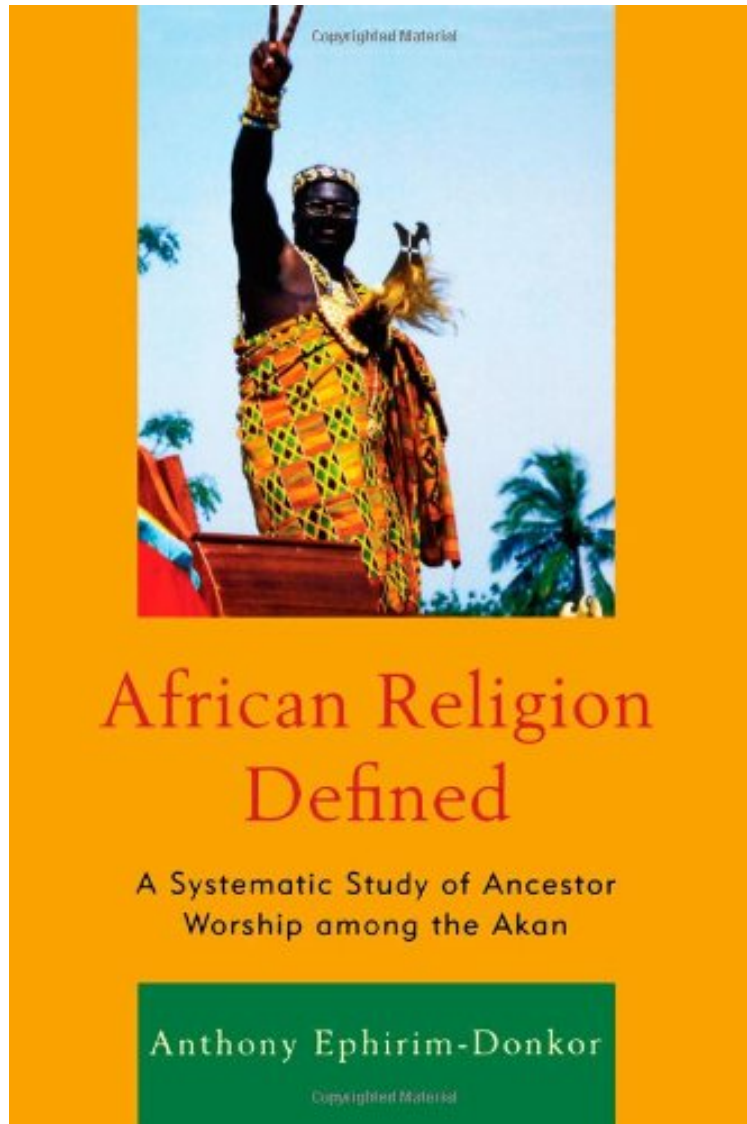


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African Religion Defined: A Systematic Study of Ancestor Worship among the Akan

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Ephirim-Donkor's third book. He is one of the African scholars, on this side of the Atlantic, who has devoted his academic work to explicating the religious reality of African people, particularly the Akan people of Ghana. As in his other two books on the Akan people of Ghana, Dr. Ephirim-Donkor demonstrates a keen insight into the religious existence of the African people. In order to know the inner workings of the people of African descent, you really have to understand the implicit and explicit religious views that shape them. The religious life of African people, undoubtedly informs their personhood as well as the ways they view and relate to the world, both visible and invisible. I particularly enjoyed the chapters on cosmology, witchcraft, and living ancestors. If you are of African descent and interested in knowing yourself, you would want to read this book. And if you are not a person of African descent but wish to explore the religious world of African people, you would find this book helpful in that pursuit. Again, Dr. Ephirim-Donkor has done us another great favor by helping us to understand our humanity, as people of African descent. Bravo, Dr. Ephirim-Donkor!

The author, a traditional king and professor, studies the Akan in Ghana to demonstrate that ancestor worship is as pragmatic, systematic, theological, teleological, soteriological - with a highly trained clerical body and elders as mediators - and symbolic as any other religion in the world.

About the Author Anthony Ephirim-Donkor is assistant professor and undergraduate director of Africana Studies at Binghamton University. He is also the author of *The Making of an African King: Patrilineal and Matrilineal Struggle Among the Effutu and African Spirituality: On Becoming Ancestors*.