

Univ.-Prof. (em.) Dr. Dr. Prince Kum'a Ndumbe III

Prince, scientist, writer, visionary, mentor who is not in the mainstream and who has spent his life searching for new perspectives in science, art and culture

The Foreigner

In African societies the foreigner as a guest is generally perceived as an enriching element. Thanks to the foreigner the individual and their community come into contact with a new spiritual world. This can strengthen one's own vital forces.

Kum' a Ndumbe III¹



Photo: Mag. Anton Rappersberger

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¹Die Begegnung des Afrikaners mit dem Fremden, Von der Erschütterung der Tradition zur Selbstfindung in einer kolonialen und postkolonialen Konfliktsituation. In: IVG – Begegnung mit dem Fremden, Grenzen – Traditionen – Vergleiche, Akten des VIII. Internationalen Germanistenkongresses, Tokio, 1990 - Band 2, Theorie der Alterität, München, 1992

I ... Short Biography

Leadership in Social Empowerment

A.D. King Foundation Award, November 15, 2014, Atlanta, USA

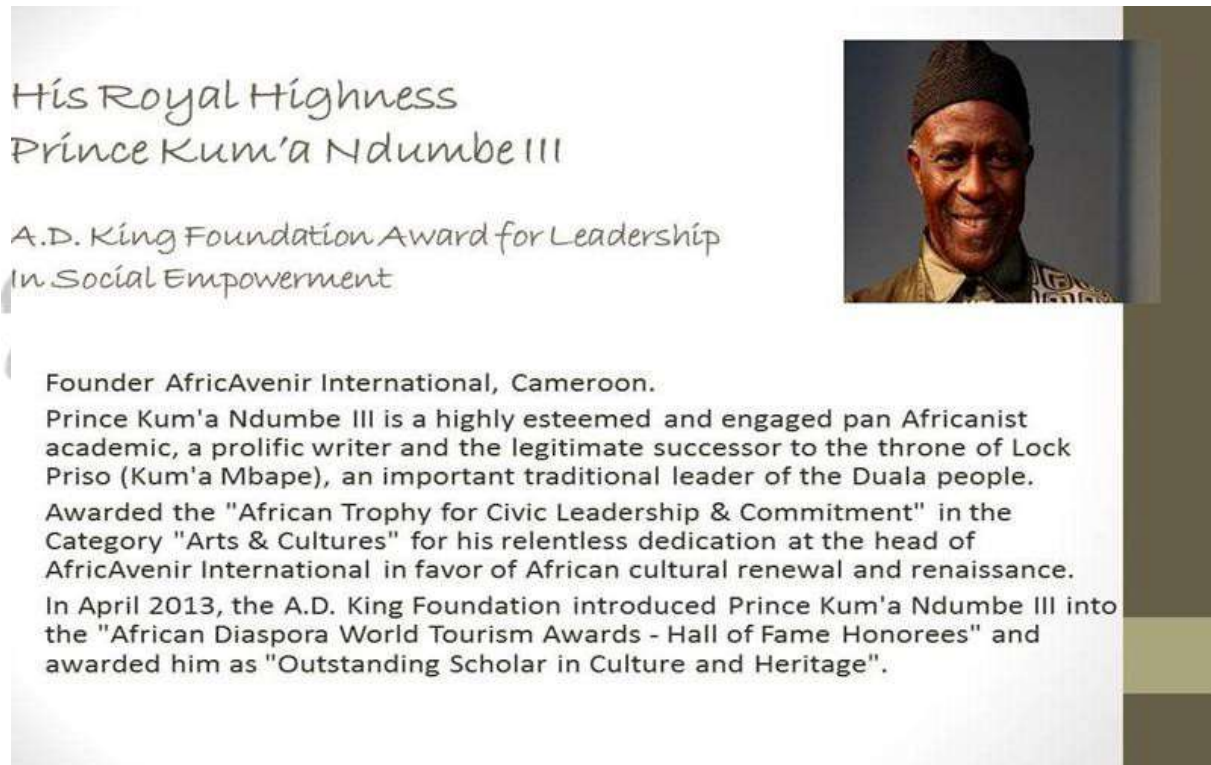


Photo: Slide Show during the Ceremony in Atlanta, USA

Prince Kum'a Ndumbe III, of the Bele Bele royal family of Cameroon, is a historian, professor in German Studies and in Political Science. He taught at the University of Lyon II and the Catholic University of Lyon (1975-1979), at the Free University of Berlin (1989-2001), and at the University of Yaoundé I (1979-2011), where he founded the German Department and led it for more than a decade (1981-1993). There he established two research groups, "*Souvenir de l'époque allemande au Cameroun*" and "*Traductions des textes fondamentaux sur l'époque coloniale allemande*". The results were presented and discussed at the congress (1986) "*L'Afrique et l'Allemagne, de la colonisation à la coopération 1884-1986 – La cas du Cameroun*" in Yaoundé.

In 1985, he founded Editions *AfricAvenir* and the Fondation *AfricAvenir International* in Douala, Cameroon, and encouraged the establishment of sections in Berlin, Vienna and Paris.

Prince Kum'a Ndumbe III writes plays, poems, novels, essays, and non-fiction books, primarily in French and German, but also in Duala and English. He served for ten years as President of the Cameroonian Writers' Association APEC and Vice President of the Writers' Union of Central African States. In 1989, at the Congress of the Association of African specialists in German Studies in Yaoundé he was also elected its President.

