

atives and women's rights organisations to access resources, co-create tools and per
and already existing platforms to connect the world to African feminist identities

Voice, Power & Soul:

African Feminist Narratives

... in Africa is as com
... from the deserts of the north to
... central regions and the savannas
... g has been a living tradition that
... story, morality, and communal
... vent of the written word, these
African Feminists w, where
... and culture were preserved and
... generation to a *storytellers and pre*
... word. African stories often come alive
... g performances of griots and
... ily utilise voice, gesture
... myths, legends, and



Wulugu, Ghana

African knowledge systems

Why are mud huts considered less advanced than brick houses?

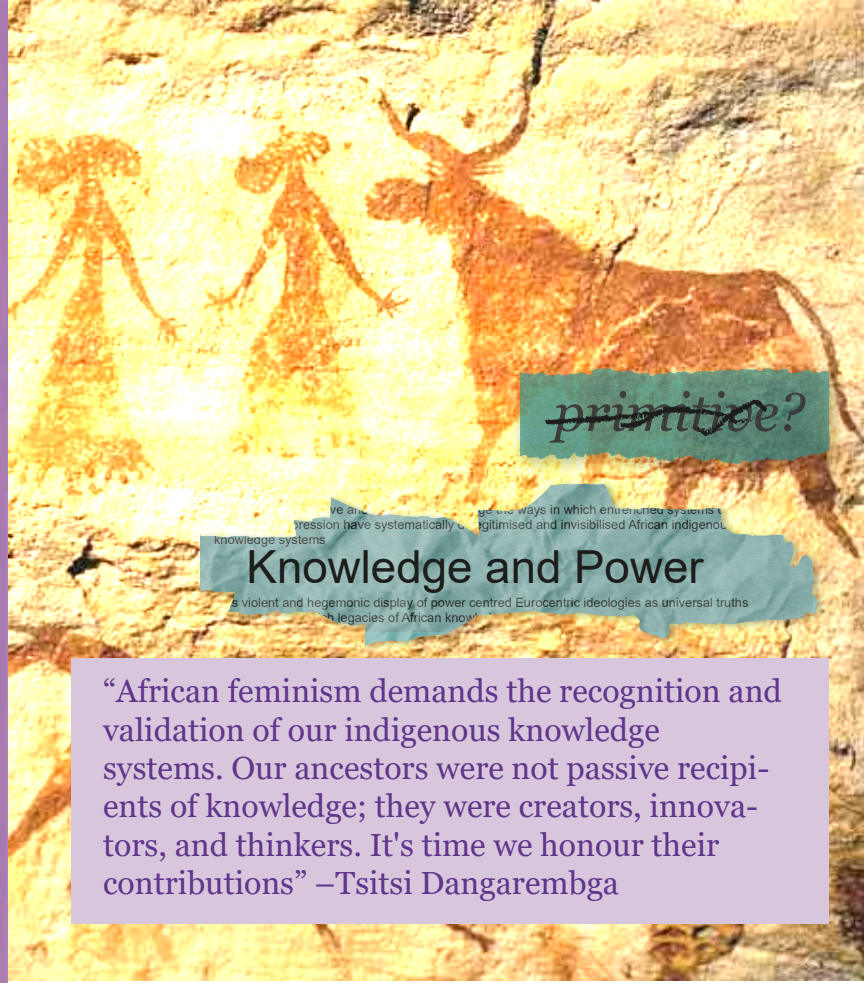
Who has the power to declare them primitive?

Indigenous knowledge and technology is clever, resourceful, sustainable and valuable

...jua...
...wa, ili kuony...
...jinsi drama inaweza kuv...
Mfumo wa imani ya Kiyod...
uwezo wa wanawake, m...
Ufeministi kuenea katika...
ko. Katika shughuli zake...
alidokeza "nguvu" hi ya r...
kwamba mchanganyiko...
kike unaweza, na una ush...
mtu binafsi. Katika kubair...
vya maelezo kama vile...
"iyami ajubaba" vinatum...
gopa, kuheshimu na kud...
mmoja. Kwa kuunda...
"hawajarekebishw...

