Why a Study Group?
There has been an intentional effort over the last 300 years to not only strip us of all knowledge of who we are but also to remove the desire to know who we are. Our history has been kept from us and what little has gotten through to us has been changed. Much of the accomplishments of our Ancestors has been claimed by other people and taught to us as their history. After all, people who don’t know their history make excellent slaves, regardless of the type of slavery or the time period (18th century or 21st century). Many people of Afrikan descent in America (the Ausa people, Afrikans from the United States of America) have realized that they don’t know as much about their history as they’d like to know or need to know. They are beginning to understand that not only have they been misled but that they are Afrikan people with a history that starts thousands of years before our savage kidnapping and enslavement in the Hells of North and South America. Various aspects of our history have been well documented by scholars of Afrikan descent--who tell our story from our point of view. This method of telling our story from our point of view has been called Afrikancentrism.
Studying with other people helps learning. Discussions can point out aspects of the material that you didn’t consider. The repetition of good analysis helps in the retention of information.

**Why Afrikancentered?**

All people see the world from a centered position that takes into account their particular history and culture (whether they know it or not). Ideally, there is tolerance and even understanding of other cultures and worldviews, but recognition of and adherence to one’s own worldview is of paramount importance. Almost all people who see themselves as white or European have a worldview that is frequently called Western civilization. They have attempted to universalize their worldview to the exclusion and detriment of others.

As we learn our identity, we need to do it in a positive manner that reflects who we are. Afrikancentrism is the most promising and profound threat to white supremacy in the last two hundred years. The latest incarnation of this philosophy hit the world by surprise. It was not new, but this version had been born of the college rebellions of the 1960’s stimulated by the curiosity of young scholars in the, then new, Black studies programs, and brought to maturity by dozens of study groups all over the world. It was nurtured and guided by the tireless research of several generations of scholars, most recently led by Dr. John Henrik Clarke, Dr. Josef ben-Jochannon, Dr. George G.M. James, Dr. Cheikh Anta Diop, Dr.Chancellor Williams, Professor John G. Jackson, and Professor William Leo Hansberry, among others.

**What has been Western Culture’s response to AfrikanCentrism?**

There have been many individual attacks on Afrikan Centered scholars attempting to discredit their scholarship. This has failed. Other attacks attempted to identify and boost Black supporters of white supremacy, especially in academia. These individuals were spread out all over the world but several of the most celebrated individuals were concentrated in one Ivory Tower of Gottengen-style "classical education" (see chapter four of *Black Athena*). They are called by many names, including "Black intellectuals", "Black conservatives", and "The Dream Team". Their assignments included attempts at taking the attention of Afrikan people away from the Afrikancentered, Pan-Afrikan Nationalist “upstarts”. Although several of these "intellectuals" may be misguided individuals with good intent, many are said to be obnoxiously dogmatic and have adapted well to the role of "attack dog" or "sheep dog". They are playing a long term game in which they plan to eventually capture the minds of the masses of Afrikan people. They constitute a chess move designed to have a replacement ready when (if) Afrikancentrism has been discredited.

The current attack is at least two-pronged. In the first prong, charismatic individuals of Afrikan origin have been pressed into traitorous service against their people. In the true spirit of "divide and conquer", they travel throughout the country and exploit and capitalize on the paranoia in the Afrikan community. They widen preexisting gulfs in our community and actually create new divisions among Afrikan people. They use their charisma in the service of white supremacy against the interests of Afrikan people and spread propaganda designed to heighten mistrust and paranoia.

The second part of the current attack is to give attention and credibility to crackpots, pseudo-scholars, and misinformed people and allow them to represent the Afrikancentered movement. Some of the ridiculous claims made by many of these individuals are publicized, thus "turning off" many Afrikans who would otherwise been interested in learning more about themselves and their situations. This occasionally places serious Afrikancentered scholars in a bad light when they are mentioned in the
same breath with some of these crackpots. Unfortunately, many of these crackpots are not simply misguided people with a "different" way of seeing things. Many have their own agendas and use ("pimp") our history and culture in order to achieve these agendas. They frequently ask their audiences to "believe" rather than to "know" and offer fantastic sounding "facts" as proof. They frequently prey on students and youth. They attempt to control our thinking, our labor and our money and, ultimately, because of the divisions that they create, they work in the service of white supremacy.

As a result of these two attacks, the Afusa public is being bombarded with many voices. This is like the biblical story of the Tower of Babel, except that much of the information that the Afusa community is exposed to is mere babble. The result, if these attacks are successful, is that the true scholars who have a great deal of information to offer our people are ignored. This is not an accident and we must not allow it to happen.

