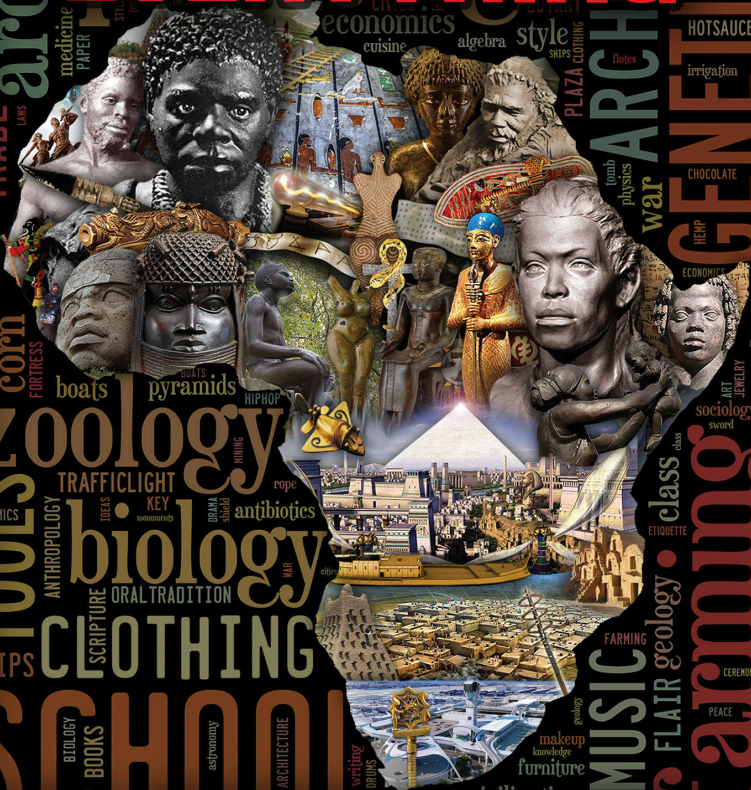


THE DEEP HISTORY OF INDIGENOUS CREATIVITY

BLACK PEOPLE INVENTED EVERYTHING



DR. SUJAN KUMAR DASS
FOUNDER OF THE SOLUTIONARY INSTITUTE



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TABLE OF CONTENTS

TABLE OF CONTENTS.....	3
INTRODUCTION.....	8
WHO INVENTED EVERYTHING?.....	9
WHAT'S IN THIS BOOK.....	9
HOW TO ENJOY THIS BOOK.....	10
BLACK PEOPLE MADE AMERICA.....	11
IT'S BIGGER THAN PEANUTS.....	11
THE PROCESS OF INNOVATION.....	14
ARE YOU AN INVENTOR?.....	14
THE REPRESSION OF REAL HISTORY.....	15
WHITE PEOPLE INVENTED THE PATENT OFFICE.....	16
THE ORIGINAL HISTORY OF AMERICA.....	18
A SHORT GUIDE.....	21
A QUICK CHECKLIST.....	21
WHAT TO DO NOW.....	22
SHORT SUMMARIES OF THE DEEP HISTORY.....	22
THE DEEP HISTORY.....	29
THE FOUNDATIONS OF MODERN SOCIETY.....	29
THE INVISIBLE MAN – A DEEP DEBT.....	30
THE ORIGINAL HISTORY IS TIMELESS.....	31
BLACK HISTORY IS DEEP HISTORY!.....	32
THE ORIGINAL PEOPLE.....	33
WHAT DOES “BLACK AMERICA” MEAN?.....	34
BLACK PEOPLE INVENTED TRANSPORTATION...37	37
TRANSOCEANIC TRADE.....	37
ANCIENT SEAFARING AND SHIP BUILDING.....	39
WHO DIDN'T INVENT THE WHEEL?.....	43
FLYING MACHINES?.....	45
BLACK PEOPLE INVENTED STYLE.....	47
BODY PAINTING IS NOT A NEW TRADITION.....	47
TATTOOING AND PIERCING.....	48
MAKEUP – ADVANCED CHEMISTRY REQUIRED!.....	50
FROM EGYPTIAN BLUE TO NIPSEY BLUE.....	51
STYLE AND FLAIR – THE ORIGINAL FLAVOR SQUAD.....	52
THE ORIGINAL CLOTH TALK.....	53
THE ORIGINS OF CLOTHING.....	54

THE FIRST FOOTWEAR.....	55
AFROS AND CORNROWS – 10,000 YEARS AGO!.....	57
GOLD CHAINS AND JEWEL-STUDED TEETH.....	58
BLACK PEOPLE INVENTED SURGERY.....	61
MIDWIFERY AND THE FIRST C-SECTIONS.....	61
THE OLDEST SURGICAL TEXT.....	62
ANTISEPTIC BANDAGES FROM SPIDER WEBS?.....	63
ANCIENT ANTIBIOTICS.....	64
PREHISTORIC NEEDLES.....	64
BONE SETTING, AMPUTATIONS AND PROSTHETICS..	64
THE ORIGINAL DR. MIAMI.....	66
BRAIN SURGERY – 12,000 BC!.....	66
OBSIDIAN SCALPELS THAT BEAT SURGICAL STEEL?..	68
ANESTHESIA – THE ORIGINS OF DOPE.....	70
BLACK PEOPLE INVENTED MUSIC.....	71
HIP HOP CULTURE IS INDIGENOUS.....	71
THE WORLD’S FIRST GANGSTER RAP.....	75
THE ORIGINS OF MUSIC.....	76
THE EARLIEST INSTRUMENTS – FLUTES OR DRUMS?..	77
THE UNIVERSAL PENTATONIC SCALE.....	79
THE SCIENCE OF MUSIC.....	80
ANCIENT ACOUSTICS.....	81
ANCIENT AMPLIFIERS.....	82
BLACK PEOPLE INVENTED CUISINE.....	84
THE ORIGINAL DIET.....	84
COOKING WITH FIRE.....	85
THE CULINARY ARTS.....	86
ANCIENT BEER – A HEALTH TONIC?.....	87
THE ORIGINAL “PIMP CUPS”.....	88
AFRICANS INVENTED SOAP.....	89
MOORISH HYGIENE.....	89
BLACK PEOPLE INVENTED HOUSING.....	91
CHANGE THE NARRATIVE.....	91
CAVES WITH CRYSTAL CHANDELIERS.....	91
THIS OLD HOUSE – PREHISTORIC FLOORPLANS.....	93
PLUSH CARPETS AND HARDWOOD FLOORS.....	93
ECO-FRIENDLY MATTRESSES IN AFRICAN CAVES.....	94
STOCKED KITCHENS – 800,000 YEARS AGO.....	95
THE WORLD’S FIRST TRAILER PARK?.....	96
THE FIRST HOMEMAKERS.....	96
THE AFRICAN ORIGINS OF FENG SHUI.....	97