II ... School & University Career & Activities

Cameroon	Primary School in Bonabéri, Douala Elementary School in New-Bell, Ebolowa 1958-1959 Lycée Général Leclerc, Yaoundé 1959-1960 Alfred Saker College, Douala
Germany	1961-1967 Maria Theresia Gymnasium Munich 1964 European School Day, Prize Winner 1967 High School diploma, mathematics & natural sciences, Maria Theresia Gymnasium
France	1970 Licence-ès-Lettres, University of Lyon II 1970 Master's degree in German Studies, University of Lyon II 1970 Lecturer, University of Lyon II 1975 Doctorate (3 rd cycle) in History, University of Lyon II 1975 Doctorate (3 rd cycle) in German Studies, University of Lyon II 1975-1979 Teaching at the Catholic University of Lyon, Institute of Social Sciences (History, Political Science) 1976 Teaching at the University of Lyon II (Department of Linguistics, Department of History, Institute of Political Science) 1979 Diploma of General University Studies: Economic and Social Administration, University of Lyon II
Cameroon	1979 Founder of the German Department at the University of Yaoundé (Yaoundé I) 1979-2011 Professor (German Studies, History, Theatre and Political Science) at the University of Yaoundé (Yaoundé I)
Germany	1989 Habilitation in Political Science at the Free University of Berlin 1992-2002 Professor of Political Science at the Free University of Berlin
Cameroon	1979-2011 Professor of History and Political Science at the German Department at the University of Yaoundé I (retirement 2011) 1985-dato Founder and Director of the Fondation AfricAvenir International, Douala 2016-dato Founder and Director of the Doctoral School "Heritage & Innovation"



Vienna Symposium, *African Testimonies and Oral Literature as Sources of Colonial History*, October 21, 2015

III ... Research Approaches and Teaching Priorities

° 1970 German Colonialism, not a Common Research Topic at Universities

Until then (1965/70), colonial history was primarily published by authors from the colonial metropolises in their own languages. The one-dimensionality of historical writing about the colonial period needed to be questioned.

Approach: Research into colonial history must also be carried out by colonized people

A difficulty for Cameroon, Togo, and Tanzania: The historians don't speak German, but the research material is in German. Therefore, it will be necessary to use German in combination with history (promoting the scientific combination of German Studies/History for research into German colonial history in Cameroon, Togo, and Tanzania).

Archives and libraries provide researchers with material in the metropolis or in the former colonies, primarily from officials, priests, travelers, authors, etc. coming from the colonial metropolis or the North. Material from colonized people is lacking in this source documentation, so the exclusive use of this material, even by researchers from the colony or former colony, compromises research results.

Projects on this Approach

1981-1986 – during the professorship of Univ.-Prof. Dr. Dr. Prince Kum'a Ndumbe III at the University of Yaoundé (Yaoundé I) a multidisciplinary research group was sent into the field to collect systematically material from colonized peoples through interviews with eyewitnesses of the early colonial period. ("*Souvenirs de l'époque allemande au Cameroun*", Institute of Human Sciences).

2015-2018 – after 30 years of patiently hoping – the research project at the *Fondation AfricAvenir International* was supported by the *Gerda Henkel Stiftung, Düsseldorf, Germany*:

"Preservation and Transmission of Africa's Collective Memory – African Testimonies and Oral Literature in Early Colonial History:

Part I: Contribution to Heritage Preservation by Cameroonian Witnesses to Colonial History throughout the Birth of Modern Cameroon 1884-1916 (Germany in Cameroon) and 1920-1930 (France and Great Britain in Cameroon)", 2015-2018



A audio archives



B old handwritten manuscripts



C 300 old books

Publications on this Approach (selection)

1970/2008 *Das Deutsche Kaiserreich in Kamerun: Wie Deutschland in Kamerun seine Kolonialmacht aufbauen konnte 1840-1910*, Département d'Etudes Germaniques, Université de Lyon/ 2008: Editions AfricAvenir/Exchange & Dialogue, Douala/Berlin

1978 *L'Afrique et les Allemagnes - Aperçu des relations historiques 1884-1978*, in : Négritude et Germanité – L'Afrique Noire dans la littérature d'expression allemande – 12^e Congrès de l'Association des Germanistes de l'Enseignement Supérieur/AGES, Dakar, 12-15 avril 1979, NEA, Dakar, 1983. p. 233-264

1986 *L'Afrique et l'Allemagne – De la Colonisation à la Coopération/ Africa and Germany – From Colonisation to Cooperation 1884-1986 – The Case of Cameroon/ Sous la Direction de/ Editor Kum'a Ndumbe III, Université de Yaoundé/ Institute des Sciences Humaines – Publication du Groupe de Recherche Interdisciplinaire "Souvenirs de l'époque allemande au Cameroun"/ Publication of the Interdisciplinary Research-Group "Recollections of the German Period in Cameroon"*

1986 *Les Traités Camerouno-Germaniques 1884-1907*, in : 1986 L'Afrique et l'Allemagne, *ibid*, p.42-68

1986 *Aperçu de l'évolution des relations entre le Cameroun et les Allemagne 1884-1980*, in : 1986 L'Afrique et l'Allemagne, *ibid*, p. 352-378

1989 *Vertragspolitik und Eroberungszüge als Mittel des Deutschen Kolonialismus in Afrika am Beispiel Kameruns*. In: Helmut Christmann (Hrsg.), *Kolonisation und Dekolonisation*, Schwäbisch Gmünd 1989

2016 *Actes du Symposium International de Vienne sur Préservation et Transmission de la mémoire collective africaine – Témoignages africains et littérature orale comme source d'histoire coloniale – Approche méthodologique*, (Français/English/Deutsch), Editions AfricAvenir, Douala 2016

2016 (à paraître) *PULL THAT FLAG DOWN - NO MAN BUY WE! Premiers actes de résistance anticoloniale et anti-apartheid au Cameroun - De Lock Priso (Kum'a Mbape), Mpondo Akwa à Rudolf Duala Manga Bell 1884-1916 – Documents Inédits*, Editions AfricAvenir, Douala 2016

° 1973 Hitler's Africa Policy: a Marginal Area of Research on the Second World War

Once again, 1970/1975, the history of the Second World War was exclusively written by authors from the Global North. However, the colonial peoples were fully involved in both, the First and Second World War. These two world wars profoundly shaped the entire world.

Approach: *The one-dimensionality of historiography of the two world wars needed to be questioned. Researchers from former colonies should approach these two world wars as an object of research. The research findings will shed new light on these conflicts.*

In 1974, Prince Kum'a Ndumbe III was admitted to the *International Committee on the History of the Second World War*, Paris, due to his *innovative research approach*.

