

Praise for *Black Athena*

“A monumental and pathbreaking work.” —Edward Said

“*Black Athena* is a powerfully written and brilliantly researched book that relentlessly unveils the historical and cultural African origins of Western civilization. Still a must-read for all those in search of truth.”

—Ama Mazama, associate professor and director of the
graduate programs of the Department of African
American Studies, Temple University

“Martin Bernal’s *Black Athena* is nothing short of a monumental achievement in scholarship that reoriented and transformed serious study of ancient civilizations. It remains a soaring accomplishment of classical erudition of the Afroasiatic foundation of Greek history.”

—Molefi Kete Asante, author of *The History of Africa*;
professor and chair, Department of African
American Studies, Temple University

“Colossal. . . . Bernal aims to revise current understanding of Ancient Middle Eastern history by taking seriously the ancient Greeks’ legends that portrayed much in their civilization as originating in the Middle East, especially Egypt.” —*New York Times Book Review*

“[Martin Bernal] has forced scholars to reexamine the roots of Western civilization.” —*Newsweek*

“Demands to be taken seriously. . . . Every page that Bernal writes is educating and enthralling. To agree with all his thesis may be a sign of naivety, but not to have spent time in his company is a sign of nothing at all.” —*Times Literary Supplement*

“In a spectacular undertaking, Martin Bernal sets out to . . . restore the credibility of what he calls the Ancient Model of the beginnings of Greek civilizations. . . . Bernal makes an exotic interloper in Classical studies. He comes to them with two outstanding

gifts: a remarkable flair for the sociology—perhaps one should say politics—of knowledge, and a formidable linguistic proficiency. . . . The story told by Bernal, with many fascinating twists and turns and quite a few entertaining digressions, is . . . a critical inquiry into a large part of the European imagination . . . a retrospect of ingenious and often sardonic erudition.”

—Perry Anderson, *The Guardian*

“A work which has much to offer the lay reader, and its multidisciplinary sweep is refreshing: it is an important contribution to historiography and the sociology of knowledge, written with elegance, wit, and self-awareness . . . a thrilling journey . . . his account is as gripping a tale of scholarly detection and discovery as one could hope to find.”

—Margaret Drabble, *The Observer*

“Bernal’s material is fascinating, his mind is sharp, and his analyses convince.”

—Richard Jenkyns,
Times Higher Educational Supplement

“A formidable work of intellectual history, one that demonstrates that the politics of knowledge is never far from national politics.”

—*Christian Science Monitor*

“An astonishing work, breathtakingly bold in conception and passionately written . . . salutary, exciting, and, in its historiographical aspects, convincing.”

—G. W. Bowersock,
Journal of Interdisciplinary History

“Bernal’s work and the stir it has occasioned have caused ancient historians and archaeologists to undertake a major reexamination of methods and motives.”

—Robert L. Pounder,
American Historical Review

“His book should be welcome to both classicists and ancient historians, most of whom will, now at least, be inclined to agree with him.”

—R. A. McNeal, Franklin and Marshall College

"[Bernal's] multifaceted assault on academic complacency is an important contribution to the development of a more open, historical, and culturally oriented post-processual archaeology."

—*Current Anthropology*

"A breathtaking panoply of archaeological artifacts, texts, and myths."

—*Toronto Star*

"Bernal's enterprise—his attack on the Aryan model and his promotion of a new paradigm—will profoundly mark the next century's perception of the origins of Greek civilization and the role of Ancient Egypt."

—*Transition*

"Challenges the racism implicit in the recent 'cultural literacy' movement."

—*Socialist Review*

"Martin Bernal has managed to make the subject of Ancient Greece both popular and controversial."

—*Baltimore Sun*

"A serious work that deals in a serious way with many of the principal issues of Aegean history in the second millennium BC, and one can ask little more of any historical work."

—*Classic Philology*

OTHER VOLUMES BY MARTIN BERNAL

BLACK ATHENA

The Afroasiatic Roots of Classical Civilization

VOLUME I

The Fabrication of Ancient Greece, 1785–1985

BLACK ATHENA

The Afroasiatic Roots of Classical Civilization

VOLUME III

The Linguistic Evidence

Black Athena

Black Athena

The Afroasiatic Roots of Classical Civilization

VOLUME II

The Archaeological and Documentary Evidence

Martin Bernal



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as a champion of modified diffusionism*

