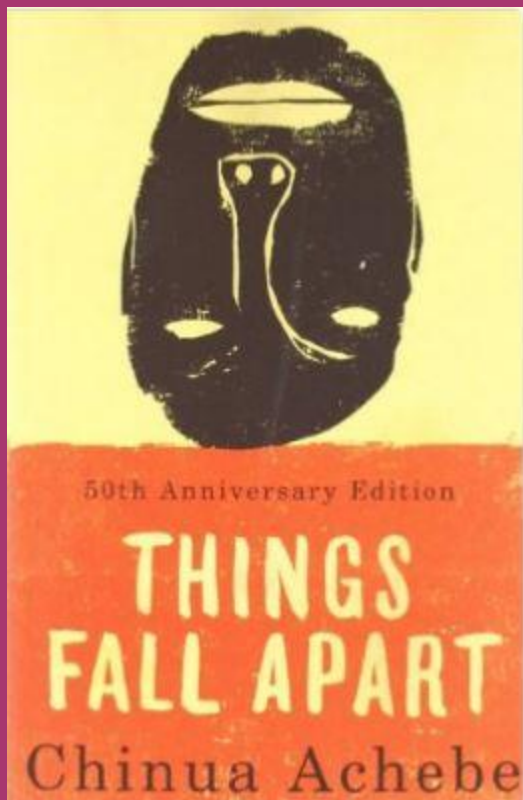


Things Fall Apart—the first volume of Chinua Achebe’s masterpiece The African Trilogy—tells two intertwining stories,



both centering on Okonkwo, a “strong man” of an Igbo village in Nigeria. The first, a powerful fable of the immemorial conflict between the individual and society, traces Okonkwo’s fall from grace in his world. The second, as modern as the first is ancient, concerns the clash of cultures and the destruction of that world when European missionaries arrive in his village.

Now with more than twenty million copies in print and translated into fifty-seven languages, Things Fall Apart forms one of the most illuminating and permanent

monuments we have to the modern African experience as seen from within. Achebe does not merely capture life in an African village before the arrival of colonialism, he conveys the tragedy of the loss of that world while broadening our understanding of our own.