Publications on this Approach (selection)

1973 *Hitler, l'Afrique du Sud et la menace impérialiste*, in : Jean-Paul Sartre – Les Temps Modernes, 29^e année, Nr. 327, octobre 1973, Paris, p. 666-715

1974 *La politique africaine de l'Allemagne Hitlérienne 1933-1943* (Afrique du Nord – Afrique Centrale – Afrique du Sud) – thèse de Doctorat de 3^e cycle Histoire Contemporaine/ Etudes Germaniques, tome I
Prof. Dr. Dr. Prince Kum'a Ndumbe III, Fondation AfricAvenir International, Douala, Cameroon, 2025

et tome II, Centre d'Histoire Economique et Sociale de la Région Lyonnaise, Laboratoire Associé au CNRS, Lyon, 1974

1976 *Relations entre l'Allemagne nazie et l'Afrique du Sud* – Leur influence sur le développement de l'idéologie de l'apartheid, Nations Unies, Département des Affaires Politiques et des Affaires du Conseil de Sécurité, Centre contre l'apartheid, Nr. 12/76, New York, 1976

1976 *Pläne zu einer nationalsozialistischen Kolonialherrschaft in Afrika*, in : Wolfgang Benz und Hermann Graml (Hrsg.), Aspekte deutscher Außenpolitik im 20. Jahrhundert, Aufsätze Hans Rothfels zum Gedächtnis/ Sondernummer der Schriftenreihe der Vierteljahreshefte für Zeitgeschichte, Deutsche Verlags-Anstalt, Stuttgart, S. 164-192

1977 *Les buts de guerre de l'Allemagne Hitlérienne en Afrique*, in : Revue d'histoire de la Deuxième Guerre mondiale, Nr. 106, 27^e année/avril 1977, p. 37-60

1977 *Fascism colonial et culture*, in: Polish Academy of Sciences – Committee of Historical Sciences – Institute of History, Inter Arma non silent Musae – The War and the Culture 1939-1945, p. 117-148

1980 *Hitler voulait l'Afrique* – Les plans secrets pour une Afrique fasciste 1933-1945/ Le projet du 3^e Reich sur le continent africain, Ed. L'Harmattan, Paris

1981 *L'Afrique noire et l'Allemagne dans la Seconde Guerre mondiale* – Contribution au Colloque International de l'UNESCO sur « L'Afrique et la Seconde Guerre mondiale », organisé dans le cadre de la rédaction de l'Histoire générale de l'Afrique, tome VIII à Benghazi, Libye in : Annales de la Faculté des Lettres et Sciences humaines/Annals of the Faculty of Letters and Social Sciences, Nr. 10/1981

1984 *La propagande allemande en Afrique du Nord et en Afrique du Sud* – Etude comparative, in : Annales de la Faculté des Lettres et Sciences Humaines/Annals of the Faculty of Letters and Social Sciences, Nr. 11/1984, p. 259-274

1991 *Nationalsozialismus, Rassismus und Kolonialideologie*, in: Universität Bremen/Humboldt Universität Berlin/Institut für Allgemeine Geschichte, Berlin/Haus der Kulturen der Welt, Berlin: Rassendiskriminierung, Kolonialpolitik und ethnisch-nationale Identität, S. 161-169

1993 *Was wollte Hitler in Afrika? NS-Planungen für eine faschistische Neugestaltung Afrikas*, IKO-Verlag für Interkulturelle Kommunikation, Frankfurt

1973/2005 *Nationalsozialismus und Apartheid* – Rassenideologie und Geldgeschäfte in den Nord-Süd Beziehungen 1933-1973, Editions AfricAvenir/Exchange & Dialogue, Douala/Berlin, 2005

° 1975/2025 History of the Transatlantic Slave Trade, African American Revolt in the USA, Historical Movement of „Reconnection“, Colonialism, Neocolonialism, Decolonization, International Relations and African Renaissance

Colonial history cannot be understood without researching the transatlantic slave trade.

Approach: Here, too, African researchers must shed light on the connection between the slave trade, its consequences, and its role in enabling the colonization of Africa, and offer new explanations for Africa's underdevelopment. Furthermore, the "return movement" of African Americans, which has been revived in the 21st century, must be documented historically to facilitate a historical and political reckoning.

Publications on this Approach (selection)

1975/2013 *Africa is Calling – African Americans Stand up for Africa / Conversations on Africa and the US in 1975 between Prince Kum'a Ndumbe III and Leaders of the African American Community*, Editions AfricAvenir/Exchange & Dialogue, Douala/Berlin, 2013

1989 *Dialogue en noir et blanc*, Lettres, Editions Présence Africaine, Paris, 1989 (Histoire des relations entre l'Afrique et l'Europe – Des origines au 20^e siècle, avec Jean-Yves Loude, Lyon)

2021 *Tu ne diras plus que tu ne savais pas ! – Leçons africaines pour la marche d'une nouvelle humanité* – Editions AfricAvenir, Douala 2021

° 1989 History of the Federal Republic of Germany's Africa Policy: an orchid study

The relations between Europe and Africa are mainly published by European authors and media, Germany's Africa policy is exclusively published by German researchers.

Approach: *The one-dimensionality of the historiography of international relations with Africa had to be questioned. International relations with African countries after independence also had to be examined by African scholars and should produce different research findings.*

Publications on this Approach (selection)

1986 *L'Afrique et Allemagne, de la Colonisation à la Coopération 1884-1986, Le Cas du Cameroun/ Africa and Germany – From Colonisation to Cooperation, The Case of Cameroon*, Ed. AfricAvenir, Yaoundé 1986 (Directeur de publication: Kum'a Ndumbe III)

1989/1992 *Die Hauptprinzipien der Afrikapolitik der Bundesrepublik Deutschland (1949-1988)*, Habilitationsschrift, Otto-Suhr-Institut für Politikwissenschaft, Freie Universität Berlin, (Habilitationsschrift)

Book publication: *Was will Bonn in Afrika?* Centaurus-Verlag, Pfaffenweiler, 1992

° 1985/2011 Historical Roots of Democracy in Africa and the Democratization movements after the Fall of the Berlin Wall

Exporting democracy to Africa cannot be a solution for the search for sustainable social systems in Africa.

