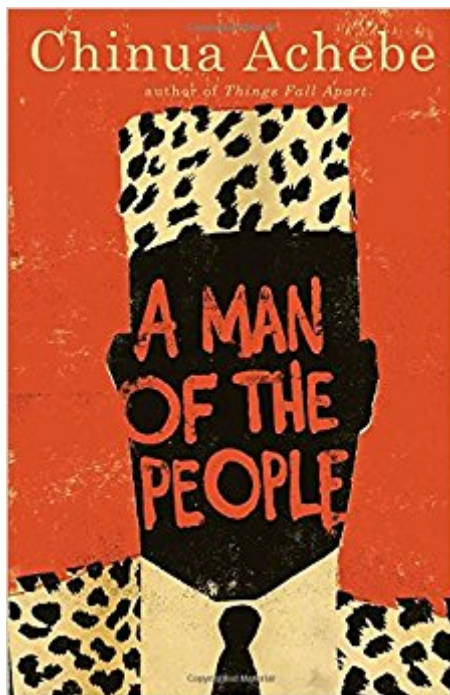


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# A Man Of The People



## Synopsis

From the renowned author of *The African Trilogy*, a political satire about an unnamed African country navigating a path between violence and corruption. As Minister for Culture, former school teacher M. A. Nanga is a man of the people, as cynical as he is charming, and a roguish opportunist. When Odili, an idealistic young teacher, visits his former instructor at the ministry, the division between them is vast. But in the eat-and-let-eat atmosphere, Odili's idealism soon collides with his lusts and the two men's personal and political tauntings threaten to send their country into chaos. When Odili launches a vicious campaign against his former mentor for the same seat in an election, their mutual animosity drives the country to revolution. Published, prophetically, just days before Nigeria's first attempted coup in 1966, *A Man of the People* is an essential part of Achebe's body of work.

## Book Information

Paperback: 160 pages

Publisher: Penguin Books; Reissue edition (January 19, 1989)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0385086164

ISBN-13: 978-0385086165

Product Dimensions: 5.2 x 0.4 x 8 inches

Shipping Weight: 4 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.5 out of 5 stars 23 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #36,543 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #14 in Books > Humor & Entertainment > Humor > Lawyers & Criminals #28 in Books > Literature & Fiction > World Literature > African #116 in Books > Literature & Fiction > Genre Fiction > Satire

## Customer Reviews

Praise for Chinua Achebe "A magical writer—one of the greatest of the twentieth century." Margaret Atwood "African literature is incomplete and unthinkable without the works of Chinua Achebe." Toni

Morrison

Chinua Achebe is gloriously gifted with the magic of an ebullient, generous, great talent. Nadine Gordimer's influence should go on and on . . . teaching and reminding that all humankind is one. The Nation "The father of African literature in the English language and undoubtedly one of the most important writers of the second half of the twentieth century. Caryl Phillips, The Observer "We are indebted to Achebe for reminding us that art has social and moral dimension a truth often obscured. Chicago Tribune "He is one of the few writers of our time who has touched us with a code of values that will never be ironic. Michael Ondaatje "For so many readers around the world, it is Chinua Achebe who opened up the magic casements of African fiction. Kwame Anthony Appiah "[Achebe] is one of world literature's great humane voices. Times Literary Supplement "Achebe is one of the most distinguished artists to emerge from the West African cultural renaissance of the post-war world. The Sunday Times (London) "[Achebe is] a powerful voice for cultural decolonization. The Village Voice "Chinua Achebe has shown that a mind that observes clearly but feels deeply enough to afford laughter may be more wise than all the politicians and journalists. Time "The power and majesty of Chinua Achebe's work has, literally, opened the world to generations of readers. He is an ambassador of art, and a profound recorder of the human condition. Michael Dorris

By the renowned author of *Things Fall Apart*, this novel foreshadows the Nigerian coups of 1966 and shows the color and vivacity as well as the violence and corruption of a society making its own way between the two worlds.

I am a fan of Chinua Achebe ever since I read "Things Fall Apart" quite a few years ago during a trip to Africa. This book does not quite hold up to the power of that one but it is quite interesting and

provides some insight into the legacy of colonial rule in Africa and the selfishness and immaturity of some of the politicians. What was called a democracy was nothing more than the trappings of a ruling elite (This book was probably a direct satire on Nigerian rule, post-colonialism.) The story centers around a protagonist who is educated and part of the growing middle class and his original antagonism toward, eventual befriending of and later total rejection of a powerful minister in the government. The insight into the means that such people exerted in their own personal interest is well documented as through character description of the two main characters. I enjoyed the story and the point of view of the author although I had hoped for a more optimistic outcome of the narrative. Achebe is a wonderful story teller. This book was no exception.

Both a look at the nature of contemporary kleptocracies as well as the razor-edge of the will of the people and fickleness. An easy read where fiction could parallel headlines; a populist version of a Frederick Forsyth novel. Fully enjoyed while provoking reflection on today's arc of politics.

A good portrait into post-independent Nigeria. It's a story of power, revenge, and honor. It's a story that resonates throughout the entire developing world.

Another excellent novel from the great African writer Chinua Achebe. A story full of political symbols and deep feeling on the corruption and chaos of African politics. Definitely worth a reading.

Pure revelation on how we Africans glorify corrupt leaders through blind respect for them in the name of culture at the expense of our taxes and perpetuation of poverty amongst our people.

This is one of my favorite books. It truly captures the essence of the rise to power and the challenges associated with it (not only unique to Africa). I would highly recommend it.

A story and style that are uniquely Chinua Albert Achebesque. The world of literature already knows and concurs with me.

Achebe is a master in portraying Nigerian society in transition, amid corruption, violence and the excitement of development. In this novel, Achebe portrays a schoolteacher that is first welcomed into a politician's home, then gets angered by him when the politician "steals" his girlfriend. The novel unfolds as the schoolteacher (Odili) enters politics as a way to avenge his poor fate with his

girlfriend. As with any Achebe novel, we are introduced in a developing society, still in the excitement of self rule after the British, but struggling to get set on a path towards development. Achebe is very ironic at times, and I think this novel especially shows his wry sense of humor. For example, the Minister of Culture is a rather cultureless man, put in that position through connections and bribery. Overall, I recommend this book if you enjoyed Achebe's previous work (Things Fall Apart and No Longer at Ease are my favorites). At only 150 pages, it is the shortest by him that I have read, which makes it even more worth it. Would not recommend as your first Achebe.

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