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Anthills of the Savannah is a novel nominee for the 1987 Booker McConnell Prize by well-known author Chinua Achebe. In this novel, Chris Oriko is the Commissioner of Information as a cabinet member in Africa, which is a role appointed to him by the President of the country, who is also a childhood friend of Chriss. Chris finds himself struggling with Ikem, who is also a childhood friend, and the person Chris has appointed as the editor of the areas newspaper, the Gazette. In addition to Chriss struggle with Ikem on a professional level, there also seems to be a personal conflict pertaining to Ikems friendship with Chriss girlfriend, Beatrice. Two years prior to the novel beginning, there was a coup in Africa that put the current President, His Excellency into power. At the time and throughout the novel, it appears his Excellency is running the country as a democratic dictatorship. This form of government, however, is challenged throughout the novel and results in a conflict between the politicians, the friends and the country as a whole. Once Chriss realizes the political unrest in the country is about to cause a problem and he sees the signs of trouble on the horizon, he jumps into action to undercut His Excellency and remove him from power, but in an indirect way. Chriss uses the power of the written word and news stories, rather than attacking and murdering the President to get him out of office so things can change for the better in the country. Ultimately, the coup occurs, but not without the loss of life of several of the characters in the novel in the process.Chinua Achebe (/tnw th/, born Albert Chinalumogu Achebe; 16 November 1930 21 March 2013) was a Nigerian novelist, poet, professor, and critic. His first novel Things Fall Apart (1958) was considered his magnum opus, and is the most widely read book in modern African literature.Raised by his parents in the Igbo town of Ogidi in South-Eastern Nigeria, Achebe excelled at school and won a scholarship for undergraduate studies. He became fascinated with world religions and traditional African cultures, and began writing stories as a university student. After graduation, he worked for the Nigerian Broadcasting Service (NBS) and soon moved to the metropolis of Lagos. He gained worldwide attention for Things Fall Apart in the late 1950s; his later novels include No Longer at Ease (1960), Arrow of God (1964), A Man of the People (1966), and Anthills of the Savannah (1987). Achebe wrote his novels in English and defended the use of English, a "language of colonisers", in African literature. In 1975, his lecture An Image of Africa: Racism in Conrad's "Heart of Darkness" featured a famous criticism of Joseph Conrad as "a thoroughgoing racist"; it was later published in The Massachusetts Review amid some controversy.When the region of Biafra broke away from Nigeria in 1967, Achebe became a supporter of Biafran independence and acted as ambassador for the people of the new nation. The war ravaged the populace, and as starvation and violence took its toll, he appealed to the people of Europe and the Americas for aid. When the Nigerian government retook the region in 1970, he involved himself in political parties but soon resigned due to frustration over the corruption and elitism he witnessed. He lived in the United States for several years in the 1970s, and returned to the U.S. in 1990 after a car accident left him partially disabled.A titled Igbo chieftain himself, Achebe's novels focus on the traditions of Igbo society, the effect of Christian influences, and the clash of Western and traditional African values during and after the colonial era. His style relies heavily on the Igbo oral tradition, and combines straightforward narration with representations of folk stories, proverbs, and oratory. He also published a number of short stories, children's books, and essay collections. From 2009 until his death, he served as David and Marianna Fisher University Professor and Professor of Africana Studies at Brown. Bio from Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia. Photo by Stuart C. Shapiro (GFDL (, CC-BY-SA-3.0 (or CC BY-SA-3.0-2.0-1.0 (), via Wikimedia Commons.This paper provides a comprehensive summary and analysis of Chinua Achebe's novel "Anthills of the Savannah," including the author's background, thematic explorations, character analyses, and the socio-political context of the narrative. The novel critiques both military and civilian governments in Nigeria, highlighting the pervasive political corruption and moral decay present in both systems. It also discusses major themes such as neo-colonialism, leadership, and the representation of women, while offering study questions to deepen understanding of the text.Jump to ratings and reviewsChris, Ikem and Beatrice are like-minded friends working under the military regime of His Excellency, the Sandhurst-educated President of Kangan. In the pressurized atmosphere of oppression and intimidation they are simply trying to live and love - and remain friends. But in a world where each day brings a new betrayal, hope is hard to cling on to. Anthills of the Savannah (1987). Achebe's candid vision of contemporary African politics, is a powerful fusion of angry voices. It continues the journey that Achebe began with his earlier novels, tracing the history of modern Africa through colonialism and beyond, and is a work ultimately filled with hope. 269 people are currently readingWorks, including the novel Things Fall Apart (1958), of Nigerian writer Chinua Achebe describe traditional African life in conflict with colonial rule and westernization. This poet and critic served as professor at Brown University. People best know and most widely read his first book in modern African literature. Christian parents in the Igbo town of Ogidi in southeastern Nigeria reared Achebe, who excelled at school and won a scholarship for undergraduate studies. 