Approach: *Research must be able to answer this question: What democratic principles and structures have historically existed in African societies, and how can one build upon them and establish modern, sustainable systems?*

Publications on this Approach (selection)

1985 *L'Afrique relève le défi*, Pour un partage communautaire moderne, Ed. AfricAvenir, Yaoundé, 1985

2006 *Wettkampf um die Globalisierung Afrikas – An die Mitbürger der Einen Welt im anbrechenden 21. Jahrhundert – herausfordernde Reden zur Begegnung, Band I*, Ed. AfricAvenir/E&D, Douala/Berlin, 2006

2006 *Afrika ist im Aufbruch, Afrika ist die Zukunft – An die Mitbürger der Einen Welt im anbrechenden 21. Jahrhundert – herausfordernde Reden zur Begegnung, Band II*, Ed. AfricAvenir/E&D, Douala/Berlin, 2006

2008/2011 *Vous avez dit Démocratie ? Le processus de démocratisation au Cameroun: Défis et perspectives*, Ed. AfricAvenir/ Exchange & Dialogue, Douala/Berlin, 2011

2011 *50 Ans déjà ! Quand cessera enfin votre indépendance-là ???* Ed. AfricAvenir/ E&D, Douala/Berlin, 2011

° 2001/2007 Historical Development of African Conflict Resolution Mechanisms and the Challenges of Violent Conflicts on the African Continent

The mechanisms for crisis prevention or conflict resolution developed in the North failed in Africa.

Approach: *Research must ask and answer the question: How have African societies resolved their conflicts throughout history, according to which mechanisms and patterns? Can these mechanisms serve as models for a more peaceful future?*

Publications on this Approach (selection)

2001 *Die spirituelle Dimension der Krisenprävention und der Konfliktlösungsmechanismen in den afrikanischen Gesellschaften*. Paper presented at the weekend seminar on traditional conflict prevention mechanisms in African countries, University of Oslo, Unit for comparative and international education, Institute for Educational Research, Helga Eng's House, Blindern, February 23, 2001

2001 *Human Rights and Democratization – Learning from Europe?* In: DANIDA, Conflict Prevention and Peace Building in Africa, Discussion Paper, Maputo, June 28-29, 2001

2003 *Justice in Africa after Rwanda – The Illusion of Global Justice and Possible Forgiveness in Africa Today*, in: International Conference: Political Forgiveness and Global Justice: Towards a New Global Politics, Internationales Forschungszentrum Kulturwissenschaften (IHK), Vienna, June 12-14, 2003

2007 *Krisenprävention – Ein möglicher Weg aus Krieg und Genozid – Alternativen für die Entwicklungszusammenarbeit*. Fallbeispiel: Die Deutsche Gesellschaft für Technische Zusammenarbeit in Ruanda, Ed. AfricAvenir/Exchange & Dialogue, Douala/Berlin, 2007

° 1985/2016 History, Language, Cultural Heritage, Identity and Development Potential

The policy of abolishing native languages in public life, in education, teaching and research during and after the colonial period led to the erasure of memory and the underdevelopment of colonized societies.

Approach: *Here too, research can lead to a new identity and stabilization of postcolonial societies thanks to the writings and objects collected during the colonial period.*

Publications on this Approach (selection)

1985 *L'Afrique relève le défi*, Pour un partage communautaire moderne, Ed. AfricAvenir, Yaoundé, 1985

2004 *Sprache, Sprachlosigkeit und wirtschaftliche Entwicklungsfähigkeit*, Vortrag am Donnerstag, 11. November 2004, um 19.30 Uhr im Weißen Saal der Grazer Burg, Graz, Österreich

2008 - *MASOMANDALA* – Jeki la Njambe a Inono, version originale de 1890-1911, Epopée duala, édition trilingue en duala, français et ewondo – Illustrations de Christian Kingue Epanya, tome I et II, Ed. AfricAvenir/Exchange & Dialogue, Douala/Berlin/Vienne, 2008

2007/2011/2012 *L'Afrique s'annonce au rendez-vous, la tête haute !* Ed. AfricAvenir/Exchange & Dialogue, Douala/Berlin/Vienne, 2012

2016 *Dimbambe la Sawa*, Mabenda masu na bedemo basu 1920-1930, Ed. AfricAvenir, Douala

IV ... Direction of Research Projects (selection)

- **1981-1986**, Souvenirs de l'époque allemande au *Cameroun*, Université de Yaoundé/ Institut de Sciences Humaines
- **1982-1986**, Traduction de textes fondamentaux de l'époque coloniale allemande, Université de Yaoundé/ Institut de Sciences Humaines, 1982-1986
- **1994-1995**, Evaluierung der Entwicklungszusammenarbeit Hessischer Organisationen in *Kamerun*, AfricAvenir International/Hessisches Ministerium für Wirtschaft, Verkehr, Technologie und Europaangelegenheiten, Berlin/Wiesbaden
- **1994**, Evaluation des projets de développement financés par l'Etat de Hesse (Allemagne) au *Cameroun* (tome I, II)
- **1996**, Etude commandée par la GTZ pour le compte du Ministère de la Coopération et du Développement et pour le compte du Ministère des Affaires Etrangères, Allemagne Fédérale, Bonn : Prévention des conflits avec les instruments de l'aide au développement au *Rwanda*, août 1996/Krisenprävention – ein möglicher Weg aus Krieg und Genozid – Alternativen für die Entwicklungszusammenarbeit/ Studie im Auftrag der Deutschen Gesellschaft für Technische Zusammenarbeit (GTZ) GmbH, LG Burundi, Ruanda, GTZ-Eschborn, August 1996
- **1996**, Participation aux travaux de la commission mixte Rwanda-Allemagne Fédérale, nov. / déc. 1996, Négociations pour un projet GTZ de prévention et résolution des conflits au *Rwanda*
- **1997**, Expertise de 4 mois sur le terrain après le génocide pour l'injection concrète des mécanismes de préventions de conflits dans les projets de développement de la GTZ au Rwanda, Elaboration du tout premier programme de trois ans de prévention et de résolution des conflits adopté et mis en exécution par la commission mixte *Allemagne-Rwanda*
- **1997**, Promotion du processus de démocratisation et éducation politique des populations au *Cameroun*, Fondation AfricAvenir International, Douala/Fondation Heinrich Böll, Cologne
- **1998-2001**, Programme de formation et de recherche sur la démocratisation, la prévention et la résolution des conflits dans les pays de *l'Afrique de l'Ouest et de l'Afrique Centrale* (doctorat et maîtrise), Fondation AfricAvenir International /Université Libre de Berlin
- **2002**, Voyage d'études d'étudiants et chercheurs de la Faculté des Sciences Politiques, Université Libre de Berlin, Allemagne au Cameroun, Thème : Renaissance africaine, coopération au développement, prévention et résolution des conflits : le cas du *Cameroun*
- **1995-2002**, Démocratisation, prévention et résolution des conflits, Renaissance Africaine, NEPAD – Résumé des projets et activités – Programme des forums de dialogue d'AfricAvenir en conférences et séminaires universitaires, recherche scientifique 1995-2005
- **2005-2007**, Stratégie de survie des populations africaines dans une économie mondialisée – l'expérience camerounaise, Fondation AfricAvenir International, Douala, *Cameroun*