Knowledge & Power:

African Feminists have and continue to challenge the ways in which entrenched systems of power and oppression have systematically delegitimised and invisibilised African indigenous knowledge systems and ways of knowing. Prevailing systems of knowledge remain shaped by white supremacy, patriarchy, capitalism and other systems of power and oppression that dictate whose knowledge is legitimised and whose knowledge and ways of knowing are marginalised and in many cases, systematically erased through epistemic violence. Throughout history, African feminists have remained at the forefront of confronting the ways in which African women, girls, and gender diverse individuals have been structurally excluded from knowledge creation processes. The systemic negation and devaluation of indigenous knowledge systems coincides with the enslavement, colonisation and subsequent dehumanisation of African peoples. This violent and hegemonic display of power centred Eurocentric ideologies as universal truths while erasing the rich legacies of African knowledge systems.



primitive?

knowledge systems

Knowledge and Power

is violent and hegemonic display of power centred Eurocentric ideologies as universal truths while erasing the rich legacies of African know

“African feminism demands the recognition and validation of our indigenous knowledge systems. Our ancestors were not passive recipients of knowledge; they were creators, innovators, and thinkers. It's time we honour their contributions” –Tsitsi Dangarembga

This holistic perspective allows indigenous communities to address challenges and make decisions in a way that considers the broader context and the well-being of the entire ecosystem, including the natural environment, social, political and other dynamics.



The practice of proverbs to orally pass on values, lessons, problem solving, politics, etc. could be one.

African Religion

African religions are intricately woven into all aspects of life to guide communal, eco-conscious lifestyles. They offer just as nuanced models for society as western ones.

African Indigenous Knowledge:

African indigenous knowledge systems remain deeply embedded in community practices, oral traditions, memory, rituals, song and dance, lived experiences, oral histories, ancestral wisdoms and the wealth of stories that get passed down from generation to generation. Indigenous knowledge stands as a distinct essence of a culture and society. It is woven intricately into the fabric of a community and/or society. This reservoir of wisdom is, therefore, not easily codifiable.

Indigenous knowledge is a holistic and comprehensive system that deeply understands the interconnectedness between various aspects of life, including culture, environment, spirituality, and social dynamics. Unlike Western knowledge systems that often compartmentalise knowledge into separate disciplines, indigenous knowledge recognises the intricate relationships between different elements of existence. This holistic perspective allows indigenous communities to address challenges and make decisions in a way that considers the broader context and the well-being of the entire ecosystem, including the natural environment, social, political and other dynamics.

"Knowledge is not a monolith; it is diverse, dynamic, and contextual. African feminism calls for the decolonisation of knowledge and the recognition of the rich tapestry of indigenous knowledge systems that have sustained African societies for generations." - Yaba Badoe

Timbuktu manuscripts

Decolonization of Knowledge:



Eye of Asantewaa



We are the custodians of wisdom

a reservoir of authentic knowledge

cultural erasure

the commodification of indigenous wisdom

It is imperative to safeguard African indigenous knowledge systems and to advance its methodologies ethically and with integrity. The active involvement of local communities as custodians of their own knowledge is essential for the preservation of authentic knowledge and a movement of resilience against cultural erasure.

The Fierce Protection and Preservation of African Indigenous Knowledge:

African societies have endured a long history of relentless forms of oppression, including the brutalities of the slave trade, colonialism and the persistence of neocolonialism. At the centre of western hegemony lies the deliberate negation and devaluation of African indigenous knowledge systems.