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Displaying 1 - 30 of 309 reviewsJanuary 27, 2023Anthills is a perfectly fine satirical look at political corruption in an Unnamed African Country, set several years after independence. Perhaps it's a result of Achebe's influence on other writers, but this just felt flat to me, like I've read a version of this story many times before. It has the feel of a book that's assigned in school so that everyone knows what the template is and can appreciate when new writers come along and transcend the template by tackling its themes in fresh and more interesting ways.February 28, 2024 Cosa deve fare un popolo per placare una storia incancrenita nell'amarezza? Pubblicato nel 1987, "Viandanti della storia" un romanzo politico del nigeriano Albert Chinalumogu Achebe, che si rinomina con Chinua Achebe -nome indigeno-come a spezzare quell'imposizione voluta dal padre che andava ad onorare il principe consorte della regina Vittoria."Anthills of the Savannah"- ossia, "Formicola della savana": il titolo originale che va a riferirsi a "ci che resiste all'arsura terribile del clima equatoriale". La traduzione italiana del titolo ("Viandanti della storia", invece, sottolinea il nervo principale di quest'opera facendo riferimento agli eventi che la Storia ed i suoi protagonisti mettono in atto; consci o meno dell'essere portatori di un cambiamento. In un'immaginaria nazione chiamata Kangan, si dipana la storia di Chinua Achebe. Beatrice, Ikem ed Elewa. All'indomani di un colpo di stato l'assedio del nuovo potere non ci mette molto a pesare le falle proprie di ogni potere che si eleva su parole d'ordine populiste per poi rivelarsi sul medesimo piano dei precedenti oppressori. E poi c'è Sam, amico d'infanzia di Beatrice per caso... Vissio, appare ad un filo per niente per sempre... No? Chi siamo noi? La trinit che credeva di avere in mano l'intera Kangania, come aveva osservato una volta BB, in tono sarcastico? Tre? hottiglie verdi. Una caduta accidentalmente, un'altra per polverata. Eccola che cade anche quella, bang! E poi il noi diventa "io", diventa Imperiale Noi." Una riflessione sulla questione del potere ma anche la celebrazione di "cerimonie di amore, amicizia, tradimento e morte" La Kangania, dunque, come la Nigeria post-coloniale degli anni '80. La fotografia del momento in cui le speranze rivoluzionarie si sono già affievolite e che offre l'occasione ad Achebe di manifestare l'importanza che politicamente deve assumersi l'intellettuale ed in particolare lo scrittore. Se scrivere non mai facile, meno ancora lo per lo scrittore africano che deve utilizzare strumenti non suoi: il romanzo, genere nato per lo scrittore europeo, il romanzo, genere nato in Europa; la lingua, retaggio coloniale...Lo scrittore africano , pertanto, come un esule che vaga (il viandante non equiparabile al viaggiatore proprio perch vagab senza mappe) nei meandri delle storie (storie) e della Storia (History) e che deve colmare i vuoti dell'identit formulando nuove forme di appartenenza (che riavvicinano alla memoria ancestrale che si va perdendo) e nuovi linguaggi.Chinua stato riconosciuto il pi grande scrittore africano della riscrittura post-coloniale.Un importante esercizio di decentramento per il lettore occidentale che pu -e deve- cogliere questa occasione di crescita.Coscene per conoscersi un'occasione preziosa. "Non posso dare il via alla vostra rivoluzione addomesticata, programmata sui libri. Voglio invece stimolare la gente perch diventi pi illuminata, costringendola ad analizzare le condizioni della propria vita poich, come insegna un antico detto popolare, una vita che non sia stata analizzata non vale la pena di essere vissuta Come scrittore lo aspiro solo ad allargare la portata di questa autoanalisi "October 27, 2008Anthills of the Savannah see Achebe returning to similar territory as his last novel, A Man of the People politics of post-colonial Africa. Whereas A Man of the People says events leading to a coup, Anthills of the Savannah is more explicit in its intent to show how a coup occurs. Achebe's novel is a critique of the military regime of His Excellency, the Sandhurst-educated President of Kangan. In the pressurized atmosphere of oppression and intimidation they are simply trying to live and love - and remain friends. But in a world where each day brings a new betrayal, hope is hard to cling on to. Anthills of the Savannah (1987). 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Shapiro (GFDL (, CC-BY-SA-3.0 (or CC BY-SA-3.0-2.0-1.0 (), via Wikimedia Commons.This paper provides a comprehensive summary and analysis of Chinua Achebe's novel "Anthills of the Savannah," including the author's background, thematic explorations, character analyses, and the socio-political context of the narrative. The novel critiques both military and civilian governments in Nigeria, highlighting the pervasive political corruption and moral decay present in both systems. It also discusses major themes such as neo-colonialism, leadership, and the representation of women, while offering study questions to deepen understanding of the text.Jump to ratings and reviewsChris, Ikem and Beatrice are like-minded friends working under the military regime of His Excellency, the Sandhurst-educated President of Kangan. In the pressurized atmosphere of oppression and intimidation they are simply trying to live and love - and remain friends. 