

# BOOKS THAT CHANGED THE WORLD

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# Plan of work

## 1) Introduction

A) Definition of a book?

B) why people write books?

C) The first book ever written?

## 2) List of books.

- Book analysis.

- How each book contributed to change the world.

# Introduction

- A book is a collection of sheets of paper, parchment or other material with a piece of text written on them, bound together along one edge within covers. Each side of a sheet is called a page and a single sheet within a book may be called a leaf.

# The first book in the world

- In November 1984, 136 kilometers south of Cairo, a young Egyptian archaeologist discovered what may well be the oldest book in the world.
- Dating back to the second half of the 4th century, it was found in the tomb of an 11-year-old girl, placed underneath her head. Hailed as the earliest complete book of Psalms ever found, it was hand-written in a dialect once used by Egypt's first Christians Coptic Oxyrhynchus in Greek letters.

# Why people write books?

- People write as a source of pleasure, passing a message, save history, frustration, influence change.
- Books reveals the inner thoughts and creativity of a person, keep them ever exiting and acts as a source of reference.

# John Stuart Mill, *On Liberty*, (1859)

- *Advocated Utilitarianism in ethics, i.e., the view that we should each act so as to promote the greatest happiness for the greatest number of people.*
- *He talked on "**the tyranny of the majority**"*
- *The danger is that the majority denies liberty to individuals, whether explicitly through laws, which he calls "acts of public authority," or more subtly through morals and social pressure, which he calls "collective opinion."*
- This book is a key liberal work in proclaiming the rights of an individual. It established the Harm Principle - people can do anything they like as long as it does not harm others.

# The Rights of Man – Thomas Paine (1791)

- Human rights originate in Nature, thus, rights cannot be granted via political charter.
- Rights are inherently in all the inhabitants; but charters, by annulling those rights, in the majority, leave the right, by exclusion, in the hands of a few . . . They . . . consequently are instruments of injustice.
- democracy is incompatible with primogeniture
- The sole purpose of the government is to protect the irrefutable rights inherent to every human being. Thus all institutions which do not benefit a nation are illegitimate, including the monarchy (and the nobility) and the military establishment.

Paine, an English writer, influenced American Democracy and Democracy in general with his writings.

# Uncle Tom's Cabin by Harriet Beecher Stowe, (1852)

- This novel pointed out the horrible treatments and discrimination given to the black race in America. It also pointed out the role the church play in encouraging discrimination, slavery and also tried to point out the equality between blacks and whites in front of God. Uncle Tom tried to put forward the dangers if the blacks try to revolt.
- This anti-slavery novel had a profound effect on attitudes toward African Americans and slavery in the United States. It played a role in the build-up to the American Civil War and heavily influenced public opinion in Northern states.



# The Canterbury Tales Geoffrey Chaucer, the Canterbury Tales, (circa 14th century)

- Popularise the use of vernacular English as the dominant language in English literature (rather than Latin or French commonly used at the time) –
- the Canterbury Tales set the standard for future works of English literature
- Without Geoffrey, you'd be reading this in Latin.

# Communist Manifesto – Karl Marx and Friedrich Engels (1848)

- The *Manifesto* suggested a course of action for a proletarian revolution to overthrow the bourgeois society and abolish private property, in the belief that this would lead to a classless and stateless society.
- The manifesto urged the working classes to overthrow its rulers and establish a classless society without private property. The Russian Revolution turned his theory into reality and the world was never the same again.

# The first rule book of the football association, 1863

- The first game ever played under the rules took place on 9 January 1863 at Battersea Park in south-west London. The Football Association's book regulated the game in and around London but in the provinces clubs continued to follow their local rules for some time.
- This book set out the blueprint for what has become the most famous sport in the world.

# Mary Wollstonecraft, a Vindication of the Rights of Woman, 1792

- In the first great piece of feminist writing, Wollstonecraft sought to trade "soft" descriptions of women that denoted weakness, such as "susceptibility of heart" and "delicacy of sentiment" for strength. She argued intellect would always rule.
- This book led to the change of the perception on women and women could start holding administrative posts inasmuch as they could have the aptitude and ability.

# Sigmund Freud, The Interpretation of Dream, (1899/1900)

- Elucidate the processes which underlie the strangeness and obscurity of dreams, and to deduce from these processes the nature of the psychic forces whose conflict or co-operation is responsible for our dreams. Every dream will reveal itself as a psychological structure, full of significance, and one which may be assigned to a specific place in the psychic activities of the waking state.
- his concept that the unconscious retains much that the conscious mind appears to have forgotten has changed and influenced the way that people think about themselves.

# The Republic, Plato, 380 BC.

- In Plato's fictional dialogues the characters of Socrates as well as various Athenians and foreigners discuss the meaning of justice and examine whether the just man is happier than the unjust man.
- Morality should not be an aim to achieve something.
- By constructing an imaginary city ruled by philosopher-kings.
- Why it changed the world: Plato's contrast between the imperfect world of mortals and the perfect forms of immortal souls had a great deal of influence over Christianity and Islam and Western philosophy in general.

# Marie Stopes, Married Love, 1918

- Marie Stopes wrote a sex manual for women after consulting medical books which led her to realize she was a virgin despite being married a year (her husband was impotent). The first book to suggest that women should enjoy sex as much as men, it was fiercely opposed by doctors, the press and the Church.
- Women could carry their husbands to court/social institutions or even divorce when they could not enjoy their matrimonial **fruit**.

# Magna Carta, John of England 1215

- After the Norman conquest of England in 1066 and advances in the 12th century
- he first assured the liberties of the English Church, land tenures were secure, modified the administration of royal justice, provisions for merchants, townspeople, and others.
- Constitutional law today in the English speaking world.
- influenced the development of the common law and many constitutional documents, including the United States Constitution.



# Questions for discussion

1. Had these books changed Cameroon?
2. Can books change the way of Cameroon?
3. Which type of books can change Cameroon?
4. Why are there not many Cameroonian books that have contributed to change the world?
5. Why did these individuals write to change the world?