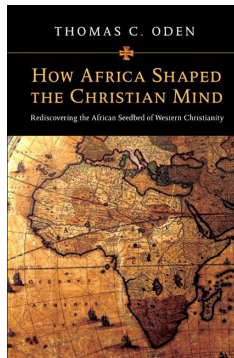


# LOOK

## BOOK DETAILS



*How Africa Shaped the Christian Mind: Rediscovering the African Seedbed of Western Christianity*  
204 pages, cloth,  
5 1/2 x 8 1/4 inches,  
0-8308-2875-3,  
\$19.00

### HOW AFRICA SHAPED THE CHRISTIAN MIND

A Bold Manifesto from Thomas C. Oden

Editor of the Ancient Christian Commentary on Scripture

One of the biggest stories in global religion over the past few years has been the boom of Christianity in the Global South. And nowhere are the stakes as high as in Africa. Unfortunately, despite the attention given to the continent, many misconceptions remain about the history of Christianity in Africa and the critical contributions that its thinkers have made to Christian theology. Thomas Oden's daring new book, ***How Africa Shaped the Christian Mind: Rediscovering the African Seedbed of Western Christianity*** refutes hundreds of years of historical error and seeks Africa's central place in Western intellectual history. Oden's book could not come at a better time, for how African Christians engage their faith will be of profound geopolitical and ecclesiastical consequence.

Oden's efforts to expose a wide audience to the works of the church fathers have resulted in a generation of believers who now look to ancient wisdom to illuminate the future direction of Christianity. His work editing the monumental Ancient Christian Commentary on Scripture has garnered praise from across the spectrum of Christian practice. Through both his work on the project and travel to Africa itself, Oden noticed a startling inversion of historical fact so ingrained in Christendom that even African seminaries continue to teach a history with a European determinism. Over time, seminal thinkers such as Augustine and Origen have been stripped of their distinct African identities. While outside missionary work has indeed played a large part in the modern explosion of Christianity in sub-Saharan Africa especially, Oden argues that Christianity has maintained a sizable presence in Africa since the earliest expansion of Christianity. The church also seems to have forgotten that Africans debated and wrote a major portion of the theology that undergirds Christian belief to this day.

Recent accounts of the explosion of Christianity in the Global South leave no doubt that Africa will be one of the most active and lively locations for Christian discipleship and learning. Likewise, how previous generations of African Christians interacted with members of different faiths and those who might persecute them will inform and encourage those living on modern fault lines. Oden challenges scholars and general readers alike to look anew at their intellectual heritage, and he challenges all believers to look at the African roots of their faith.

Here Thomas Oden brings together a lifetime of theory and practice to challenge and inspire the next generation of scholars and believers. *How Africa Shaped the Christian Mind* is a must-read for anyone interested in either the foundations of Christian thought or the future direction of African belief.

  
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