

THINGS FALL APART: A CRITICAL ANALYSIS

Chinua Achebe has rightly called the father of modern African fiction. His fiction presents exemplary texts of nationalistic contestation of colonialist myth and distortion of Africans and Africa. He is very critical of aesthetic aspect of literature as 'Art for Art's sake', and strongly believes in 'Art for Society's sake'. He presupposes a social theory of art and holds the view that art reflects and propagates social views and values. In his 'Novelist as a Teacher', he underscores literature's pedagogical mission and its ethical and political responsibilities. His mission is to reclaim the glory of Africa and African culture, and at the same time he foregrounds the seamy side of it with utmost sincerity and objectivity.

Achebe's first novel 'Things

Fall Apart (1958) depicts traditional Igbo culture and its clash with European culture. It is the story of the post colonial conflict between Africa and Europe, as well as the conflict between the western way of doing things and the tribal consciousness. It is the story of the psychological and social consequences of the transition from the tribal indigenous society to the western mode brought about by the imperialistic takeover.

Achebe has shown in the novel how the people of Emuofia were proud of their beliefs, their customs, their rites, and their thinking about life and work. They loved their ideals and values to the extent of obstinacy and rigidity. The coming of the Europeans was seen as a threat to their pattern