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Postcolonial studies is attentive to cultural differences, marginalization and exclusion. Such studies pay equal attention to the lives and conditions of various racial minorities in the West, as well as to regional, indigenous forms of representation around the world as being distinct from a dominant Western tradition. With the consolidation of the field in the past forty years, the need to establish the terms by which we might understand the sources of postcolonial literary history is more urgent now than ever before. *The Cambridge History of Postcolonial Literature* is the first major collaborative overview of the field. A mix of geographic and thematic chapters allows for different viewpoints on postcolonial literary history. Chapters cover the most important national traditions, as well as more comparative geographical and thematic frameworks. This major reference work will set the future agenda for the field, whilst also synthesizing its development for scholars and students.

ATO QUAYSON is Professor of English and inaugural Director of the Centre for Diaspora and Transnational Studies at the University of Toronto. His publications include *Strategic Transformations in Nigerian Writing* (1997), *Postcolonialism: Theory, Practice or Process?* (2000), *Calibrations: Reading for the Social* (2003) and *Aesthetic Nervousness: Disability and the Crisis of Representation* (2007). He has edited *Fathers and Daughters: An Anthology of Exploration* (2007) and co-edited *Rethinking Postcolonialism* (with David Theo Goldberg, 2002) and *African Literature: An Anthology of Criticism and Theory* (with Tejumola Olaniyan, 2007). He is a Fellow of the Ghana Academy of Arts and Sciences.

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ATO QUAYSON

University of Toronto



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Acknowledgments

As the Akan put it: he who cuts a path through the bush does not know when his back is crooked; only those behind him can tell. This maxim has been especially true for *The Cambridge History of Postcolonial Literature*.

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The final thanks go to Kamau, to whom the project is dedicated. Hopefully he will grow to understand a little bit of his father's chosen madness that makes him in turns absent-minded, irritable and unaccountably hyperactive.

Chronology

	Historical and political events	Literary and cultural events
1492	Columbus sails from Palos, Spain (3 Aug); discovers Watling Island in Bahamas (12 Oct); Cuba (18 Oct); Haiti (6 Dec)	
1494	Treaty of Tordesillas: Spain and Portugal divide New World between them Parliament of Drogheda marks subservience of Ireland to England	
1498	Vasco da Gama arrives in Calicut, India	
1500	Pope Alexander VI proclaims a Year of Jubilee, and imposes a tithe for crusade against Turks Moorish revolt in Granada suppressed	
1503	Casa Contratacion (Colonial office) founded in Madrid to deal with American affairs Zanzibar becomes Portuguese colony	
1510	Portuguese acquire Goa	
1514		<i>Septem horae canonicae</i> first book published in Arabic type, published in Italy

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| 1515 | | The Lateran Council's decree, 'De impressione librorum', forbids printing of books without permission of Roman Catholic authorities |
| 1518 | The Barbary States of Algiers and Tunis founded | |
| 1521 | Hernando Cortes assumes control of Mexico after destruction of Aztec state | |
| 1522 | Spanish forces conquer Guatemala | Jacopo Sannazzaro, 'De partu Virginis', religious poem fusing pagan and Christian myth |
| 1526 | Babar establishes Mogul dynasty in Delhi | |
| 1532 | Francisco Pizarro leads expedition from Panama to Peru | |
| 1540 | Afghan rebel Sher Shah becomes Emperor of Delhi | |
| 1547 | | Miguel de Cervantes Saavedra, Spanish writer, born (d. 1616) |
| 1548 | Gonzalo Pizarro, son of Francisco Pizarro, defeated at Battle of Xaquixaguane (Peru) by Pedro de la Gasca and executed | |
| 1555 | French colony founded on the Bay of Rio de Janeiro | An Aztec dictionary published |
| 1560 | | Hsu Wei, <i>Ching P'Ing Mei</i> , first classic Chinese novel |
| 1564 | Spaniards occupy Philippines and build Manila | William Shakespeare born (d. 1616) |
| 1569 | | Alfonso de Ercilla y Zúñiga, <i>La Araucana</i> , Spanish epic on the conquest of Chile |

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|------|--|---|
| 1572 | | Luís Vaz de Camões, <i>Os Lusíadas</i> , Portuguese epic poem on voyages of Vasco da Gama |
| 1575 | | Tasso, <i>Gerusalemme liberata</i> , epic poems about the Crusades |
| 1590 | The Emperor of Morocco annexes Timbuctoo | |
| 1592 | Portuguese settle at Mombasa | |
| 1595 | Dutch begin to colonize East Indies | |
| 1596 | Pacification of Ireland | <i>Merchant of Venice</i> first performance (first printed 1600) |
| 1598 | Dutch take Mauritius | |
| 1599 | | Building of the Globe Theatre, Southwark, London, where Shakespeare's plays are performed |
| 1600 | British East India Company founded | |
| 1601 | | Bento Teixeira Pinto, <i>Prosopopya</i> , first Brazilian epic |
| 1603 | Lord Mountjoy conquers northern counties of Ireland | |
| 1604 | | <i>Othello</i> first performance 1604–5 (first printed 1622) |
| 1605 | | Cervantes, <i>Don Quixote</i> , part 1 published |
| 1606 | | <i>Antony and Cleopatra</i> first performance between 1606 and 1607 (first printed 1623) |
| 1610 | Jesuit state of Paraguay created | |
| 1610 | Skirmishes between English and Dutch settlers in India | |
| 1611 | | <i>The Tempest</i> first performance (first printed 1623) |

