



Concepts of Cabralism: Amilcar Cabral and Africana Critical Theory (Critical Africana Studies)

By Reiland Rabaka

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By examining Amilcar Cabral's theories and praxes, as well as several of the antecedents and major influences on the evolution of his radical politics and critical social theory, *Concepts of Cabralism: Amilcar Cabral and Africana Critical Theory* simultaneously reintroduces, chronicles, and analyzes several of the core characteristics of the Africana tradition of critical theory. Reiland Rabaka's primary preoccupation is with Cabral's theoretical and political legacies—that is to say, with the ways in which he constructed, deconstructed, and reconstructed theory and the aims, objectives, and concrete outcomes of his theoretical applications and discursive practices. The book begins with the Negritude Movement, and specifically the work of Léopold Senghor, Aimé Césaire, and Jean-Paul Sartre. Next, it shifts the focus to Frantz Fanon's discourse on radical disalienation and revolutionary decolonization. Finally, it offers an extended engagement of Cabral's critical theory and contributions to the Africana tradition of critical theory. Ultimately, *Concepts of Cabralism* chronicles and critiques, revisits and revises the black radical tradition with an eye toward the ways in which classical black radicalism informs, or should inform, not only contemporary black radicalism, African nationalism, and Pan-Africanism, but also contemporary efforts to create a new anti-racist, anti-sexist, anti-capitalist, anti-colonialist, and anti-imperialist critical theory of contemporary society—what has come to be called “Africana critical theory.”

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Editorial Review

Review

Rabaka contributes to radical black politics and Africana critical social theory and exceeds expectations on both counts. Six chapters guide readers through a corpus that 'draws from a diverse array of often eclectic and enigmatic sources and, therefore, offers no closed system or absolute truths.' . . . Rabaka's critical introduction outlines Cabral's biography and the genealogy of his thought. Chapter 1 begins with a provocative claim: 'in many respects Frantz Fanon and Amilcar Cabral represent the pillars and pinnacle of the Africana tradition of critical theory in the second half of the 20th century.' The author situates the dialectic task before black thinkers as 'challenging both whites' demonization and Blacks' romanticism' of Africa. Chapter 2 carefully outlines Fanon's challenge to negritude. Fanon's method for apprehending the totalizing effects of European colonialism becomes cartographic in Rabaka's reading of Cabral's engagement with colonialism, neocolonialism, imperialism, Marxism, and history. The book ends by articulating Cabral's usefulness for Rabaka's larger vision of Africana critical theory. An original contribution to Africana philosophy and studies, critical theory, and currently reemerging anticolonial paradigms throughout the academy. A must-have. Summing Up: Essential. Upper-division undergraduates and above. (*CHOICE*)

Reiland Rabaka has brought together a comprehensive review of Amilcar Cabral and his intellectual legacy that will be indispensable for researchers and students alike. Contextualising Cabral's ideas and praxis within the framework of those of Frantz Fanon, and Marxist and Africana critical theory, makes this an extraordinary tour de force. (Firoze Manji, Director, Pan-African Institute)

Concepts of Cabralism fills a lacuna in the 21st century black studies archive. It is a book that demands that Amilcar Cabral no longer be a footnote in the scholarship on and about the black radical tradition. Reiland Rabaka clearly and cogently provides a valuable matrix to understand Cabral in relation to other great Africana thinkers. *Concepts of Cabralism* illustrates that Cabral's ideas are not dead, but of extreme contemporary import. (P. Khalil Saucier, Rhode Island College)

After its detailed examination of the intellectual contexts provided by the Negritude Movement and Frantz Fanon, *Concepts of Cabralism* dives into a masterful reading of works by the important, but currently overlooked, figure of Amilcar Cabral. It is a must read for scholars of Cabral, the larger Black Radical Tradition, and the even larger field of contemporary Africana thought. A timely contribution to all of these fields. (Paget Henry, Brown University)

By examining Amilcar Cabral's theories and praxes, Reiland Rabaka reintroduces and analyzes several of the core characteristics of the Africana critical theory. Ultimately, *Concepts of Cabralism* promotes the ways in which classical black radicalism should inform not only contemporary black radicalism, African nationalism, and Pan-Africanism, but also contemporary Africana critical theory.

About the Author

Reiland Rabaka is professor of African, African American, and Caribbean studies in the Department of Ethnic Studies at the University of Colorado at Boulder, where he also has affiliations with the Women & Gender Studies Program, Humanities Program, Center for Studies of Ethnicity & Race in America (CSERA), and School of Education. He is the author of twelve books, including *Africana Critical Theory*, *Against Epistemic Apartheid*, *Forms of Fanonism*, and *The Negritude Movement*.

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