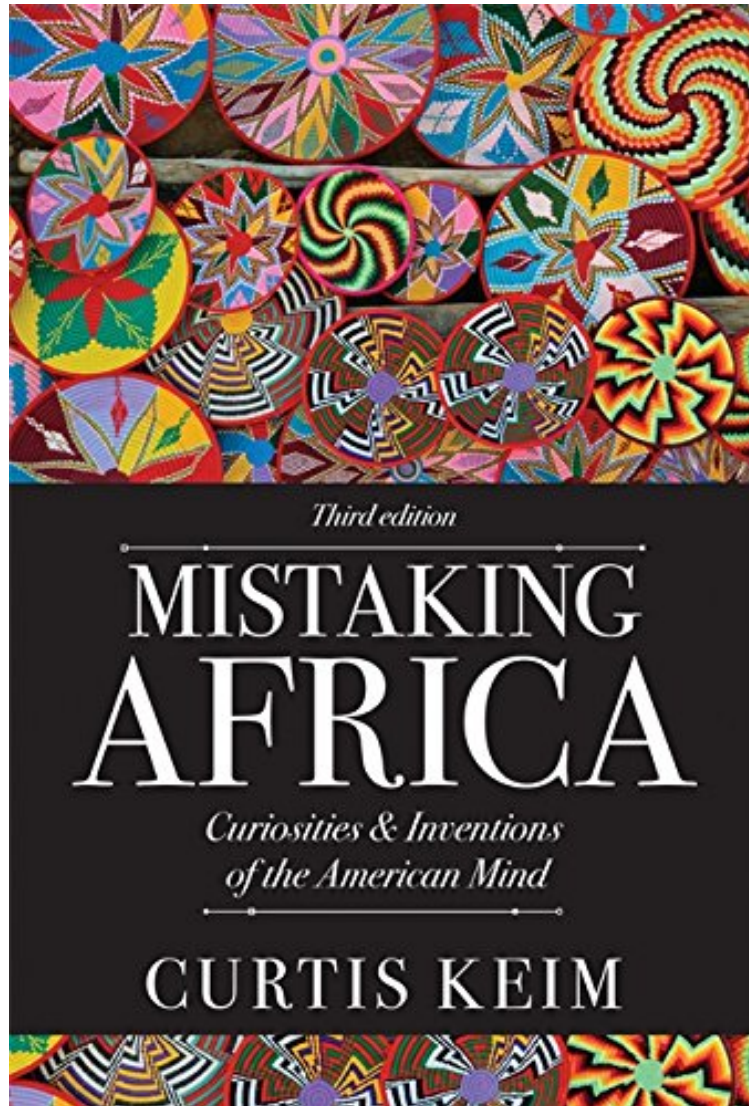


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Mistaking Africa: Curiosities and Inventions of the American Mind

Curtis A Keim

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Curtis A Keim : Mistaking Africa: Curiosities and Inventions of the American Mind before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Mistaking Africa: Curiosities and Inventions of the American Mind:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Only for those who might mistake AfricaBy Kentuckiana GalMost people would probably like this book. I did not like it because I never have seen Africa as a dark continent or one of fierce animals or tribes. I know that Africa is civilized and I did not like the author making "all or none" statements about his opinion of what others think. He did not cite any of these remarks.0 of 0 people found the following review

helpful. Required Reading for Son's College CourseBy Kimberly SchrimpfRequired Reading for Son's College Course, excellent deal, son learned a lot from this book, very interesting according to him and he's not a fan of reading. :)0 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Enjoyable but doesn't stick to the thesis - what Africa is notBy djfgreeneKeim's purpose is tell what Africa is not. He doesn't stick to that purpose and goes far afield in explaining the development of racial ideology in the West. He discusses African images in the Western mind but forgets to delve deeply into what isn't African. He does a fine job of challenging popular opinion of what the West believes Africa is - poor, diseased, economically disadvantaged. He clears up those myths. For that it's worthwhile. Not for an advanced scholar but excellent for a casual reader.

For many Americans the mention of Africa immediately conjures up images of safaris, ferocious animals, strangely dressed tribesmen, and impenetrable jungles. Although the occasional newspaper headline mentions genocide, AIDS, malaria, or civil war in Africa, the collective American consciousness still carries strong mental images of Africa that are reflected in advertising, movies, amusement parks, cartoons, and many other corners of society. Few think to question these perceptions or how they came to be so deeply lodged in American minds. Curtis Keim's *Mistaking Africa* looks at the historical evolution of this mind-set and examines the role that popular media plays in its creation. Keim addresses the most prevalent myths and preconceptions and demonstrates how these prevent a true understanding of the enormously diverse peoples and cultures of Africa. Updated throughout, the third edition includes a new chapter, "Where Is the Real Africa," discussing the multifaceted nature of the question and the importance of not grasping onto stereotypes of Africa's mythical past. Keim also includes new examples and new images to expand the visual narrative of western views about Africa. *Mistaking Africa* is an important book for African studies courses and for anyone interested in unraveling American misperceptions about the continent.

Praise for the Second Edition: "With this new edition, Professor Keim has updated and expanded an important book for the teaching of Africa in the West. This book does the intellectual heavy-lifting of deconstructing our notions of Africa, but does it in a way accessible and meaningful to students and non-students alike." Jeffrey Fleisher, Department of Anthropology, Rice University "This book strikes a perfect pitch. Keim takes a serious subject and presents it in a thoughtful, concise, and highly engaging manner. He mixes humorous observations with sophisticated anthropological and historical concepts to make them easily accessible to generalist audiences. As a result, *Mistaking Africa* contains valuable insights for the novice and experienced Africanist alike. It is a great book for introductory courses on Africa, across a range of disciplines, as well as more specialized courses such as US foreign policy toward Africa." Scott D. Taylor, Associate Professor and Director, African Studies Program, School of Foreign Service, Georgetown University