BLACK PEOPLE MADE ANIMALS.....	101
THE ORIGINS OF ANIMAL DOMESTICATION.....	101
ABORIGINAL PEOPLE MADE DOGS.....	103
AFRASIATIC PEOPLE MADE PIGS.....	104
BLACK AMERICANS MADE TURKEYS.....	106
BLACK EGYPTIANS MADE CATS.....	106
BLACK ARABIANS MADE HORSES.....	107
BLACK EGYPTIANS MADE DONKEYS.....	107
BLACK SAHARANS MADE COWS.....	108
PREHISTORIC ANIMAL HERDING?.....	109
THE ORIGINS OF DISEASE.....	110
THE ODD ORIGINS OF MALARIA.....	112
SWINE FLU - THEN AND NOW.....	113
THE ORIGINS OF CANCER.....	114
DIABETES AND THE FIRST PHYSICIAN.....	114
BLACK PEOPLE INVENTED MEDICINE.....	116
ANCIENT MEDICINE.....	116
ANCIENT EGYPT HAD UNIVERSAL HEALTHCARE....	117
WHAT IS BUSH MEDICINE?.....	119
WITCH DOCTORS?.....	120
PREHISTORIC MEDICAL PRACTICE.....	120
THE THEFT OF TRADITIONAL KNOWLEDGE.....	122
THE FIRST SEXUAL PROTECTION!.....	123
THE ORIGINS OF THERAPY AND PSYCHIATRY.....	123
THE “FIRE DRILL” AND TUMOR TREATMENT.....	124
BLACK PEOPLE INVENTED FARMING.....	125
WHY DID FARMING BEGIN?.....	125
AFRICAN AGRICULTURE – 30,000 YEARS AGO.....	127
PREHISTORIC FARMING IN THE FAR EAST.....	128
THE FIRST GRAIN SILOS.....	128
THE NEED FOR SYSTEMIC AGRICULTURE.....	129
THE FIRST FARMERS.....	130
THE FIRST ENVIRONMENTALISTS.....	132
BLACK PEOPLE INVENTED EDUCATION.....	135
EDUCATION BEGINS AT HOME.....	135
UNIVERSITIES OF HIGHER LEARNING.....	136
THE KILLING OF LIBRARIES.....	137
THE EGYPTIAN ORIGINS OF ARCHAEOLOGY.....	138
THE FIRST GENEALOGISTS.....	139
THE ORIGINS OF HISTORIOGRAPHY.....	139
BLACK PEOPLE INVENTED ART.....	142

THE FIRST ART GALLERIES.....	142
PREHISTORIC GRAFFITI.....	143
THE FIRST PAINTS, PIGMENTS, AND CRAYONS.....	144
THE WORLD'S OLDEST SCULPTURES.....	145
SACRED GEOMETRY.....	146
THE EARLIEST CERAMICS.....	148
DIY IS A WAY OF LIFE.....	149
BLACK PEOPLE INVENTED MANUFACTURING...150	
THE WORLD'S FIRST SUPER GLUE.....	150
PREHISTORIC LOGOS AND PLAQUES.....	151
THE FIRST PENCIL PRODUCTION FACTORY.....	151
BLACK PEOPLE INVENTED INDUSTRY.....	153
THE DAWN OF CIVILIZATION.....	154
THE FIRST STATUS SYMBOLS?.....	155
THE FIRST MACHINES.....	156
BLACK PEOPLE INVENTED MINING.....163	
THE OLDEST MINES IN THE WORLD.....	164
THE SCIENCE OF GEOLOGY.....	164
COMPLEX ENGINEERING.....	167
BLACK PEOPLE INVENTED METAL-WORKING....169	
INDIGENOUS TABOOS AGAINST IRON AND STEEL?171	
IRON SMELTING IN ANCIENT AFRICA.....	172
DID AFRICAN METALLURGY COME FIRST?.....	173
MAKING STEEL OVER 5,000 YEARS AGO.....	175
AN ANCIENT EPA?.....	176
ANCIENT ROBOTICS.....	177
BLACK PEOPLE INVENTED GOVERNMENT.....182	
THE FIRST LAWS AND GOVERNMENT.....	182
WHO INVENTED TAXES?.....	183
WHAT ABOUT SECRET SOCIETIES?.....	184
THE ROOTS OF FREEMASONRY.....	186
BLACK PEOPLE INVENTED BUSINESS.....189	
NETWORK MARKETING.....	189
THE FIRST BLACK BANKS.....	190
BLACK PEOPLE INVENTED ECONOMICS.....	191
BLACK PEOPLE INVENTED LANGUAGE.....195	
HOW DO WE MAKE SENSE OF THE PAST?.....	195
THE AFRICAN ORIGINS OF ENGLISH?.....	197
THE ORIGINAL TONGUE?.....	197
PRE-LINGUISTIC COMMUNICATION?.....	199
NONVERBAL COMMUNICATION.....	200

THE ORIGINS OF WRITTEN LANGUAGE.....	201
THE AFRICAN ORIGINS OF ARABIC AND HEBREW...	202
WHAT HAPPENED TO AFRICAN WRITING?.....	202
THE ORIGIN OF NUMBERS.....	204
CALCULATORS, COMPUTERS AND CALENDARS.....	207
BLACK PEOPLE INVENTED SPORTS.....	208
INDIGENOUS ORIGINS OF SPORTS.....	208
RUNNING OF THE BULLS.....	209
THE OLDEST SPORT – HUNTING!.....	209
THE FIRST AMERICAN CASINOS.....	210
THE ORIGINS OF CRAPS.....	210
THE ORIGINS OF SPADES.....	211
BLACK PEOPLE INVENTED WEAPONS.....	212
BLACK PEOPLE INVENTED WEAPONS?.....	212
PREHISTORIC AERODYNAMICS.....	213
AFRICAN MARTIAL ARTS IN AMERICAN PRISONS?...	214
WHO INVENTED THE GUN?.....	217
THE SCIENCE OF CREATION.....	219
ALCHEMY: DON'T BLOW YOURSELF UP!.....	219
THE MATHEMATICAL LANGUAGE OF NATURE.....	221
HOW TO MANIFEST: THE CREATOR CODE.....	221
THE LOSS OF DIVINE SCIENCES.....	225
THE BEGINNING AND END OF THE INTERNET.....	226
A RETURN TO A GOLDEN AGE.....	228
AFTERWORD.....	230
ABOUT THE AUTHOR.....	232
APPENDIX.....	234
THE INVENTION PROCESS.....	234
BLACK AMERICAN INVENTIONS.....	236
REFERENCES.....	240

A SHORT GUIDE

EVERYTHING BLACK PEOPLE MADE

A QUICK CHECKLIST

Take a look at the following list. It's over 150 of the world's most important developments. Which ones do you think were developed or introduced to the world by Black people? Put a check beside them.