Current Projects

- ✓ **2015-2018**, *Preservation and Transmission of Africa's Collective Memory – African Testimonies and Oral Literature in Early Colonial History – Part I: Contribution to Heritage Preservation by Cameroonian Witnesses to Colonial History throughout the Birth of Modern Cameroon 1884-1916 (Germany in Cameroon) and 1920-1930 (France, Great Britain in Cameroon)*, 2015-2018
- ✓ **2015-dato**, *Africa and the Africans: from the Earth of Humanity to the 21st Century Renaissance – Contribution to International Dialogue, Endogenous Development and Sustainable Peace*
- ✓ **2023-2024**, *Study on the implementation of the De-colonial in the sector of international solidarity*, Burkina Faso

V ... Literary Processing of Research Results as a Means of Enlightenment and Promoting Dialogue for the Purpose of Reconciliation

Few authors are both scientists and writers, ideally combining research and art, intellect and emotion, African and European culture.

Approach: *The findings of research in history and politics should not remain confined to academic circles and be discussed only within them. Through literary adaptation in the form of theater, letters, short stories, and novels, they can be made more accessible and useful to a wider audience. Literature grounded in scholarly research can contribute more effectively to raising awareness and more readily facilitate change. The synthesis of African and European theatrical traditions leads to new dramaturgical approaches.*

A. Theatre: history and politics on stage

- *Lumumba II.*, London/Munich, 1968
- *Ach, Kamerun! Unsere alte deutsche Kolonie ...*, Lyon/ Munich, 1970
- *Das Fest der Liebe – Die Chance der Jugend*, Lyon/ Munich, 1970
- *Kafra-Biatanga – Tragödie Afrika*, Lyon/ Munich, 1970
- *Cannibalisme*, Paris, 1973
- *Kafra-Biatanga, Tragédie de l’Afrique, traduction française*, Paris, 1973
- *Amilcar Cabral ou la Tempête en Guinée-Bissao*, Paris, 1976
- *Au nom d’une race*, Lyon, 1976
- *Le soleil de l’aurore*, Paris, 1976
- *Lisa, la putain de ...*, Paris, 1976

“Amilcar Cabral is a documentary play about the struggle in the former Portuguese colony of Guinea-Bissau. The author presents the historical events and Cabral’s ideas with great precision, illustrating them in part with quotations from UN reports and international newspapers. Alongside very realistic scenes, there are also some of a fantastical nature such as the scene in the cemetery where a Caetano overwhelmed by events seeks advice from Salazar’s skeleton ...” (*“Les Services Publics”*, No 49, 7 décembre 1978, p. 4)

B. Historiography in letters, narratives and novels: enlightenment, promotion of dialogue, process of reconciliation

- *Dialogue en noir et blanc*, Lettres, 1989 ... Histoire des relations entre l’Afrique et l’Europe – Des origines au 20^e siècle (avec Jean-Yves Loude)... félicitations du Président François Mitterrand, du Président Léopold Sédar Senghor et du Ministre Jack Lang
- *Nouvelles Interdites*, Nouvelles, 1978 ... Histoire des 10 ans près les indépendances africaines
- *Carnaval, Place de la Nation*, Roman, 2009 ... Histoire des prisons politiques en Afrique postcoloniale
- *Ich klopfte an deiner Tür ... Zeitzeugnisse in Briefen, Gedichten und Erzählungen*, 2009 ... Geschichte der Beziehungen zwischen Nord und Süd/ Europa-Afrika und des Umbruchs in Afrika

“The book reveals the author’s talent for storytelling, the pugnacity and perspicacity of the historian he is. Talents that have been evident in each of his books. But also his passion for his country: Cameroon, his continent: Africa ...” (J. Doo Bell, Cameroonian journalist, *“Le Messager”*, 2011)

Excursus: Play Readings, Literary Productions & Theatre Performances



“Ach, Afrika ...”, Play reading from the plays of Kum’a Ndumbe III, Literaturhaus Stuttgart, 2009

