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An African Renaissance

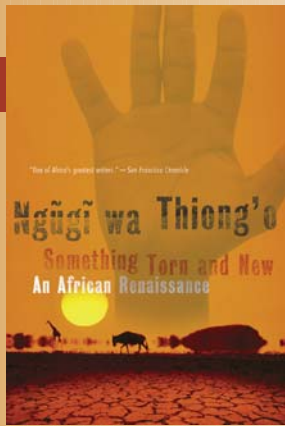
Ngugi wa Thiong'o

Essential reading for courses in African Studies, *Something Torn and New* presents an impassioned plea for the resurrection of African language and the preservation of Africa's cultural future—from one of Africa's most revered writers.

Novelist Ngugi wa Thiong'o has been a force in African literature for decades. After being imprisoned without charge by the Kenyan government in the 1970s, he gave up the English language to commit himself to writing in African languages. Since then his foremost concern has been the critical importance of language to culture. In *Something Torn and New*, Ngugi explores Africa's historical, economic, and cultural fragmentation by slavery, colonialism, and globalization. He focuses in particular on how Europhonism—the replacement of native names, languages, and identities with European ones—resulted in the loss of language throughout Africa and the dismemberment of African memory. Concluding with an optimistic call to action, Ngugi stresses the importance of Africa's cultural future and urges us all to participate in its preservation.

March 2009, 176 Pages, 978-0-465-00946-6, \$25.00, pb

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NGUGI WA THIONG'O is Distinguished Professor of English and Comparative Literature and Director of the International Center for Writing and Translation at the University of California, Irvine. His novel *Wizard of the Crow* was winner of the Nonino International Prize for Literature, one of the *Washington Post's* Favorite Books of the Year, a Finalist for the NAACP

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