- | | | | |
|---|--|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> acoustics | <input type="checkbox"/> cities | <input type="checkbox"/> geology | <input type="checkbox"/> metaphysics |
| <input type="checkbox"/> adhesives | <input type="checkbox"/> city planning | <input type="checkbox"/> gliders | <input type="checkbox"/> meteorology |
| <input type="checkbox"/> aerodynamics | <input type="checkbox"/> civics | <input type="checkbox"/> government | <input type="checkbox"/> midwifery |
| <input type="checkbox"/> agriculture | <input type="checkbox"/> civilization | <input type="checkbox"/> guns | <input type="checkbox"/> mining |
| <input type="checkbox"/> alchemy | <input type="checkbox"/> clothing | <input type="checkbox"/> heart transplant | <input type="checkbox"/> money |
| <input type="checkbox"/> algebra | <input type="checkbox"/> codes | <input type="checkbox"/> hemp | <input type="checkbox"/> monuments |
| <input type="checkbox"/> anatomy | <input type="checkbox"/> concert halls | <input type="checkbox"/> hip-hop | <input type="checkbox"/> music |
| <input type="checkbox"/> anthropology | <input type="checkbox"/> corn | <input type="checkbox"/> horse | <input type="checkbox"/> myth |
| <input type="checkbox"/> antibiotics | <input type="checkbox"/> cuisine | <input type="checkbox"/> hot sauce | <input type="checkbox"/> numerals |
| <input type="checkbox"/> aqueduct | <input type="checkbox"/> culture | <input type="checkbox"/> hygiene | <input type="checkbox"/> oral tradition |
| <input type="checkbox"/> arborology/
horticulture/
botany | <input type="checkbox"/> currency | <input type="checkbox"/> ideas | <input type="checkbox"/> paint |
| <input type="checkbox"/> archaeology | <input type="checkbox"/> cutting tools | <input type="checkbox"/> ink | <input type="checkbox"/> paintings |
| <input type="checkbox"/> archery | <input type="checkbox"/> democracy | <input type="checkbox"/> instruments | <input type="checkbox"/> paper |
| <input type="checkbox"/> architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> dogs | <input type="checkbox"/> irrigation | <input type="checkbox"/> paved roads |
| <input type="checkbox"/> aromatherapy | <input type="checkbox"/> donkeys | <input type="checkbox"/> jewelry | <input type="checkbox"/> peace |
| <input type="checkbox"/> art | <input type="checkbox"/> drain | <input type="checkbox"/> jewelry | <input type="checkbox"/> physics |
| <input type="checkbox"/> astrology | <input type="checkbox"/> drama | <input type="checkbox"/> justice | <input type="checkbox"/> plaza |
| <input type="checkbox"/> astronomy | <input type="checkbox"/> drums | <input type="checkbox"/> keys | <input type="checkbox"/> prosthetics |
| <input type="checkbox"/> biology | <input type="checkbox"/> economics | <input type="checkbox"/> knowledge | <input type="checkbox"/> publishing |
| <input type="checkbox"/> boats | <input type="checkbox"/> education | <input type="checkbox"/> language | <input type="checkbox"/> pyramids |
| <input type="checkbox"/> books | <input type="checkbox"/> empires | <input type="checkbox"/> laws | <input type="checkbox"/> records |
| <input type="checkbox"/> botany | <input type="checkbox"/> ethics | <input type="checkbox"/> legend | <input type="checkbox"/> religion |
| <input type="checkbox"/> brain surgery | <input type="checkbox"/> etiquette | <input type="checkbox"/> libraries | <input type="checkbox"/> rituals |
| <input type="checkbox"/> capitalism | <input type="checkbox"/> eyeglasses | <input type="checkbox"/> linguistics | <input type="checkbox"/> rope |
| <input type="checkbox"/> cats | <input type="checkbox"/> farming | <input type="checkbox"/> literature | <input type="checkbox"/> school |
| <input type="checkbox"/> cattle | <input type="checkbox"/> fashion | <input type="checkbox"/> makeup | <input type="checkbox"/> science |
| <input type="checkbox"/> cement | <input type="checkbox"/> flutes | <input type="checkbox"/> marriage | <input type="checkbox"/> scripture |
| <input type="checkbox"/> ceramics | <input type="checkbox"/> fortress | <input type="checkbox"/> martial arts | <input type="checkbox"/> shield |
| <input type="checkbox"/> ceremony | <input type="checkbox"/> furniture | <input type="checkbox"/> math | <input type="checkbox"/> ships |
| <input type="checkbox"/> chemistry | <input type="checkbox"/> genealogy | <input type="checkbox"/> measurement | <input type="checkbox"/> showmanship |
| <input type="checkbox"/> chocolate | <input type="checkbox"/> genetics | <input type="checkbox"/> medicine | <input type="checkbox"/> socialism |
| | <input type="checkbox"/> geography | <input type="checkbox"/> metallurgy | <input type="checkbox"/> sociology |
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- | | | | |
|---------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> spices | <input type="checkbox"/> symbolism | <input type="checkbox"/> toilets | <input type="checkbox"/> war |
| <input type="checkbox"/> sports | <input type="checkbox"/> taxes | <input type="checkbox"/> tools | <input type="checkbox"/> weapons |
| <input type="checkbox"/> status | <input type="checkbox"/> taxidermy | <input type="checkbox"/> trade | <input type="checkbox"/> wells |
| <input type="checkbox"/> stonemasonry | <input type="checkbox"/> technology | <input type="checkbox"/> tradition | <input type="checkbox"/> wheels |
| <input type="checkbox"/> style | <input type="checkbox"/> temples | <input type="checkbox"/> traffic light | <input type="checkbox"/> woodworking |
| <input type="checkbox"/> substance | <input type="checkbox"/> theater | <input type="checkbox"/> transportation | <input type="checkbox"/> writing |
| <input type="checkbox"/> surgery | <input type="checkbox"/> time | <input type="checkbox"/> turkeys | <input type="checkbox"/> writing utensils |
| <input type="checkbox"/> sword | <input type="checkbox"/> tomb | <input type="checkbox"/> walls | <input type="checkbox"/> zoology |

WHAT TO DO NOW

Now, as you read through the rest of this book, I want you to return to this page every time you make a discovery about who did what and when. Check off every topic you learn about. Add a page number and this becomes an index for whoever reads it next! It's also an easy way for you to skip back and forth and still make sure you've covered everything in this book! By the time you've read it all, you've have a thorough understanding of several million years of global history, and how your ancestors have produced this very moment in which you can create today!²

SHORT SUMMARIES OF THE DEEP HISTORY

Ah, the easy reads! The following are brief introductions to the topics we'll cover in depth, in the "Long History" unit that follows this chapter. Pick a topic that interests you and dig deeper. You can read this book in any order. Just make sure you eventually read all of it!

AGRICULTURE

Black people pioneered the science of agriculture over 30,000 years ago in Central Africa, and were farming major crops throughout the world at least 10,000 years ago. Black civilizations in the Nile Valley, the Near East, and East Asia raced to improve their agricultural abilities, so they could provide their populations with the best grains and crops.

ANIMAL BREEDING

Long before we were breeding pitbulls, our ancestors were breeding all of the world's domesticated animals. Many of these animals, like the goat and cow, were domesticated in Africa, while others were domesticated as ancient Black civilizations spread into the Near East, Europe, and Asia over 15,000 years ago.

² If you think we missed something, email us at editing@supremedesignonline.com and we'll send you a gift card to thank you! Proper Education Always Corrects Errors!



Illustration 8: How ancient Thebes may have looked. I think this is dull compared to the reality!

ARCHITECTURE

Black people designed massive works of architectural prowess over 5,000 years ago, nearly everywhere in the world. For example, there are pyramids in Egypt, the Sudan, West Africa, Southern Europe, China, the South Pacific, and the Americas. Even sciences like acoustics were originally used by Black communities to produce the world's oldest music halls, ceremonial centers, and monuments more than 10,000 years ago in the Nile Valley and other sites across the world.

ART

Over 30,000 years ago, Black people produced the world's oldest examples of painting in South Africa, the Sahara, Australia, and Southern Europe. Long before these murals, prehistoric Black communities enjoyed body art, performance art, spoken word poetry, sculpting, interpretive dance, and dozens of other artistic traditions.

ASTRONOMY

Long before the Moors revived the study of the stars, the ancient world celebrated Black astronomers who calculated the movements of the heavens. In Nabta Playa, near the Nile Valley, there are megalithic stone monuments dating back over 10,000 years. They map out our galaxy!

BUSINESS AND TRADE

The earliest forms of business went hand-in-hand with the world's first industries and technology. As soon as the world's first industries were established in East Africa over a million years ago, the most prized artifacts traded in the world's first marketplaces. Before currency, there was trade!

CASH AND CURRENCY

Across Africa, Asia, and the Pacific, Black people invented the earliest forms of currency, from beads to coins to checks. Black people developed the first economic systems. Cowrie shells served as one of the earliest forms of money in ancient Africa, predating gold coins (which were also developed by Black folks!).

CERAMICS

Black “Aurignacian” people made the world's first ceramic figurines over 30,000 years ago across the Near East and Europe. Despite their importance, these figurines often look so African they're not widely talked about.

CLOTHING

Despite how Europeans have portrayed the clothing choices of indigenous people, Black communities developed all of the world's oldest forms of clothing. In tropical areas, the most effective clothing was developed – over a million years ago – to be minimal, mildew-resistant,



Illustration 9: My idea of how our ancestors looked in the Ice Age.

and lightweight. In northern latitudes, Black explorers were tailoring fur coats and leather pants like Dapper Dan, over 40,000 years ago.

DANCE

All of the world's dance traditions can be traced back to an African origin. Some are more closely related to traditional African dances than others. The world has many indigenous dance traditions, yet most can be connected to older traditions in Africa. Salsa, for example, comes from Kizomba.