- | | | |
|-------------------------------|--|---|
| <p>“Nouvelles Interdites”</p> | <p>A staged reading, “... truths that are not good to be heard”, organized by the Municipal Cultural Service and the Municipal Library.</p> | <p>Municipal Library, Lyon
Mai 17, 1978, 8:30 p.m.
House of Societies, Lyon
November 24, 1978, 8:30 p.m.</p> |
| <p>“Au nom d’une race”</p> | <p>Alexandre Kum’a Ndumbe III’s theatrical tale: “This theatrical tale recounts the journey of a young Black man through the slums of Cape Town ... an odyssey to encounter life”.</p> | <p>Théâtre de Poche, Les “Soleils Fusillés”, Lyon, April 5, 1979, et Mai 10-12, 1979, 8:30 p.m.</p> |
| <p>“Cannibalisme”</p> | <p>University Theatre of Yaoundé, directed by F. Bingono : “A demystification of the real struggles are racism, imperialism and oppression in all its forms”.</p> | <p>Centre Culturel Français, Yaoundé, Cameroon, with the assistance of the Goethe Institute, March 24, 1990, 9:00 p.m.</p> |
| <p>“Ach! Afrika ...”</p> | <p>Play readings from the plays “Ach, Kamerun! Unsere alte deutsche Kolonie...”, “Lumumba II.”, “Kafra-Biatanga – Tragödie Afrikas”. The author himself reads „Das Fest der Liebe – Die Chance der Jugend“.</p> | <p>Literaturhaus Stuttgart
Thursday, June 25, 2009, 8:00 p.m.
Moderation: A. Bühler-Dietrich, F. Joly (Institute for Literary Studies, University of Stuttgart)</p> |
| <p>“Lumumba II.”</p> | <p>Integrative Theatergruppe von la tienda e.V. Münster 22.01.2010
http://komm.muenster.org/termine/index.php</p> | <p>Münster, January 22, 2010</p> |
| <p>“Das Fest der Liebe”</p> | <p>World Premiere of the play
Funded by the Austrian Federal Ministry of Education, Science and Research, BMUKK, and the Austrian UNESCO-Commission

http://didaktik-on.net/cgi-bin/didaktik.cgi?id=0000050a</p> | <p>BRG 6 Marchettigasse, Vienna
February 2, 2011, 6:30 p.m.
Theatre Léhar, Bad Ischl
Mai 20, 2011, 7:00 p.m.
TAG – Theatre at the Gumpendorfer Straße, Vienna
Mai 21, 2011, 8:00 p.m.</p> |
| <p>“Au nom d’une race”</p> | <p>Play reading in CRTV Radio Cameroon (after “Kafra-Biatanga” and “Cannibalisme”)</p> | <p>CRTV Radio Cameroon,
Octobre 30, 2025, 11:00 p.m.</p> |



“Das Fest der Liebe – Die Chance der Jugend”, Theatre performance, BRG 6 Marchettigasse, Vienna, 2011

VI ... Memberships and Foundations

A. Member in Organizations

- 1974, Association des Germanistes de l'Enseignement Supérieur, Paris
- 1974, Internationales Komitee für die Geschichte des Zweiten Weltkrieges/ Comité International d'Histoire de la Deuxième Guerre mondiale/ International Committee for the History of the Second World War, Paris
- 1976, Association des Ecrivains de Langue française (Mer et Outre-Mer), Paris
- 1980, Association des Historiens Africains, Dakar
- 1981-1991, President of the Cameroonians Writers' Association (Association des Poètes et Ecrivains Camerounais, APEC)
- 2001, Board member, African Peace and Education Association
- 2002, Member of the Administrative Board, SOCILADRA (Société camerounaise des droits d'auteur de la littérature et des arts dramatiques), Yaoundé
- 2003, VERBAND DEUTSCHER SCHRIFTSTELLER IN VER.DI

B. Co-founder of Organizations

- 1985, Writers' Association of Central African States (Association des Ecrivains de l'Afrique Centrale, AEAC), 1985-1991 Vice President
- 1986, Panafrican Writers' Association, Accra
- 1989, Verband Afrikanischer Germanisten/ Kontinentale Nicht-Regierungs-Organisation, President
- 2003, AfricAvenir International, Berlin
- 2015, AfricAvenir International, Paris

C. Founder

- 1985, *Editions AfricAvenir*, Douala/Yaoundé
After publications with various French publishers (L'Harmattan, Présence Africaine, FEDEROP, P.J. Oswald) and magazines (Jeune Afrique, AfricAsie, Les Temps Modernes, etc.) Prince Kum'a Ndumbe III founded his own publishing house in Cameroon to publish authors' works in their original language and without censorship
- 1985, as well the "*Centre de Création et de Recherche AfricAvenir*", Douala
- 1993, *Fondation AfricAvenir International*, Foundation for the African Renaissance, Endogenous Development, International Cooperation and Sustainable Peace, Douala
- 1993, Internship and Research Program (3 to 9 months) for European students in the *Fondation AfricAvenir International*, Douala
- 1995, *Cheikh Anta Diop Library*, Douala
- 2000, Multiservices Communications Sarl, Cultural Enterprise, Douala
- 2003, Exchange & Dialogue, Publishing house and educational tours, Berlin
- 2016, Master's and doctoral program at the *Fondation AfricAvenir International*, Douala, in partnership with professors from the Universities of Yaoundé I, Berlin, Hamburg, Wien, Paris
- 2023, *Institut Universitaire de la Renaissance Africaine*, IURA, Douala (and Yaoundé, project)

VII ... Learning from History: Raising Awareness, Commitment to African Cultural Heritage, Innovation for the Present and Future

Significant gaps in memory have been strategically created and maintained by politicians in relations between Africa and the world, especially with the Global North. Africans have lost their own collective memory. It is crucial to fill these gaps, researchers should move beyond their solitary academic pursuits and embrace social responsibility, ideally building new structures to initiate processes of awareness and foster innovation.