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- 1613 English colonists in Virginia destroy French settlement at Port Royal, Nova Scotia; prevent French colonization of Maryland
- 1615 Cervantes *Don Quixote*, part 2
- 1620 Pilgrim Fathers, leaving Plymouth, England, in *Mayflower* for North America, land at New Plymouth, Mass., to found Plymouth Colony
- 1625 French occupy the Antilles and Cayenne
- 1626 English author and traveller George Sandys makes first translation of a classic in America, Ovid's *Metamorphoses*
- 1627 Shah Jahan (1592–1666), succeeding his father Jahangir, becomes Great Mogul of India (–1658)
Barbados, West Indies, claimed as English colony
- 1628 Dutch occupy Java and Moluccas
- 1630 John Winthrop, English Puritan leader (1587–1649), sails with Plymouth Company's expedition (Apr); arrives in Massachusetts with 1,000 settlers; founds Boston; 16,000 more settlers follow (–1642)
- 1632 Portuguese driven out of Bengal
- 1634 Island of Curaçao captured by Dutch forces
- 1635 Dutch occupy Formosa, English Virgin Islands, French Martinique

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- 1636 Dutch settle in Ceylon
- 1640 French finish occupation of Alsace
- 1643 Confederation of New England formed by Connecticut, New Haven, Plymouth, Massachusetts Bay Colony
- 1644 French occupy Rhineland
- 1645 Dutch occupy St Helena
- 1646 English occupy Bahamas
- 1649 England declared a commonwealth
- 1650 Dutch and English agree about respective frontiers of their North American colonies
- 1652 Dutch establish settlement in Cape Town
- 1654 Treaty of Westminster ends Anglo-Dutch War; Dutch recognize Navigation Act
Portuguese finally drive Dutch out of Brazil
- 1655 English capture Jamaica from Spain
- 1656 Dutch take Colombo from Portuguese
- 1661 Famine in India, no rain since 1659
- 1663 Charles II grants charters to Royal African Company and to eight proprietors of North Carolina and Rhode Island
- 1664 Swedish colonies on Gold Coast given to Dutch
- 1666 French capture Antigua, Montserrat and St Christopher
English privateers take Tobago

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- 1668 British East India Company takes control of Bombay
- 1670 Spain formally cedes Jamaica to England
- 1669 Venetians lose Crete, their last colonial possession, to the Turks
- 1673 French expedition against Ceylon Robert Clavel, *Catalogue of All the Books Printed in England Since the Dreadful Fire of London in 1666*
- 1680 French colonial empire, reaching from Quebec to mouth of Mississippi River, is organized
- 1682 La Salle claims Louisiana territory for France and takes possession of Mississippi Valley
- 1683 Peace treaty between William Penn and North American Indians
- 1685 All Chinese ports open to foreign trade Publication of Alexander Oliver Esquemeling's *History of the Buccaneers of America*
- 1686 Federation of New England formed by James II in order to remodel British colonies in North America
French annex Madagascar
- 1687 Arguin, Guinea, established as colony by Brandenburg
- 1689 Natal becomes Dutch colony
- 1691 New East India Company formed in London
- 1693 National Debt begins in England
- 1697 French under André de Brue attempt to colonize West Africa

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- 1707 Union between England and Scotland under name Great Britain
- 1708 British East India Company and New East India Company merged
- 1709 14,000 inhabitants of the Palatinate emigrate to North America (c. 100,000 Germans will follow during next 100 years, and 5 million during 1800s)
- 1710 Mauritius, formerly part of Dutch East Indies, becomes French
- 1711 Rio de Janeiro captured by French
- 1713 Spain agrees at Utrecht to cede Gibraltar and Minorca to Great Britain
- 1714 Tripoli becomes independent of Turkey
- 1719 Daniel Defoe, *Robinson Crusoe*
Fray Francisco Ximénez translates fragments of *Poʻpol Vuh* into Spanish
- 1726 Jonathan Swift, *Gulliver's Travels*
- 1749 Establishment of Halifax, Nova Scotia, as English fortress
- 1756 120 British soldiers imprisoned and die in India ('Black hole of Calcutta')
Start of Seven Years' War between English and French in North America that leads to the English acquisition of Quebec (-1763)

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- 1760 Dutch explorer Jakobus Coetsee advances beyond Orange River, S. Africa
- 1763 British Proclamation provides government for Quebec, Florida and Grenada
- 1768 Secretary of State for Colonies appointed in Britain
- 1773 Boston Tea Party: protest against tea duty imposed by Britain
- 1774 Quebec Act, to secure Canada's loyalty to Great Britain, establishes Roman Catholicism in Canada
- 1775 American Revolution (-1783)
- 1780 Rebellion in Peru against Spanish rule
- 1783 Britain recognizes independence of the US
- 1784 Pitt's India Act; East India Company under government control
Founding of Asiatic Society
- 1787 Constitution of US signed
Penal colony founded in Botany Bay, Australia
- 1788 *Kālidāsa Shakuntala* translated into English by William Jones
- 1789 The French Revolution; French Royalists begin to emigrate
- 1790 Canada Constitutional Act divides the country into two provinces, Upper and Lower Canada
Slaves revolt in French Santo Domingo
- 1791 The Haitian Revolution (-1804)