ECONOMICS

All of the world's economic systems, including both socialism and capitalism, can be traced back to ancient Black civilizations. Money itself was an invention of these ancient civilizations. Across ancient Africa, India, and southern China, cowrie shells were used as currency at least 5,000 years ago.

HEALTHCARE

Black people developed the world's first training programs for healers (the first medical schools) in Africa over 20,000 years ago. We also required quality care, implementing the first “malpractice” policies for doctors who failed to heal their patients.

HOUSING

Black people built the first shelters and housing structures over 800,000 years ago in the Near East. Before this, our ancestors used natural shelters or portable structures they could disassemble and move around with ease. By the time Europeans came, they were building multi-story complexes with glass windows and balconies.



Illustration 10: Is this a Star Wars set or an ancient African grain storage system? Could be both.

JEWELRY

The oldest examples of jewelry are shell necklaces found in Morocco, which date back to at least 80,000 years ago. Throughout the ancient world, melanin-rich people have loved gold, to the point of making jewel-studded gold “grills”



Illustration 11: Your mama's so old she wore these chains to go out with Moses when he was young.

MAIL

Long before the U.S. Postal Service, ancient Black communities in Australia, East Africa, and South America would transfer messages

BLACK PEOPLE INVENTED MUSIC

FROM TIMBUKTU TO 2LIVECREW

HIP HOP CULTURE IS INDIGENOUS

The following article is an excerpt from *The Science of Self's* upcoming (and long-anticipated!) third volume, tentatively titled *Drums and Hot Sauce: The Secret Unity of the Eternal Black Diaspora*.

No matter what kinda horsepower...we are still what we once were.



WWW.THESCIENCEOFSELF.COM

Our daily lives were tied deeply to the soundscape of our environment. It all went together, just as life in Harlem today goes hand in hand with the noise of subway trains and traffic. But that's just clamor. Rarely a rhythm worth listening to.

Thus our prehistoric predisposition to music, and to the beat of the drum in particular, is why that same Harlemitte will drown out the sounds of that unnatural environment with headphones carrying a rhythm that originated in Africa 70,000 years ago, but emerged from the mouth of other traditions in the South Bronx in the late 1970s.

If you don't think Hip Hop is the latest descendant of a long line of musical traditions that date back to our earliest societies...you might be closing your eyes on purpose.

Nearly every aspect of Hip Hop traces back neatly to the African societies American slaves were kidnapped from. You can find the origins of Black dialect (sometimes known as Ebonics)...

□ in the languages of West Africa, where middle and ending syllables are often omitted from words (today's "e'r'where" and "pa'na"),

- ❑ where there's no conjugation for the very "to be" ("You good?" or "I be..."),
- ❑ and where descriptive words are doubled for emphasis ("good good" and "bling bling" come to mind).



Illustration 53: Some of my more "conscious/woke" family got upset when I made this graphic (along with a dozen others) to promote our upcoming 3rd volume of *The Science of Self*. The indigenous elder was upset too, telling TMZ he felt Lil Wayne was "biting his aesthetic."

You can find the origins of the lyrical rapper in the West African griots who told hundreds of years of history in rhythmic retellings, gesturing with their hands as any "master of ceremonies" would.

You can also find the origins of the hype man and the non-lyrical rapper in the shamans and other tribal personalities who performed without the emphasis on descriptive language employed by the griot. Some simply chanted in a call-and-response pattern familiar to all those who know about Hip Hop.

Even if you trace back most Hip Hop dances, you will see deep and clear connections to African origins. Watch someone doing the latest dance out of Dallas, Oakland, Atlanta, or New York. I promise – if you know anything about African dance – you will see remnants of some



Illustration 54: This is Mapouka, a traditional African dance. Even old ladies do it. Long before the twerk team, indigenous dancers were doing the same thing to stay fit and have fun. Only after the Jamaicans invented daggery in 1987 did these dances become dangerous.

dance that comes from a specific region in Africa. Even booty-shaking, yes booty-shaking is an African tradition. Look up Mapouka or Soukous on YouTube. While you're at it, look up Ndongolo, Genge, and a few other traditions and you'll be able to detect the origins of everything from the Dougie to modern dancehall.

And if you really want to get deep with it, consider how the Negro spirituals helped Black folks endure the daily horrors of plantation life. Consider how Hip Hop gave a voice to the voiceless and power to the powerless when it emerged, saving thousands of youth from "self-destruction" (until outside forces weaponized Hip Hop against us).

You'll even find the same story in Jamaica where Bogle and others turned all the "badman" into dancers. Music is powerful. Perhaps because it registers with something in our DNA and reminds us of ourselves on some unconscious level. That would explain why studies find that even the most "violent" rap songs don't increase rates of anger or depression in Black men, and actually have a mildly positive effect on mood. Just think about that for a minute. What could that drum be saying to you?



Illustration 55: Ancient Egypt's sacred dancers didn't wear much. One of the band members can be seen whispering, "Sis, I think these Greek visitors are pirates. They keep asking about booty." And these dances aren't just in West Africa. Mapouka alone can be found throughout the African continent. You can find African-style dances in other parts of the globe where the indigenous Black culture is fairly well-preserved.

The bottom line is that nearly everything about Hip Hop can be traced back to the distant past. The MC goes back to the griot.

Graffiti goes back to our artists and scribes, who started out writing and painting on the walls (spraypainting actually, as you'll see in the article on Cave Art).

Deejaying goes back to the drummer and other musicians (another prehistoric percussion instrument we should mention here is the scraper, used to make a “scratching” noise).

And B-boying (along with many other Black dances) goes back to the traditional danceforms of Kongo and Angola.



Illustration 56: A prehistoric graffiti mural. This is so trippy I'm still not sure what exactly I'm looking at but it's happening. These scenes comes from Europe before white folks settled there.

THE WORLD'S FIRST GANGSTER RAP

Most trends have been seen before. Although Hip Hop's first “gangster” rapper Schoolly D didn't hit the scene until the mid 1980s, by 1980 BC in Egypt we even have an example of what may have been the world's first gangster rap. 4,000 years before Tupac was born, a 12th Dynasty Pharaoh was banging on his enemies and calling out traitors in a lyrical poem.

It records the thoughts of the murdered King Amenemhat I, and his instructions to his son, who would reign after him. In part, it goes:

Risen as god, hear what I tell You,
beware of nobodies of whose plotting one is not aware.
by doing good, one does not avoid an attack
he whom I gave my hands, used them to assail me,
wearers of my fine linen looked at me as if they were needy...

The poem continues with boasts. It's gangster rap to my ears:

I journeyed to Yebu, I returned to the Delta.
I was grain-maker, beloved of Nepri.

Hapy honored me on every field. I repressed those of Wawat

I captured the Medjay, I made the Asiatics do the dog walk.

When the scribe who composed this piece said "I repressed those of Wawat/ I captured the Medjay, I made the Asiatics do the dog walk" it was bars. These lyrics were directed towards the "pale-faced" invaders blamed in the *Lamentations of Ipuwer*.



THE ORIGINS OF MUSIC

Ancient civilizations had rich musical traditions, tons of different instruments, variety of dances...and the music meant something. If you read *The Original Language* you'll see that music may have once meant something more than words can convey.

The oldest musical traditions seem to be innately connected to our understanding of the cosmos itself. And these prehistoric rhythms may have actually been reproductions of the rhythm nature of the universe itself, down to the details we cannot hear with our untrained ears, such as the rhythm of the human heartbeat, the biochemistry of plants, and the precession of the stars. But let's not dig so deep...yet.

If we look at the modern era, we can trace back most Black musical traditions from their West African roots to the early songs on the slave plantations. During slavery, not only were Africans exposed to European traditions, but there was a strong influence of Africans on European culture being considerably strong.

This is why most Western musical traditions started off with Black roots. From the variety of African rhythms you'd find on the plantation, we developed nearly every style of music enjoyed by Americans today. From Gospel to folk music to blues to jazz to funk to modern hip-hop.