Approach: *History should be investigated scientifically, lessons should be learned from it, and structures should be built across national borders that help to raise awareness and shape responsible innovations for a more peaceful coexistence internationally.*

Established Structures and Executed Programs

A. Editions AfricAvenir, 1985

- Establishing the connection between history, politics, language and development potential through research, *publication*, and public relation
- The publisher provides in the philosophy of the *African Renaissance* and the *Common Destiny of Humanity* the scientific basis for the work of the Fondation AfricAvenir International
- International authors publish in their original languages (so far French, English, German, Duala, Ewondo, Basaa, Kikongo and more African languages) and uncensored

B. Fondation AfricAvenir International, 1993

- ***African Renaissance***, a return to one's own cultural values, should help regain lost African self-confidence through targeted education
- The *Dialog Forum* is an institutionalized structure of the Fondation AfricAvenir International
- ***Historical Exhibitions*** (slavery, colonialism, independence struggles, history of democracy, etc.) as a means of public relations
- ***Educational Tours*** to Africa focusing on history, politics and culture / ***Study Trips of African Diaspora*** from America and Europe to Africa for the historical reappraisal of their own past (slave routes and reconnection with Africa)
- ***Leadership in Social Empowerment*** Award for Prince Kum'a Ndumbe III, Atlanta, 2014

C. Cheikh Anta Diop Library, 1995

- Prince Kum'a Ndumbe III has compiled ***more than 7.000 books*** in his Cheikh Anta Diop Library – *Research Section*. The library, which contains a unique treasure not only of African cultural heritage (including books in more than 80 different Cameroonian languages), was honored by the 2015 ***Excellence Award for the best private library in Cameroon***
- ***Rare historical documents*** (map collections, manuscripts, also in African languages) are made available to researchers in a special part of the library
- The ***Youth Section*** invites children and young people to read African authors
- More than ***150 historical documentaries and feature films***, especially by African directors, are popular educational tools for teaching, education and public relations

D. Linguistic Diversity Project

- Establishing the **connection between history, politics, language and development potential**
- 2004-2007, **Expertise by Prince Kum'a Ndumbe III** and the Fondation AfricAvenir International on **linguistic diversity in African countries** is sought and implemented as part of a 3-years project under the auspices of the Council of Europe and the Austrian Federal Ministry of Teaching, Art and Culture, BMUKK: *Alphabétisation et diversité linguistique dans une perspective globale, échange interculturel avec des pays africains/Literacy and Linguistic Diversity in a Global Perspective, An Intercultural Exchange with African Countries* (edited by Neville Alexander and Brigitta Busch, Council of Europe Publishing, 2007)
- **Publication** of the pre-colonial epic „**Masomandala**“, part I and II, in the Cameroonian languages Duala, Ewondo and in French, Editions AfricAvenir, Douala, 2008
- **Competition between schools** in the presentation of stories in Cameroonian languages

E. Collective Memory Project

- **Collective Memory** as an object of research, publication and public relations
- 1981-1986 a project conducted by Univ.-Prof. Dr. Dr. Prince Kum'a Ndumbe III at the University of Yaoundé (Yaoundé I) established a multidisciplinary research group and sent it into the field to **collect systematically material from colonized peoples through interviews with eyewitnesses of the early colonial period** (“*Souvenirs de l'époque allemande au Cameroun*”, Institute of Human Sciences)
- 2015-2018 thanks to the support of the *Gerda Henkel Stiftung*, Düsseldorf, Germany, these **results were scientifically analyzed and published**. Project: “*Preservation and Transmission of Africa's Collective Memory – African Testimonies and Oral Literature in Early Colonial History, Part I: Contribution to Heritage Preservation by Cameroonian Witnesses to Colonial History throughout the Birth of Modern Cameroon 1884-1916 (Germany in Cameroon) and 1920-1930 (France and Great Britain in Cameroon)*”, 2015-2018
- 2015-dato, *Africa and the Africans: from the Earth of Humanity to the 21st Century Renaissance – Contribution to International Dialogue, Endogenous Development and Sustainable Peace* **7-years-program** with 7 successive projects – ex. construction project: **African Renaissance Home**
- **Publication** of 33 books in original Cameroonian languages with French, English and German translations about the colonial period in Cameroon: “*Quand les Anciens parlent ... / When the Elders Speak ... / Jetzt berichten afrikanische Zeitzeugen ...*”, Ed. AfricAvenir, Douala, 2024

F. Doctoral Program „Heritage & Innovation“

- Doctoral program for researching **memory gaps**, dependencies and underdevelopment in colonialism and post-colonialism and on **alternative innovation** for development in the 21st century, 2015-2018, funded by the *Gerda Henkel Stiftung*

G. Restitution Campaign and International Actions

- Restitution campaign for **art and cult objects** as a means of raising historical awareness, **looted or stolen in colonial history** (ex. *solemn declaration on the Tangué of Kum'a Mbape Bell*, Douala, August 28, 2014)
- International actions to **rename streets after historical figures** (ex. Martha Ndumbe Place, Berlin, October 18, 2025)
- **Publication** of “*Restituez à l'Afrique ses objets de pouvoir, de culte et d'art ! Reconstituons notre mémoire collective africaine !*” 3^e édition augmentée, Ed. AfricAvenir, Douala, 2024

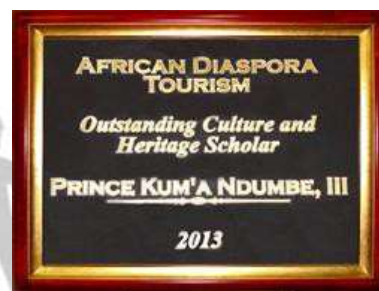
VIII ... International Awards and Prizes

A. Prince Kum'a Ndumbe III (selection)

- *"Trophée africain de la citoyenneté – catégorie arts et culture"*, Cotonou, Benin, Dec. 2008
- *"Outstanding Contributions & Dedicated Service in Cultural Heritage Tourism"*, entry in the *Inaugural Hall of Fame*, Temple of Celebrities, Atlanta, USA, April 2013
- *"Outstanding Culture and Heritage Scholar"*, A. D. King Foundation und African Diaspora World Tourism Awards, Atlanta, USA, April 2013
- *"Outstanding Leadership in Social Empowerment"*, Award from the A. D. King Foundation (family of Martin Luther King), Atlanta, USA, November 2014
- *"Special Prize for the excellent work as publisher since 30 years"*, FENAC, Yaoundé, 2016
- *"Chevalier de l'Ordre de la Valeur du Cameroun"*, Yaoundé, 2016
- *"Mbeatoe a gol - Mbéa Towe in Gold"* by the traditional Sawa of Wouri Kings, Douala, 2021
- *"African Revival – Pan-African Awards"*, Douala, 2022
- *"APEC Grand Prix Littéraire Mont Cameroun, GPLMC, Special Prize – theatre"* for the play *"Au nom d'une race"*, Yaoundé, 2024



