

The African Origins Of Western Civilization: Religion, Ethics, and Philosophy

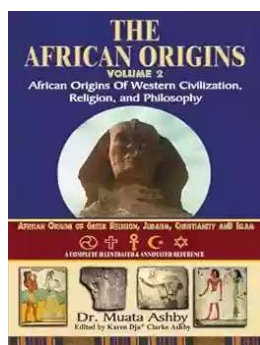
The Influence of African Heritage on Western Thought

When we think of the origins of Western civilization, our minds often wander to ancient Greece, Rome, and the Middle East. However, what many people fail to acknowledge is the significant influence of Africa on the development of Western thought, particularly in the realms of religion, ethics, and philosophy.

The Ancient Wisdom of Egypt

Long before Socrates pondered on the meaning of life or the Stoics explored the concept of virtue, the ancient Egyptians were developing complex belief systems and moral codes. The religious practices of ancient Egypt laid the foundation for some of the fundamental concepts in Western religions.

The belief in an afterlife, the worship of deities, and the concept of divine judgment are all aspects that can be traced back to the ancient Egyptians. Their temples served as centers of spiritual enlightenment and influenced the architectural styles of later Western civilizations.



The African Origins of Western Civilization, Religion, and Ethics Philosophy

by Jeremy D. Popkin(Kindle Edition)

★★★★★ 5 out of 5

Language : English

File size : 6172 KB

Text-to-Speech : Enabled

Screen Reader : Supported

Enhanced typesetting : Enabled

Word Wise : Enabled

Print length : 561 pages
Lending : Enabled



The Ethiopian Connection

Another significant African influence can be found in the ancient kingdom of Aksum, located in modern-day Ethiopia. The Aksumites were early adopters of Christianity, welcoming the faith long before it spread to Europe.

The Ethiopian Orthodox Church, with its rich cultural traditions and religious practices, has preserved ancient Christian rituals that closely resemble those observed by early Mediterranean Christians. The Ethiopian connection to early Christianity sheds light on the African roots of Western religious practices.

Philosophical Concepts from North Africa

The region of North Africa, encompassing modern-day countries such as Tunisia and Egypt, played a crucial role in the development of Western philosophy. One cannot discuss the African origins of Western thought without mentioning influential thinkers such as Plotinus, who founded Neoplatonism.

Neoplatonism heavily influenced subsequent philosophers, including Augustine of Hippo. It shaped the Christian theological concepts of God, the soul, and the interplay between the material and the spiritual worlds. The works of North African philosophers continue to be studied and revered in academic circles today.

The Erasure of African Contributions

Despite the undeniable African influence on Western civilization, these contributions have often been overlooked or deliberately obscured throughout history. Eurocentric narratives have dominated academic discourse, relegating African contributions to the margins.

This erasure perpetuates the myth of Western intellectual superiority, ignoring the rich tapestry of diverse influences that have shaped our modern world. It is essential to acknowledge and celebrate Africa's contributions to Western civilization to gain a more accurate understanding of our shared history.

Embracing a Diverse Narrative

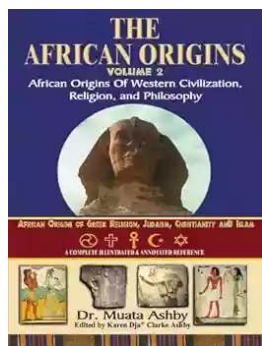
To fully appreciate the African origins of Western civilization in religion, ethics, and philosophy, we must embrace a more inclusive narrative. The Eurocentric perspective has limited our understanding of the complex interconnectedness of cultures and ideas.

By recognizing the Egyptian, Ethiopian, and North African influences, we can develop a more accurate and comprehensive account of the development of religion, ethics, and philosophy. This recognition allows us to appreciate the interconnectedness and contributions of diverse cultures throughout history.

Western civilization owes a significant debt to Africa for its religious, ethical, and philosophical foundations. The ancient wisdom of Egypt, the Ethiopian connection to Christianity, and the philosophical concepts from North Africa all shaped the development of Western thought.

As we continue to explore the origins of Western civilization, it is crucial to embrace a more inclusive narrative that acknowledges and celebrates Africa's contributions. Breaking free from Eurocentric biases allows us to gain a deeper

understanding of the interconnectedness of cultures and ideas that have shaped our modern world.



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THE AFRICAN ORIGINS OF CIVILIZATION, RELIGION AND YOGA SPIRITUALITY AND ETHICS PHILOSOPHY HARD COVER EDITION Part 1, Part 2, Part 3 in one volume 683 Pages Hard Cover First Edition Three volumes in one. Over the past several years I have been asked to put together in one volume the most important evidences showing the correlations and common teachings between Kamitan (Ancient Egyptian) culture and religion and that of India. The questions of the history of Ancient Egypt, and the latest archeological evidences showing civilization and culture in Ancient Egypt and its spread to other countries, has intrigued many scholars as well as mystics over the years. Also, the possibility that Ancient Egyptian Priests and Priestesses migrated to Greece, India and other countries to carry on the traditions of the Ancient Egyptian Mysteries, has been speculated over the years as well. In chapter 1 of the book Egyptian Yoga The Philosophy of Enlightenment, 1995, I first introduced

the deepest comparison between Ancient Egypt and India that had been brought forth up to that time. Now, in the year 2001 this new book, THE AFRICAN ORIGINS OF CIVILIZATION, MYSTICAL RELIGION AND YOGA PHILOSOPHY, more fully explores the motifs, symbols and philosophical correlations between Ancient Egyptian and Indian mysticism and clearly shows not only that Ancient Egypt and India were connected culturally but also spiritually. How does this knowledge help the spiritual aspirant? This discovery has great importance for the Yogis and mystics who follow the philosophy of Ancient Egypt and the mysticism of India. It means that India has a longer history and heritage than was previously understood. It shows that the mysteries of Ancient Egypt were essentially a yoga tradition which did not die but rather developed into the modern day systems of Yoga technology of India. It further shows that African culture developed Yoga Mysticism earlier than any other civilization in history. All of this expands our understanding of the unity of culture and the deep legacy of Yoga, which stretches into the distant past, beyond the Indus Valley civilization, the earliest known high culture in India as well as the Vedic tradition of Aryan culture. Therefore, Yoga culture and mysticism is the oldest known tradition of spiritual development and Indian mysticism is an extension of the Ancient Egyptian mysticism. By understanding the legacy which Ancient Egypt gave to India the mysticism of India is better understood and by comprehending the heritage of Indian Yoga, which is rooted in Ancient Egypt the Mysticism of Ancient Egypt is also better understood. This expanded understanding allows us to prove the underlying kinship of humanity, through the common symbols, motifs and philosophies which are not disparate and confusing teachings but in reality expressions of the same study of truth through metaphysics and mystical realization of Self.



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