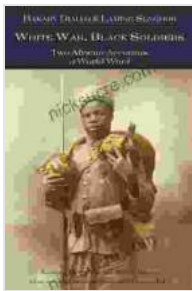


# Witnessing the World At War: Two African Accounts of World War

World War II, the deadliest conflict in human history, had a profound impact on every corner of the globe, including the African continent. While the war is often remembered through the experiences of European and American soldiers, the contributions and sacrifices of African soldiers played a crucial role in the outcome of the conflict.



## White War, Black Soldiers: Two African Accounts of World War I by Lamine Senghor

★★★★☆ 4.7 out of 5

Language : English  
File size : 2910 KB  
Text-to-Speech : Enabled  
Enhanced typesetting : Enabled  
Word Wise : Enabled  
Print length : 199 pages  
Screen Reader : Supported



This article presents two poignant accounts of African soldiers who fought in World War II, offering a unique perspective on the war and its aftermath. Their stories provide a glimpse into the experiences of African soldiers, the challenges they faced, and the impact the war had on their lives and communities.

### I. The Soldier from Senegal



Born in a small village in Senegal, then a French colony, Amadou Diallo was a young man when the war broke out. Like many Africans, he was conscripted into the French army and sent to fight in Europe. Diallo served with distinction, fighting in some of the war's most brutal battles, including the Battle of Monte Cassino.

In his memoirs, Diallo vividly described the horrors of war and the camaraderie he shared with his fellow soldiers. He also spoke of the racism he encountered from some of his white comrades and the challenges he faced as an African soldier in a European army.

After the war, Diallo returned to Senegal, where he became an active advocate for African independence. He participated in the country's independence movement and later served as a minister in the post-independence government.

## **II. The Soldier from Nigeria**



Hailing from a village in eastern Nigeria, then a British colony, Joseph Akpan was a young man eager to prove himself when the war broke out. He joined the British army and was sent to fight in Burma, where he fought against the Japanese. Akpan's experiences during the war were both harrowing and transformative.

In his letters home, Akpan wrote of the intense fighting and the brutality of the Japanese soldiers. He also spoke of the sense of camaraderie he shared with his fellow Nigerian soldiers and the pride he felt in representing his country on the world stage.

After the war, Akpan returned to Nigeria, where he became involved in the country's independence movement. He later served as a high-ranking official in the Nigerian army and played a key role in the country's post-independence development.

## **The Impact of World War II on Africa**

The experiences of Amadou Diallo and Joseph Akpan provide a glimpse into the broader impact of World War II on the African continent. The war had a profound effect on African societies, economies, and political landscapes.

In many African countries, the war led to increased urbanization and industrialization as governments and businesses geared up for the war effort. The war also brought about significant social changes, as women took on new roles in the workforce and the education system expanded.

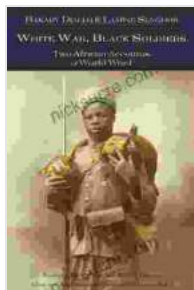
However, the war also had a negative impact on Africa. The continent lost millions of lives, both in combat and due to famine and disease. The war also exacerbated existing inequalities and contributed to the rise of nationalism and anti-colonial sentiment.

## **The Legacy of African Soldiers in World War II**

The contributions of African soldiers to World War II should not be forgotten. They fought bravely and made significant sacrifices for the Allied

cause. Their stories deserve to be told and their experiences should be remembered.

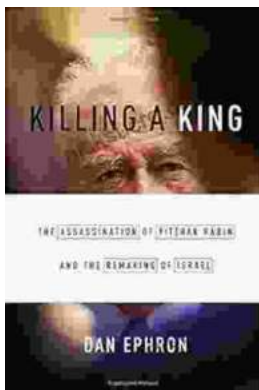
The legacy of African soldiers in World War II is one of courage, resilience, and determination. They fought for their countries and for a better future. Their sacrifices helped to shape the world we live in today.



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