And let's not forget that these rhythms can also be found in Latin music (La Bamba, etc.) as well as "white" music genres like country, rock

and roll, and bluegrass. Similarly – if we dig back far enough – we can see that most indigenous people throughout the world have similar rhythms in their music.

IT'S ALL ABOUT RHYTHM

The common denominator? Percussion, of course. Think about the drum. That drumbeat, echoing the rhythm of our heartbeats and the pulse of nature, can be found throughout the world – from Japan's Taiko drumming to the pow-wow drums of the Navaho – and we can trace the drumming traditions of most indigenous people all the way back to their Black roots. But were drums our only instruments? And how far do these instruments go back?

THE EARLIEST INSTRUMENTS – FLUTES OR DRUMS?

As much as we talk about drums, the world's oldest drums – made from leather hides stretched over logs or gourds – wouldn't survive (because they're not made of material that lasts several thousand years). Neither would stringed instruments. So we have flutes.⁵⁴

As the Metropolitan Museum of Art reports:

The tradition of music making may be among the earliest forms of human artistic endeavor. Because many musical instruments were crafted from easily degradable materials like leather, wood, and sinew, they are often lost to archaeologists, but flutes made of bone dating to the Paleolithic period in Europe (ca. 35,000–10,000 BC) are richly documented.⁵⁵

More than 35,000 years ago, the Aurignacian people living in present-day southwestern Germany were playing sophisticated music, according to University of Tübingen archaeologist Nicholas Conard. Conard's team discovered five-holed bone flute carved from the bone of a griffon vulture. Previously, they'd found fragments of ivory flutes in the same area.

What made this flute noteworthy was that scientists could examine its entire design. The sound produced by the flute "is almost identical to tones of the major scale played on today's flute," and "might be capable of expressing greater harmonic variety than the modern-day flute," says Nikolaj Tarasov, a recorder specialist at the Music University of Karlsruhe in Germany. "We can now state that our ancestors had a developed culture," Tarasov says. "Not only were they surviving, but they had time to do something that required superior skill."⁵⁶

The makers of these Paleolithic European instruments were – you guessed it – the Grimaldi people we’ve discussed earlier. As we’ve noted, the people who spread the Aurignacian and Gravettian cultures across Europe, the Near East, and Asia were a sophisticated bunch. They’re the same people who brought sophisticated flutes to China. There, 10,000 year old bone flutes from the site of Jiahu are preserved so well that they’re still playable!

And we know where the bearers of this culture came from. So it’s only natural that the earliest musical instrument recognized (so far) is a bird bone flute from Africa, found in Haua Fteah, Libya and dated to between 70 and 80,000 years ago.⁵⁷



The Combe Capelle Man - An ancestor of some European nations. Restored according to the directions of Professor Rutot of Brussels

Illustration 57: One of the many reconstructions of prehistoric Europeans who look Black. This guy also looks like he's deep in thought about how his future might one day be white washed, and they'll say he looked like Tom Brady.

THE PERCUSSION OF PRODUCTION

But we know music has to go back even further, because we know that even primates practice drumming. And we can look at the acoustics of all of our earliest structures and see that we incorporated acoustics from the beginning. Even prehistoric rock art like the enigmatic cupules may have been used as percussion instruments.⁴

There are even gongs made from rock throughout Africa⁵⁸ and India.⁵⁹

The manufacture of stone tools themselves – the tools used to create some of these prehistoric works – may have also been done to a rhythm.⁶⁰ In fact, much of the labor done in early urban civilizations

⁴As Robert Bailey notes in the 2012 *365 Days of Real Black History Calendar*: “Blacks created the first music. Not only were prehistoric caves modified for acoustics (the first concert halls), but scientists have found flutes and other instruments over 40,000 years old at Black settlements.”

may have been done to a musical rhythm, a tradition continued by Africans working as slave labor in the Americas.

Which reminds us that the vocal cord, too, can be used an instrument. Speech itself can be rhythmic and percussive. If you listen to many indigenous languages, it's clear that there's a musical rhythm to the way people speak. In some cultures, men and women even speak with different patterns, heightening this effect.

Similarly, other musical instruments are used distinctly by different communities as well as by different individuals within those communities. For example, check out the musical dimensions of how indigenous communities in the South Pacific process their sakau (also known as kava root). Nicole Boivin summarizes:

Pounding of sakau is a ritualized process carried out in a community house, and is apparently done in unison according to particular rhythms. These are directed by a leader, who stands on a platform calling out tempos that change over the course of the process. The pounding is done on basalt slabs, and creates clear, bell-like tones that resonate through the forest, communicating the message that preparations for specific communal, but restricted, ritual events have begun.

Individual communities have their own sakau pounding rhythms, and tempos are reported to change depending on the composition of the gathering. The presence of head chiefs leads to different pounding tempos than that of petty chiefs, for example.⁶¹

The name of the original man, *Adam*, is said to mean “the resounding mud” or “black mud,” which some link to the word *Dum* of India – an early name for gypsies meaning man and sound, and to Atum, of the ancient Nile and Tumul of East Africa and India and Tama of Central and West Africa who is the God of the smiths that mold the earth. In African tradition, the smith or metallurgist was called “the first drummer.” Indeed, mastering the rhythm of percussion could contribute to great metal-working skills, and thus the ability to shape or mold metal or stone to one's will – a trait associated with the Gods themselves.

So let's recap. We had percussion instruments and flutes for sure, definitely our voices, and perhaps some stringed instruments. What else do we know about the origins of music, besides the tools we used to produce and the rhythms that we used as our prehistoric basslines?

THE UNIVERSAL PENTATONIC SCALE

We also know that many of the oldest instruments we've found suggest that the most common set of notes used in our music were those of the pentatonic scale, a musical scale with five notes per octave.

Pentatonic scales are very common and are found all over the world, including:

- ☐ West African music,
- ☐ African-American spirituals,
- ☐ Gospel music,
- ☐ American folk music,
- ☐ Jazz,
- ☐ American blues music,
- ☐ rock music,
- ☐ the Afro-Caribbean tradition,
- ☐ Sami joik singing,
- ☐ the music of ancient Greece (and some Greek traditional music),
- ☐ the tuning of the Ethiopian *krar*,
- ☐ the Indonesian *gamelan*,
- ☐ the Philippine *Kulintang*,
- ☐ Native American music,
- ☐ Andean music,
- ☐ the folk melodies of Korea, Malaysia, Japan, China and Vietnam,
- ☐ Celtic folk music,
- ☐ and a very small number of other European folk traditions.



In other words, wherever Black people lived in ancient times, this is where you find that five-point scale.

On the other hand, most mainstream European traditions use the heptatonic scale. On a standard piano, the heptatonic scale requires the use of both the Black and white keys. On the pentatonic scale, all of the notes can be found in the black keys. This is why you can play most Black music (particularly the old stuff) using only the black keys on the piano.

THE SCIENCE OF MUSIC

To review, some of our music was about teaching and science, communicating cosmology and reproducing the language and rhythms of nature. Some was about communicating other concepts and imparting ideas, perhaps retelling history through song and the symbolism of sound. Other music was a part of the work ritual.

All of these purposes for music blended together. One minute, we were partying to celebrate a marriage. Just before that, we were working to prepare food for the celebration. And the next, the elders were telling the couple about their future.

All of it was set to music or some sort of rhythm. And in a sense, all of it was entertainment. Because if people didn't like doing it...trust me, they would have stopped doing it. Because we FELT these drums in our inner being, they were an intrinsic part of our existence.

ANCIENT ACOUSTICS



The science of sound is part of our everyday lives. Engineers and architects put a lotta work into making sure public buildings have good acoustics, and no church, concert hall, or auditorium is complete without this consideration. But how long have we known about this science, and how did we first use it?