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From 2009 until his death, he served as David and Marianna Fisher University Professor and Professor of Africana Studies at Brown. Bio from Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia. Photo by Stuart C. Shapiro (GFDL (, CC-BY-SA-3.0 (or CC BY-SA-3.0-2.0-1.0 (), via Wikimedia Commons.The Booker Prize for Fiction is a literary prize awarded annually for the best original work of fiction written in English (not a translation) and must not be self-published. Prior to 2014, eligibility for the award was restricted to citizens of the Commonwealth of Nations, Ireland, or Zimbabwe.From 1969-2001 the prize was sponsored by British food wholesalers Booker McConnell Ltd, and from 2002 until May 2019 by investment management firm Man Group. It was formally known as the Man Booker Prize from 2002 until Man ceased its sponsorship. The winner of the Booker Prize is generally assured of international renown and success; therefore, the prize is of great significance for the book trade. In contrast to literary prizes in the United States, the Booker Prize is greeted with great anticipation and fanfare. It is also a mark of distinction for authors to be nominated for the shortlist or even to be selected for inclusion in the longlist. Those included on the longlist are categorized as such below. Shortlisted nominees appear simply as nominees, without a category designation.Official site: www.thebookerprizes.comThe internationally acclaimed Nigerian author Chinua Achebes novel Anthills of the Savannah (1987) is set in the fictional West-African country Kangan in the post-colonial 1960s. Echoing the real political breakdown, several violent coups, and an ethnic cleansing campaign again the Igbo people in 1960s Nigeria, Anthills of the Savannah describes the aftermath of a military coup in Kangan. The novel focuses on the last days in the lives of the newly installed military dictator, Sam, and his two friends: Chris, who becomes a member of the cabinet, and Ikem, an outspoken journalist.The novel opens with a cabinet meeting of the new Kanganese government. We learn that two years ago, after a popularly supported coup, the career soldier Sam was installed as His Excellency, a dictator. Unsure on matters of policy and needing support, Sam recruited his two childhood friends to high-level positions: Chris Oriko as Minister of Information and Ikem Osodi as editor of the National Gazette, an important newspaper. Although the three share a common background and all were educated abroad in England, for the last two years they have grown politically and temperamentally very different. Sam is power-hungry, selfish, and paranoid. Ikem criticizes government policy and champions the people. Chris, pragmatic and calm, is forced into the role of mediator after meeting several other African dictators. Sam decides he also become president-for-life, planning democratic elections. A national referendum is called to confirm the change, but the Kanganese region of Abazon refuses to participate in the vote. To punish the province, Sam limits their access to water despite the fact that the country is experiencing a drought. In response, a delegation from Abazon travels to the capital to beg for relief. In a bout of paranoia, Sam convinces himself that the Abazonese representatives are actually about to stage a revolt: a revolt that has been organized and supported by someone close to him.Chris and Ikem are both worried that Sam's increasingly erratic fears about betrayal make him an unstable and dangerous leader. The two friends respond differently to their concerns. While Chris decides to stay in the government in hopes of containing Sam from the inside, Ikem writes critical and almost radical editorials in the Gazette. Chris asks Ikem to tone down his rhetoric.The novel flashes back in time slightly to introduce us to the women in these mens lives. Ikems pregnant girlfriend, Elewa, is from the working classes. Uneducated, she works in a store. Chriss fiancée is the well-educated Beatrice, a woman who was childhood friends with Ikem and works as a state administrator for Sam. Because she has connections to the government, the educated media classes, and also the common people, Beatrice sees the situation from a much clearer vantage point than either Chris or Ikem. She tells them that their reactions to Sam arent productive.Back in the present, Sam becomes convinced that Ikem is behind the rebellion being fomented by the Abazon representatives. He orders Chris to fire Ikem from the Gazette. Although Chris refuses to obey, Ikem is still removed from the position. After he gives a fiery speech criticizing the dictatorship to university students, Ikem is arrested and killed by Sams secret police.This extrajudicial murder jolts Chris into the awareness that Sam has become a monster. Chris contacts the international media, revealing the reality of the regime to them, and goes into hiding with the help of some sympathizers, including Emmanuel, a student who was deeply inspired by Ikem. Chriss goal is to escape the capital, to travel to Abazon with Emmanuel by bus. Chriss defection infuriates Sam, and he orders a nation-wide manhunt for both Chris and anyone who helps him. Because Chris or holds information about him,Beatrice Chris makes a bus to Abazon, he is forced to reconnect with the people and learn around him. At the same time, Emmanuel meets another student, Adamma, and forms a romantic connection with her. Suddenly, the bus is overtaken by a mob of drunken revelers. Chris learns that these people are celebrating the overthrow and assassination of Sam his dictatorship has just been toppled in yet another coup. The streets are full of both joyful festivity and scary chaos, and after Chris, Emmanuel, and Adamma are separated, Chris notices Adamma being kidnapped by a soldier who is about to rape her. Chris runs to intervene and the soldier shoots and kills him. After finding out about her fiances death, Beatrice holds a naming ceremony for Ikem and Elewas newborn daughter. Usually, the naming is performed by a man, but Beatrice is symbolically trying to break the cycle. She names the baby Amaechina, a male name that means may the path never close.Anthills of the Savannah received rave reviews and was a finalist for the 1987 Booker Prize for Fiction, an incredibly prestigious award. Echoing most of the scholarly opinions, the critic Holger Ehling has called this work the most important novel to come out of Africa in the 1980s.

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