



Contemporary African Literature and the Politics of Gender

Florence Stratton

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The influence of colonialism and race on the development of African literature has been the subject of a number of studies. The effect of patriarchy and gender, however, and indeed the contributions of African women, have up until now been largely ignored by the critics. **Contemporary African Literature and the Politics of Gender** is the first extensive account of African literature from a feminist perspective.

In this first radical and exciting work Florence Stratton outlines the features of an emerging female tradition in African fiction. A chapter is dedicated to each to the works of four women writers: Grace Ogot, Flora Nwapa, Buchi Emecheta and Mariama Ba. In addition she provides challenging new readings of canonical male authors such as Chinua Achebe, Ngugi wa Thiongo'o and Wole Soyinka. *Contemporary African Literature and the Politics of Gender* thus provides the first truly comprehensive definition of the current literary tradition in Africa.

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