When I first learned about the cave paintings, I thought they demonstrated some amazing skills, yet I didn't get why they were painted in such odd spaces. "Why choose that crevice in the upper corner instead of the flat wall in front of you?" I wondered.

Then I stopped wondering and thought to research! It turns out that ancient "rock art" was intentionally painted on specific surfaces so that echos would be extra loud AND have some relation to the painting. For example, if you clapped at an empty party of the wall, it would be a dull echo, but if you clapped at that painting of the antelope it would be loud AND make the sound of hooves!⁶² The walls really could talk!

In sacred spaces around the world, going back tens of thousands of years, there are always some acoustic feature, with some features resonating at very specific frequencies. Our ancestors knew some deep stuff!⁶³ They knew the power of sound and rhythm.

This goes back to when we first began, designing the structure of our world to match the rhythm of our hearts. We know the indigenous people of "Old Europe" employed this science in the temples of New Grange (3500 BC), designed to enhance the effects of chanting. They used it in the labyrinths of ancient Crete, the underground temples in Malta, megaliths like Stonehenge, and just about anyplace our ancestors built anything massive. Don't forget that before stone, we used wood! And those wood structures don't remain, but those too, used this science!

All indigenous civilizations embedded their knowledge into their structures. If you clap your hands in front of the 1,100-year-old Temple of

Kukulcan, in the ancient Mayan city of Chichen Itza, the pyramid “answers” in the chirps associated with the sacred quetzalbird celebrated on the carvings of the temple.⁶⁴

ANCIENT AMPLIFIERS

Most ancient temples were like giant loudspeakers. In the pyramids of Palenque or the stupas of Asia, the architecture amplifies the human voice (and drums or other musical instruments). The “amplifiers” were the buildings themselves, and they used stucco and other devices to distribute the sound all around like ancient surround sound.

The master teacher, performer, or high priest stood atop these temples (or in specialized projection rooms, which still exist) to broadcast teachings, songs, and chants throughout the public squares (or circles) filled with followers and observers.

Using modern sound-measuring instruments and a 3D computer model of the site, a research team found that if you were to say “Peace to the Gods” from the top of a Palenque temple, you could be heard clearly from a whole football field away.⁶⁵



Illustration 58: The temple at Palenque has more secrets than the Clintons. Apparently, there's also an underground canal processing water and producing sound energy.

THIS IS NOT A STUDIO, IT'S AN INITIATION

In the Peruvian Andes, there's an underground complex made from stone. It's an ancient maze, used by the learned elders of the society who came before even the Incas. 3,000 years ago, these people built a “Gallery of Labyrinths” over a half-mile long, full of underground chambers and twisting corridors, all connected by air ducts.

So, if you're a young man going through his initiation into the sacred knowledge of these people, you've gotta get outta this maze! You won't die, because there's air...but it's over half a mile of underground tunnels that ain't lit! To make it harder, in the “chambers” where you can stop to gather you wits, the acoustics can make any noise sound super strange.

So not only is there an elder hidden in the corner, but he's messing with your head, whispering wild things, sounding like the voice of the



What should you do now that you're done reading?

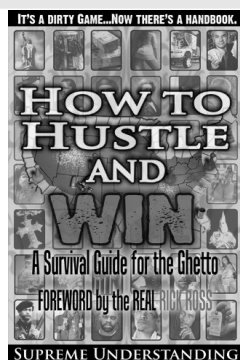
Here are some suggestions:

- ☐ Complete any activities mentioned in this book, especially the discussions. See any of the films mentioned, but with others.
- ☐ Tell somebody about this book and what you've learned. Invite them to come read it. Don't let them steal the book.
- ☐ As another option, let them steal the book. It might help them.
- ☐ Mentor some young people or teach a class using this book as a handbook or reference.
- ☐ Talk about this book online, but don't stay on the Net forever.
- ☐ Join an organization or group that discusses concepts like the ones in this book and get into those discussions.
- ☐ Leave this book away somewhere it will be picked up and read.
- ☐ Identify the people in your community who could use a copy of this book. If they're people who would want to buy a book like this, let em read a few pages and see if they can afford to buy a copy.
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We hope this helps you keep the knowledge contagious.

ALSO FROM OUR COMPANY

How to Hustle and Win, Part 1: A Survival Guide for the Ghetto



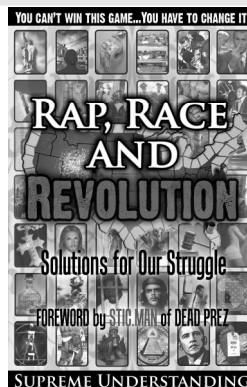
By Supreme Understanding
Foreword by the Real Rick Ross

This is the book that started it all. Now an international bestseller, this book has revolutionized the way people think of “urban literature.” It offers a street-based analysis of social problems, plus practical solutions that anyone can put to use.

CLASS	PAGES	RETAIL	RELEASE
I-1	336	\$19.95	Jun. 2008

ISBN: 978-0-9816170-0-8

How to Hustle and Win, Part 2: Rap, Race, and Revolution



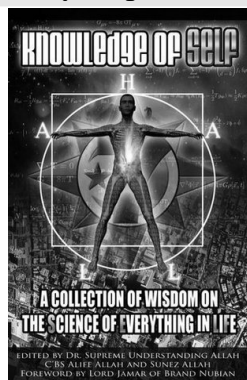
By Supreme Understanding
Foreword by Stic.man of Dead Prez

Seen here in its original green cover, the controversial follow-up to *How to Hustle and Win* digs even deeper into the problems we face, and how we can solve them. Part One focused on personal change, and Part Two explores the bigger picture of changing the entire hood.

CLASS	PAGES	RETAIL	RELEASE
I-1	384	\$19.95	Apr. 2009

ISBN: 978-0-9816170-9-1

Knowledge of Self: A Collection of Wisdom on the Science of Everything in Life



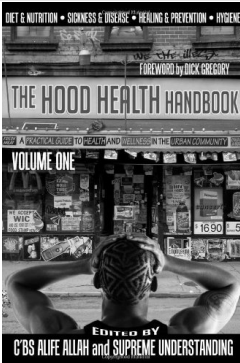
Edited by Supreme Understanding, C'BS
Alife Allah, and Sunez Allah, Foreword by
Lord Jamar of Brand Nubian

Who are the Five Percent? Why are they here? In this book, over 50 Five Percenters from around the world speak for themselves, providing a comprehensive introduction to the esoteric teachings of the Nation of Gods and Earths.

CLASS	PAGES	RETAIL	RELEASE
I-2	256	\$19.95	Jul. 2009

ISBN: 978-0-9816170-2-2

The Hood Health Handbook, Volume One (Physical Health)



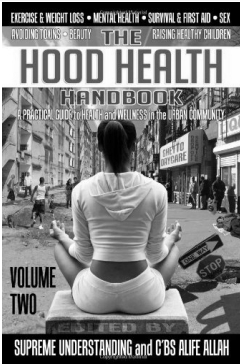
Edited by Supreme Understanding and C'BS Alife Allah, Foreword by Dick Gregory

Want to know why Black and brown people are so sick? This book covers the many “unnatural causes” behind our poor health, and offers hundreds of affordable and easy-to-implement solutions.

CLASS	PAGES	RETAIL	RELEASE
PH-1	480	\$19.95	Nov. 2010

ISBN: 978-1-935721-32-1

The Hood Health Handbook, Volume Two (Mental Health)



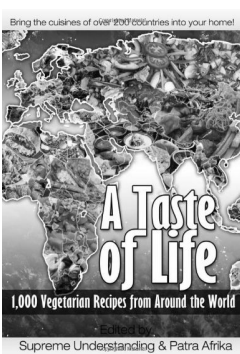
Edited by Supreme Understanding and C'BS Alife Allah

This volume covers mental health, how to keep a healthy home, raising healthy children, environmental issues, and dozens of other issues, all from the same down-to-earth perspective as Volume One.

