

100 greatest Africans of all time

26. Ahmed Sekou Toure	Former president of Guinea who said No to General de Gaulle on the eve of independence. Great nationalist. He declared Nkrumah co-President of Guinea.
Leopold Senghor	Former president of Senegal, great writer and intellectual. His philosophy on "Negritude" has become a classic. Africa's greatest poet and scholar-statesman.
27. Wole Soyinka	Nigerian intellectual and writer. The first African Nobel laureate in literature, excelling as a playwright, poet and novelist – a vocal critic of Nigerian politics.
28. Maria Mutola	Mozambican athlete, Olympic gold medallist, World 800m champion. She is a cheerful, modest, woman dedicated to her sport and country.
29. Sam Nujoma	President of Namibia and great pan-Africanist leader. Though he is standing down in March 2005, his land reform programme is causing jitters.
30. Yaa Asantewaa	Queen of Ejisu, Ghana, who led the Asantes in war against the British in 1900. A brave anti-colonial freedom fighter.
31. Amilcar Cabral	Architect of the national liberation movement in Guinea Bissau. One of the greatest theoreticians of the African Revolution. Brutally assassinated in 1973 for his political beliefs.
32. Dedan Kimathi	Kenyan political leader who led the fight for independence from Britain. His ability to organise his people in the face of British colonialists was exemplary. He died a hero.
33. Fela Anikulapo-Kuti	Great Nigerian musician whose words have come to pass in African contemporary politics.
34. Ken Saro Wiwa	Nigerian writer and environmentalist who was executed for his beliefs. He aroused world attention to the plight of the oil-rich but poor Ogoni people.
35. Phillip Emeagwali	Nigerian scientist domiciled in the USA. A supercomputer genius, he played a major role in making the internet a reality. His work has hugely benefited the oil industry.
36. The African Woman	Africa's biggest asset. Cradle and pivot of African society. She holds it all together. She is beyond comparison, strong, resilient, full of grace and beautiful.
37. Rosa Parks	African-American and "mother of the civil rights movement".
38. Samora Machel	Liberation fighter who became first president of Mozambique. A true son of Africa whose fight for freedom transcended his country.
39. Jesse Owens	African-American sprinter who won four gold medals at the 1936 Olympics in Berlin and shamed Adolf Hitler to eat his own words about blacks.
40. Jomo Kenyatta	Kenya's first president. He was a beacon and rallying point for the country's fight for independence. The father of modern Kenya.
41. Michael Jackson	The richest, successful, controversial and most famous African-American music superstar. The king of pop.
42. Abdoulaye Wade	President of Senegal. He led the opposition for decades, running and losing four times before winning in 2000.
Yoweri Museveni	President of Uganda. He inherited a rundown country and resuscitating the economy.
43. Miriam Makeba	South African diva known as Mama Africa. The Empress of African Song.
44. Queen Nzinga	Queen of the Mbundu people of Angola. A fierce anti-colonial female leader, she fought the Portuguese to stop the slave trade in the 17 th century. At one meeting with the Portuguese governor, De Souza, there was only one chair in the room. This politically astute woman ordered one of her courtiers to become a human chair. Queen Nzinga then sat on the back of this courtier. It is reported that she never allowed the governor to gain the upper hand throughout their discussions.
45. Toussaint L'Ouverture	Haitian leader who beat the French army under Napoleon and freed the African slaves in Haiti. He was later tricked by the French, captured and taken to France where he died in prison.
46. Milton Obote	Former Ugandan president, now exiled in Zambia, considered the father of the nation.
Jay Jay Okocha	Top Nigerian footballer whose skills have mesmerised many who have seen him play.
47. Nnamdi Azikiwe	Statesman, Intellectual and Titan of African politics. First president of independent Nigeria. Popularly called 'Zik of Africa' for his pan-africanist zeal.
48. Walter Rodney	Guyanese writer and great pan-African historian. His book, <i>How Europe Underdeveloped Africa</i> , has become a must read. His life was cut short by a parcel bomb.
49. Franz Fanon	A revolutionary writer. A great pan-African activist. He touched the hearts and minds of millions across Africa and the world with his powerful books.