

ABBREVIATIONS

ANC	African National Congress
CSM	Caribbean Single Market
CSME	Caribbean Single Market Economy
FRELIMO	Liberation Front of Mozambique
GDF	Guyana Defence Force
IBW	Institute of the Black World
IMF	International Monetary Fund
NJAC	National Joint Action Committee
NJM	New Jewel Movement
PNC	People's National Congress
PPP	People's Progressive Party
SOAS	School of Oriental and African Studies
TANU	Tanganyika African National Union
UNITA	National Union for the Total Independence of Angola
USARF	United Students African Revolutionary Front
WPA	Working People's Alliance

BIOGRAPHICAL TIMELINE

- 1942 Walter Rodney is born in Georgetown, Guyana, on March 23, 1942.
- 1953 Rodney wins a County Scholarship to attend Queen's College, a secondary school in Georgetown. It was a momentous year in that it was the first time County Scholarships were available to working-class boys. It was also the first year of full adult suffrage, and after the first exercise of that vote, British troops intervened to abort the democratic process.
- 1960 Rodney chooses to attend the University College of the West Indies (later known as the University of the West Indies) after winning an Open Scholarship. He is active in student government and campaigns on the island with the People's National Party in support of the West Indies Federation, which was a plan to unify the Caribbean into a single government. He visits the United States, Cuba, and Czechoslovakia before graduation.
- 1963 Rodney graduates with a first-class honors degree in history. He wins an Open Scholarship to the School of Oriental and African Studies in London. He joins the study group headed by C. L. R. James.
- 1965 Rodney marries Patricia Henry in London.
- 1966 At the age of twenty-four, Rodney is awarded a Ph.D. with honors in African History. His son Shaka is born about the same time. He leaves for Tanzania to lecture at the University College of East Africa, Dar es Salaam, which later became the University of Dar es Salaam.
- 1968 Rodney returns to Jamaica as a lecturer. He lectures on and off campus. After ten months he leaves to attend the Con-

gress of Black Writers in Montreal and is barred from returning to Jamaica. The "Rodney Riots" erupt in Kingston and spread throughout the island. He returns to the University of Dar es Salaam and continues to lead debates on and off campus as in Jamaica. His daughter Kanini is born.

- 1969 Rodney's first book, *The Groundings with My Brothers*, is published. It is a collection of speeches given in Jamaica and in Montreal in which Rodney applies Black Power to a Caribbean context.
- 1970 His doctoral dissertation is published by Oxford University Press under the title *A History of the Upper Guinea Coast, 1545-1800*. It is rated by academics as his best history book. He continues to write and produces numerous papers, pamphlets, and editorials. His daughter Asha is born.
- 1972 He publishes his best-known book, *How Europe Underdeveloped Africa*. The book is one of the first to describe Europe's involvement as actively engaged in the underdevelopment of Africa as opposed to the usual position of underdevelopment through benign neglect.
- 1974 Rodney returns to Guyana to take up an appointment as Professor of History at the University of Guyana. The government then rescinds the appointment. Rodney remains in Guyana, joining the newly formed political group, the Working People's Alliance.
- 1979 Rodney is arrested for arson after the Ministry of National Development has been burned to the ground. He is released on bail. As he has done everywhere, he gives lectures wherever he is asked and becomes a leading figure in the fight against the dictatorship of Forbes Burnham.
- 1980 Still on bail, he travels to Zimbabwe, via Tanzania, to attend the independence celebrations. His passport has been taken as part of the conditions of his bail. He returns to Guyana and is assassinated as a bomb explodes in his car on June 13. He is thirty-eight years old.

PREFACE

This book began as a series of interviews for a long overdue documentary film on renowned historian and activist, Dr. Walter Rodney. The documentary, *W.A.R. Stories: Walter Anthony Rodney*, was completed in 2009. Moving images of film and video come with some inherent limitations, however, and so the participants' spoken words have evolved into a book, in order to add some depth and width to the subject. The intent is to make the oral history part of the formal history.

The oral tradition remains the most popular way of sharing information, and the digital camera makes possible that which we always wanted: making stories and images travel together, and relatively cheaply as well. The words and images given to the project had to be sliced and diced in the interest of the "story." The documentary's editors and I took pieces of statements and put them in a context that we hope maintains their integrity.

Although this book aims to present the original context of the participants' statements, the reproduction of spoken words will by definition be different. Transcribed interviews miss the inflection and poetic nuance of the spoken answer. Yet power and beauty exist in the word itself. When you read this book, see it as an opportunity to add your own nuance, your own inflection, power, and beauty.