CLASS	PAGES	RETAIL	RELEASE
MH-1	480	\$19.95	Nov. 2010

ISBN: 978-1-935721-33-8

A Taste of Life: 1,000 Vegetarian Recipes from Around the World



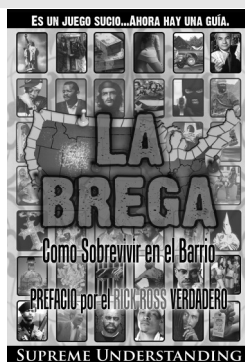
Edited by Supreme Understanding and Patra Afrika

This cookbook makes it easy to become vegetarian. In addition to over 1,000 recipes from everywhere you can think of, plus over 100 drink and smoothie recipes, this book also teaches how to transition your diet, what to shop for, how to cook, as well as a guide to nutrients and vitamins.

CLASS	PAGES	RETAIL	RELEASE
W-1	400	\$19.95	Jun. 2011

ISBN: 978-1-935721-10-9

La Brega: Como Sobrevivir En El Barrio



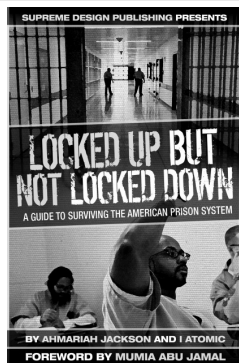
By Supreme Understanding

Thanks to strong demand coming from Spanish-speaking countries, we translated our groundbreaking How to Hustle and Win into Spanish, and added new content specific to Latin America. Because this book's language is easy to follow, it can also be used to brush up on your Spanish.

CLASS	PAGES	RETAIL	RELEASE
O-1	336	\$14.95	Jul. 2009

ISBN: 978-0981617-08-4

Locked Up but Not Locked Down: A Guide to Surviving the American Prison System



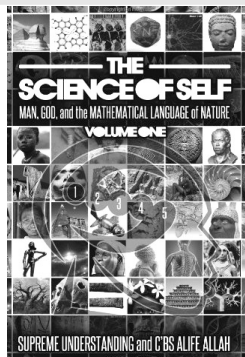
By Ahmariah Jackson and IAtomic Allah
Foreword by Mumia Abu Jamal

This book covers what it's like on the inside, how to make the most of your time, what to do once you're out, and how to stay out. Features contributions from over 50 insiders, covering city jails, state and federal prisons, women's prisons, juvenile detention, and international prisons.

CLASS	PAGES	RETAIL	RELEASE
J-1	288	\$24.95	Jul. 2012

ISBN: 978-1935721-00-0

The Science of Self: Man, God, and the Mathematical Language of Nature



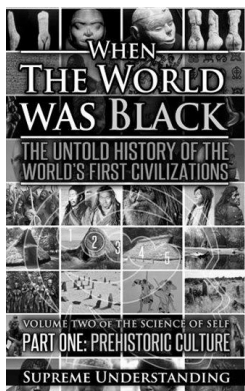
By Supreme Understanding and C'BS Alife Allah

How did the universe begin? Is there a pattern to everything that happens? What's the meaning of life? What does science tell us about the depths of our SELF? Who and what is God? This may be one of the deepest books you can read.

CLASS	PAGES	RETAIL	RELEASE
I-4	360	\$29.95	Jun. 2012

ISBN: 978-1935721-67-3

When the World was Black, Part One: Prehistoric Cultures



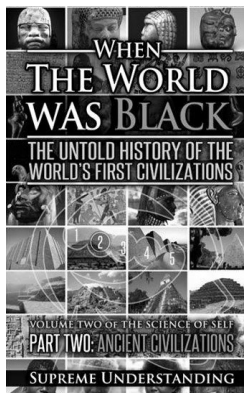
By Supreme Understanding
Foreword by Runoko Rashid

When does Black history begin? Certainly not with slavery. In two volumes, historian Supreme Understanding explores over 200,000 years of Black history from every corner of the globe. Part One covers the first Black communities to settle the world, establishing its first cultures and traditions. Their stories are remarkable.

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I-3	400	\$24.95	Feb. 2013

ISBN: 978-1-935721-04-8

When the World Was Black, Part Two: Ancient Civilizations



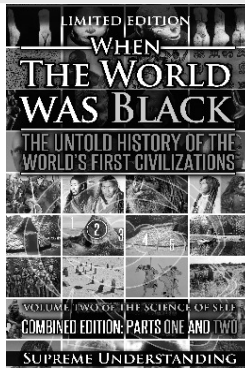
By Supreme Understanding

Part Two covers the ancient Black civilizations that gave birth to the modern world. Black people built the first urban civilizations in Africa, Asia, Europe, and the Americas. And every claim in these books is thoroughly documented with reputable sources. Do you want to know the story of your ancestors? You should. We study the past to see what the future will bring.

CLASS	PAGES	RETAIL	RELEASE
I-3	400	\$24.95	Feb. 2013

ISBN: 978-1-935721-05-5

When the World was Black, Parts One and Two (Hardcover)



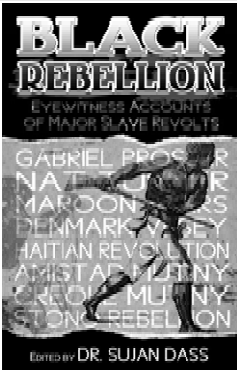
By Supreme Understanding

An incredible limited edition that combines Part One and Part Two into a single book, cased in an embossed clothbound hardcover and dust jacket. Autographed and numbered, this collector's item also includes both sets of full-color inserts.

CLASS	PAGES	RETAIL	RELEASE
I-3	800	\$74.95	Dec. 2013

Only available direct from publisher.

Black Rebellion: Eyewitness Accounts of Major Slave Revolts



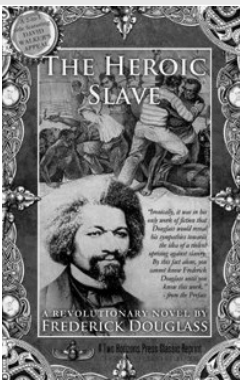
Edited by Dr. Sujan Dass

Who will tell the stories of those who refused to be slaves? What about those who fought so effectively that they forced their slavers to give up? *Black Rebellion* is a collection of historical “eyewitness” accounts of dozens of major revolts and uprisings, from the U.S. to the Caribbean, as well as a history of slavery and revolt.

CLASS	PAGES	RETAIL	RELEASE
P-3	272	\$19.95	May 2010

ISBN: 978-0-981617-04-6

The Heroic Slave



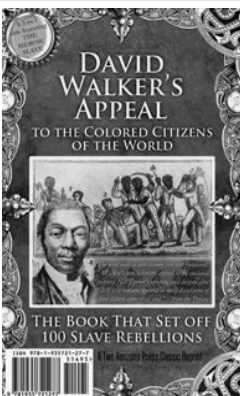
By Frederick Douglass

Most people don't know that Douglass wrote a novel...or that, in this short novel, he promoted the idea of violent revolt. By this time in his life, the renowned abolitionist was seeing things differently. This important piece of history comes with *David Walker's Appeal*, all in one book.

CLASS	PAGES	RETAIL	RELEASE
P-3	160	\$19.95	Apr. 2011

ISBN: 978-1-935721-27-7

David Walker's Appeal



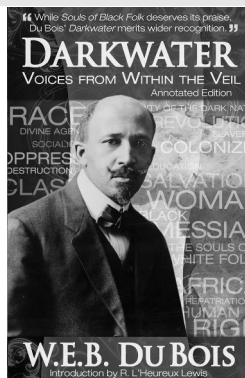
By David Walker

This is one of the most important, and radical, works ever published against slavery. Rather than call for an end by peaceful means, Walker called for outright revolution. His calls may have led to over 100 revolts, including those described in *Black Rebellion*. This important piece of history comes with Douglass' *The Heroic Slave*, which it may have helped inspire.