In addition, western schools of thought have and continue to exploit indigenous wisdom, severing it from its origins and distorting its essence. What was once sacred knowledge becomes commodified and stripped of its authenticity. This appropriation not only deprives individuals of their rightful custodianship but also erases the identities of indigenous peoples, rendering them invisible in the records of history. The commodification of indigenous wisdom perpetuates oppression. Urgent action is imperative to safeguard African indigenous knowledge systems and to advance its methodologies ethically and with integrity. The active involvement of local communities as custodians of wisdom is paramount, serving as a reservoir of authentic knowledge and a movement of resilience against cultural erasure.



“Colonialism not only stole our land and resources but also sought to erase our ways of knowing. African feminism insists on reclaiming and revitalising our indigenous knowledge as a form of resistance.”

- Minna Salami



visual art, music, theatre, an

Role of the Arts & Creative Expression

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The Role of the Arts & Creative Expression:

The arts serve as a powerful and transformative vehicle for challenging the erasure and silencing of African feminist narratives and highlighting African indigenous ways of knowing, creating, and being. Through storytelling, oral histories, creative and performance art and lived experience, the arts become an avenue for reclaiming agency and voice.

By centering these forms of expression, the arts shift paradigms of knowledge creation, acknowledging them as deeply political and legitimate ways of knowing and creating. African feminists have and continue to harness the transformative potential of the arts to disrupt dominant narratives and amplify the diverse experiences and perspectives of African women, girls and gender-queer communities. Through visual art, music, theatre, and other creative mediums, African Feminism challenges patriarchal structures and colonial legacies, fostering a cultural renaissance that celebrates the richness and complexity of African identities and histories.



Breathing life into our experiences as African Feminists:

The arts provide a profound platform for reclaiming our stories, our identities, and our voices as African feminists. Through literature, poetry, music, and visual arts, we breathe life into our experiences, challenging the dominant narratives that seek to silence us. Our creativity becomes a form of resistance, illuminating the richness of our indigenous ways of knowing and creating. In reclaiming our cultural heritage and amplifying our lived experiences, the arts become a transformative force, reshaping paradigms and centering the voices of those who have been marginalised for far too long.



It was the year 1482 when the first slave ships were built. The slaves were taken from their homes and traded them to the Americas. The slaves wore the same look, Westerners admired. They began to shave the edges of their will. Within years... Even on the slave ships, the slaves were people in a brutal attempt to destroy their culture. They sought to return to their homeland. This was a heartbreaking experience for many tribes. And the styles would appear as the brutally lost, but they were biologically a system of unified oppress

Decolonising Philanthropy & Shifting Narratives

The decolonisation of philanthropy confronts entrenched systems of power and oppression that have historically delegitimised African Indigenous knowledge. African Feminist Philanthropy continues to challenge the ways in which these entrenched systems of power and oppression have systematically invisibilised African indigenous knowledge systems and ways of knowing. The decolonisation of philanthropy requires the dismantling of these hierarchical power structures, the redistribution of resources and the recognition of the intrinsic value of African indigenous knowledge in building a more just and equitable world. Through centring the lived experiences and knowledge of African women and genderqueer communities, African Feminist Philanthropy strives to shift these knowledge paradigms and challenge dominant narratives for the purpose of advancing equity and gender justice.

African Feminist Philanthropy

centring the lived experiences and knowledge

turawa...
Afirka suna...
te...
Ba...
kwaliyarsu zuwa Turai...
dai, Turawan Yamma sun...
da salon gyan gashi, amma...
da jimawa ba suka fara aske 'ya...
Adam da suke bauta ba tare da...
son ransu ba. A cikin shekaru...
Tun kafin 'yan Afirka da aka...
kama su shiga cikin jiragen...
ruwan bayi, masu f...
sun aske kawu...
mummunan...
da mutuntaka...
nemi kwashe rayu...
zuwa kasarsu ta h...
dauki wannan...
da ba za a iya...
da yawa. Ku...
dadewa...
na Afirka...
Adam da...
zama ma...
tunani, a...
aya.



Voice, Power & Soul: *African Feminist Narratives*

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AWDF works with African Feminist Movements and the narratives captured in this zine echo what we are hearing and learning from African Feminists and African Feminist Movements



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