African Diaspora World Tourism Awards, Atlanta, Georgia, USA, inducts **Prince Kum'a Ndumbe III** into the Inaugural Hall of Fame for **Outstanding Contributions & Dedicated Service in Cultural Heritage Tourism**, 2013



African Diaspora Tourism **Outstanding Culture and Heritage Scholar Prince Kum'a Ndumbe III 2013**, April 27, 2013

B. AfricAvenir International (selection)

- *"Best Cameroonian Website – category ONG"*, Fondation Ngallé, Yaoundé, Mai 2007
- *„UNESCO-Medaille Toussaint Louverture"*, for the exhibition *"200 Years Later..."*, which broaches the issue of African and Black resistance against slavery and slave trade, AfricAvenir International Berlin, 2008
- *"Condorcet-Aron Prize for Democracy – Category of best non-Belgian implementation"*, Parliament of the Francophone Community of Belgium, AfricAvenir International Berlin, September 2009
- *"Zanzibar International Film Festival AFDA Award 2014"*, *"Best African Film Promoter"* Medal for *Christian Mahnke*, Head of AfricAvenir International in Namibia, 2014

C. Cheikh Anta Diop Library (selection)

- *“Premier Prix d’Excellence de la meilleure bibliothèque privée au Cameroun”*, Cheikh Anta Diop Library as the best private library of Cameroon, Yaoundé, June 2015
- *“Concours national de la meilleure bibliothèque du Cameroun – 2^e Prix Bibliothèque associative* Cheikh Anta Diop Library as the 2nd best associative library of Cameroon, Yaoundé, 2016

D. Editions AfricAvenir (selection)

- *“Special Prize for the excellent work as publisher since 30 years”*, FENAC, Yaoundé, 2016
- *„APEC Grand Prix littéraire du Mont Cameroun, GPLMC 2022 – Prix special”*, Yaoundé 2022, for the play *“Au nom d’une race”* by Prince Kum’a Ndumbe III and the collection of poems *“Heures d’angoisse, leurs d’espoir”* by the young author Walther Mouelle Kombi III
- *“CREPLA Etoiles de l’édition camerounaise, éditeur et auteure de l’année 2023”*, publisher and author of the year 2023, for the novel *“Quand les raciness chantent”* by Danielle Eyango
- *“Prix SIILY de l’éditeur et de l’auteure de l’année 2024”*, publisher and author of the year 2024, for the novel *“Quand les raciness chantent”* by Danielle Eyango
- *“APEC Grand Prix littéraire du Mont Cameroun, GPLMC 2024”* for the play *“Ma belle-sœur ... ma chère rivale”* by Marlyse Rose Tongo Douala Bell and for the collection of poems *“Les luminaires de l’espoir”* by Narcisse Mouelle Kombi III which received as well the *“APEC Médaille de la plume littéraire”*



Prince Kum’a Ndumbe III, GPLMC 2022 Special Prize, and Edition AfricAvenir, Prize SIILY 2024



The poet Narcisse Mouelle Kombi III receiving his Prize GPLMC 2024

IX ... Publications ... Reference Works (complete list in the annex)

Selected publications in German ... Anthology in eleven volumes ... 1968-2009

- I *Ich klopfte an deiner Tür ...*
- II *Lumumba II.*
- III *Ach, Kamerun! Unsere alte deutsche Kolonie ...*
- IV *Kafra-Biatanga – Tragödie Afrikas*
- V *Das Fest der Liebe – Die Chance der Jugend*
- VI *Wettkampf um die Globalisierung Afrikas*
- VII *Afrika ist im Aufbruch, Afrika ist die Zukunft*
- VIII *Krisenprävention. Ein möglicher Weg aus Krieg und Genozid – Alternativen in der Entwicklungszusammenarbeit (Fallbeispiel Ruanda)*
- IX ... *Was hat denn Goethe in Afrika verloren? Germanistik in Afrika zwischen Interkulturalität und Entwicklungstheorie*
- X *Das Deutsche Kaiserreich in Kamerun*
- XI *Nationalsozialismus und Apartheid*

... in French ...

- *Cannibalisme*, Editions Pierre Jean Oswald, Paris, 1973
- *Kafra-Biatanga, Tragédie de l'Afrique, traduction française*, Ed. Pierre J. Oswald, Paris, 1973
- *Amilcar Cabral ou la Tempête en Guinée-Bissao*, Editions Pierre Jean Oswald, Paris, 1973
- *Le soleil de l'aurore*, Editions Pierre Jean Oswald, Paris, 1973
- *Nouvelle Interdites*, Editions Fédérop, Lyon, 1978
- *Hitler voulait l'Afrique*, L'Harmattan, Paris 1980
- *L'Afrique et Allemagne, de la colonisation à la coopération 1884-1986, Le cas du Cameroun*, Editions AfricAvenir, Yaoundé 1986
- *Dialogue en noir et blanc (avec Jean-Yves Loude)*, Présence Africaine, Paris, 1989
- *L'Afrique s'annonce au rendez-vous, la tête haute!*, AfricAvenir/Exchange & Dialogue, Douala, 2012³
- *50 Ans déjà ! Quand cessera enfin votre indépendance-la ???*, AfricAvenir/Exchange & Dialogue, Douala, 2011
- *Nouvelle Interdites*, Editions Fédérop, Lyon, 1978 / AfricAvenir/Exchange & Dialogue, Douala, 2011
- *Tu ne diras plus que tu ne savais pas ! Editions AfricAvenir*, Douala, 2021
- *Restituez à l'Afrique ses objets de pouvoir, de culte et d'art ! 3^e édition augmentée*, Ed. AfricAvenir, Douala, 2024

... in English ... *Africa is Calling*, AfricAvenir/Exchange & Dialogue, Douala, 2013

... in Duala ... *Masomandala*, tome I, tome II (duala, français, ewondo), AfricAvenir/Exchange & Dialogue, Douala, 2008

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