CLASS	PAGES	RETAIL	RELEASE
P-3	160	\$19.95	Apr. 2011

ISBN: 978-1-935721-27-7

Darkwater: Voices from Within the Veil, Annotated Edition



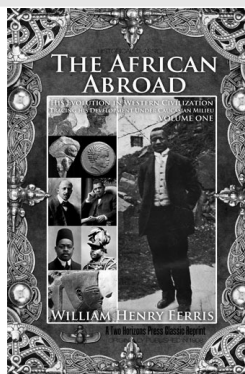
By W.E.B. Du Bois

This book makes Du Bois' previous work, like *Souls of Black Folk*, seem tame by comparison. *Darkwater* is revolutionary, uncompromising, and unconventional in both its content and style, addressing the plight of Black women, the rise of a Black Messiah, a critical analysis of white folks, and the need for outright revolution.

CLASS	PAGES	RETAIL	RELEASE
I-4	240	\$19.95	Jun. 2011

ISBN: 978-0-981617-07-7

The African Abroad: The Black Man's Evolution in Western Civilization, Volume One



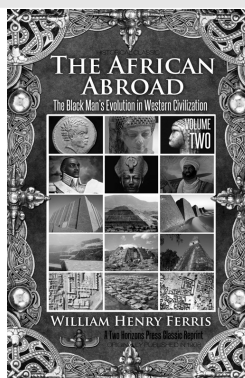
By William Henry Ferris

Who would think a book written in 1911 could cover so much? Ferris, chairman of the UNIA, speaks up for the Black man's role in Western civilization. He discusses a wealth of history, as well as some revolutionary Black theology, exploring the idea of man as God and God as man.

CLASS	PAGES	RETAIL	RELEASE
I-5	570	\$29.95	Oct. 2012

ISBN: 978-1935721-66-6

The African Abroad: Volume Two



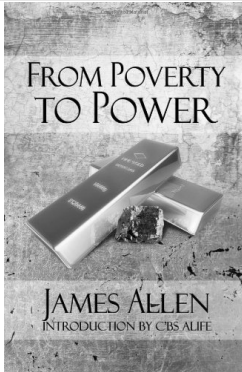
By William Henry Ferris

The second volume of Ferris' epic covers important Black biographies of great leaders, ancient and modern. He tells the stories of forty "Black Immortals." He also identifies the African origins of many of the world's civilizations, including ancient Egypt, Akkad, Sumer, India, and Europe.

CLASS	PAGES	RETAIL	RELEASE
I-5	330	\$19.95	Oct. 2012

ISBN: 978-1-935721-69-7

From Poverty to Power: The Realization of Prosperity and Peace



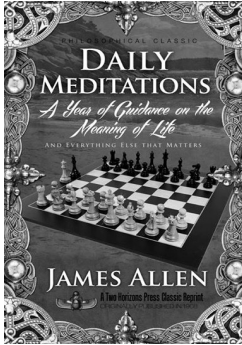
By James Allen

Want to transform your life? James Allen, the author of the classic *As a Man Thinketh*, explores how we can turn struggle and adversity into power and prosperity. This inspirational text teaches readers about their innate strength and the immense power of the conscious mind.

CLASS	PAGES	RETAIL	RELEASE
I-3	144	\$19.95	May 2010

ISBN: 978-0-981617-05-3

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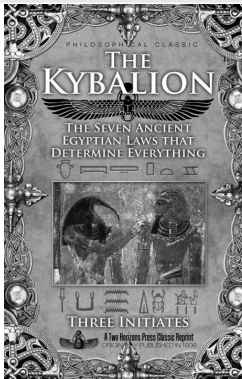
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CLASS	PAGES	RETAIL	RELEASE
C-3	208	\$19.95	Apr. 2013

ISBN: 978-1-935721-08-6

The Kybalion: The Seven Ancient Egyptian Laws _



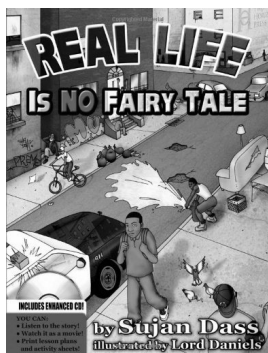
By the Three Initiates

Thousands of years ago, the ancients figured out a set of principles that govern the universe. In *The Kybalion*, these laws are explored and explained. This edition includes research into the authorship of the book, and where the laws came from.

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C-4	130	\$19.95	Oct. 2012

ISBN: 978-1-935721-25-3

Real Life is No Fairy Tale (w/ Companion CD)



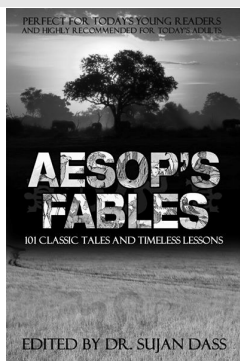
By Sujan Dass and Lord Williams

Looking for a children's book that teaches about struggle? Written for school age children, this full-color hardcover book is composed entirely in rhyme, and the images are as real as they get. Includes a CD with an audio book, animated video, review questions, and printable worksheets and activities.

CLASS	PGS	RETAIL	RELEASE
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Edited by Dr. Sujan Dass

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CLASS	PAGES	RETAIL	RELEASE
CD-3	112	\$14.95	Feb. 2013

ISBN: 978-1-935721-07-9

Heritage Playing Cards (w/ Companion Booklet)



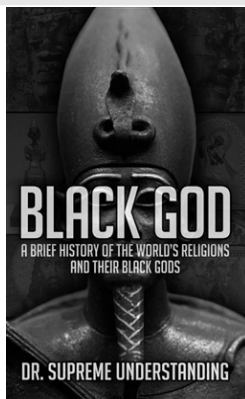
Designed by Sujan Dass

No more European royalty! This beautiful deck of playing cards features 54 full-color characters from around the world and a 16-page educational booklet on international card games and the ethnic backgrounds of the people on the cards.

CLASS	PGS	RETAIL	RELEASE
CD-2	16+	\$9.95	May 2010

UPC: 05105-38587

Black God: An Introduction to the World's Religions and their Black Gods



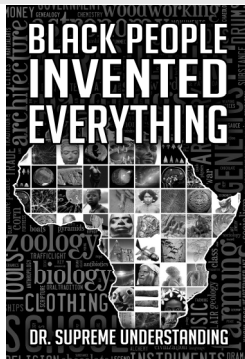
By Supreme Understanding

Have you ever heard that Christ was Black? What about the Buddha? They weren't alone. This book explores the many Black gods of the ancient world, from Africa to Europe, Asia, and Australia, all the way to the Americas. Who were they? Why were they worshipped? And what does this mean for us today?

CLASS	PAGES	RETAIL	RELEASE
C-3	200	\$19.95	Jan. 2014

ISBN: 978-1-935721-12-3

Black People Invented Everything



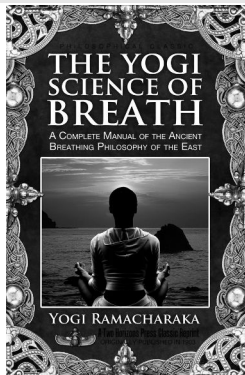
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In *The Science of Self* we began exploring the origins of everything that modern civilization depends on today. In this book, we get into specifics, showing how Black people invented everything from agriculture to zoology, with dozens of pictures and references to prove it!

CLASS	PAGES	RETAIL	RELEASE
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The Yogi Science of Breath: A Complete Manual of the Ancient Philosophy of the East



By Yogi Ramacharaka

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CLASS	PAGES	RETAIL	RELEASE
PH-4	112	\$14.95	Apr. 2012

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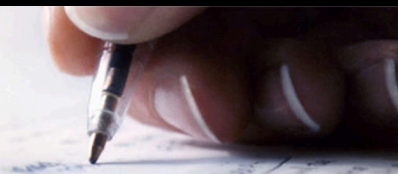
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