Who Needs Afrikan centered Study Groups?
All persons of Afrikan origin need them, regardless of nationality (American, Brazilian, Afrikan, Indian, Caribbean, British, etc.), religion (Traditional, Christian, Muslim, Hebrew, Buddhist, Hindu, etc.) or language.

How to Organize and Continue a Study Group?
1. Start with a small group if possible (less than twenty people).
2. Cultivate a strong central leadership without someone dominating discussion and decision-making.
3. Select a regular meeting place (preferably not someone's home).
4. Create regular rituals and formal activities during meetings.
5. Establish the seriousness of study and distinguish the group from discussion or rap group (may designate a time during the meeting for other discussion).
6. Start on time and end on time.
7. Institutionalize the existence of the group. If only two people come, have the session. People will come to know that someone will be having study group no matter what.
8. Try to arrange child-care so that children will not be distractions.
9. Use various means to study subjects, e.g. books, articles, slide and overhead presentations, lectures, films, documentaries, audio tapes, seminars, and trips (e.g., museums and conferences).
10. Everyone should lead the discussion at some time.
11. Consider affiliation with a national organization such as the Association for the Study of Classical African Civilizations (ASCAC) which is an international umbrella of study groups.

What to Study?
The group should start with general discussions of the history and culture of Afrika, starting with and intentionally concentrating on its classical civilization, Kemet (Ancient Egypt). The history and culture of the Diaspora and the history and culture of Europeans and Asians as they affected us is also important. Suggested books will be discussed later.

What writers and scholars are best to read first?
The name Sankofa comes from a Ghanaian adinkra symbol that literally means "Go back and fetch it". This means that in order to move forward constructively and correctly, that we must know our past and use it to frame our future.
The scholars mentioned below—both alive and dead (Ancestors) and their work, make great headway into "Our-story", the HighStory so that we can know what our past is about. Most of their names are listed below and a list of good "start-up" books is given later. The Ancestors (those who have passed away) are denoted by the letter (A) after their names and this work is dedicated to them.

Any work by any scholar on this list is worth reading. By no means do we suggest that these are the only scholars worth reading. We do believe that their works should be thoroughly understood before branching out to other writers. True knowledge of self and the resulting pride works most effectively against white supremacy and awakens the sleeping giant. The books listed are what we recommend as first books studied. These scholars are called:

THE SANKOFA UNIVERSITY
Mr. Hunter Adams, Dr. Hannibal Afrik
Dr. Na'im Akbar, Prof. Kwame Agyei Akoto
Dr. Marimba Ani /Dr. Dona Richards, Dr. Ayi Kwei Armah
Dr. Molefi Asante, Rev. Ishakamusa Barashango (A)
Dr. Mario Beatty, Dr. Josef Ben-Jochannan
Bro. Joe Benton, Dr. Edward Wilmot Blyden (A)
Mr. Anthony T. Browder, Prof. James E. Brunson
Dr. Greg Kimathi Carr, Dr. Jacob Carruthers (A)
Bro. Wayne B. Chandler, Chinweizu
Dr. John Henrik Clarke (A), Mr. Legrand Clegg, Esq.
Dr. Martin Delany (A), Dr. Cheikh Anta Diop (A)
Dr. W. E. B. DuBois (A), Dr. Franz Fanon (A)
Dr. Charles S. Finch, III, Dr. Kiau Buuseki-Fukiau
Bro. Neely Fuller, Dr. Burnett W. Gallman
Mr. William Leo Hansberry (A), Dr. Asa G. Hilliard, III (A)
Ms Drusilla Dunjee Houston (A), Baba Derrick Jackson
Dr. John G. Jackson (A), Prof. George G. M. James (A)
Dr. Linda James-Myers
Dr. Leonard Jeffries, Dr. Rosalind Jeffries
Dr. Kobi Kambon / Joseph Baldwin, Dr. Maulana Karenga
Dr. Richard King, Dr. Zak Kondo
Bro. Haki Madhubuti, Dr. Tony Martin
Dr. Charshee C. McIntyre (A), Bro. Listervelt Middleton (A)
Dr. Linda James Myers, Dr. Camille Yarborough
Dr. Kwame Nantambu / Linus A. Hoskins. Dr. Patricia Newton
Dr. Edward Nichols Dr. Wade Nobles
Dr. Theophile Obenga, Mr. Runoko Rashidi
Sir Walter Rodney (A), Mr. J. A. Rogers (A)
Dr. Adelaide Sanford, Dr. Ivan Van Sertima (A)
Dr Edward Scobie, Prof. James Small
Dr. Sterling Stuckey, Dr. Oba T'Shaka
Dr. Anderson Thompson, Dr. James Turner
Dr. Valethia Watkins-Beatty, Dr. Frances Cress Welsing
Dr. Chancellor Williams (A), Sir Eric Williams (A)
Bro. Larry Obadele Williams, Prof. Amos Wilson (A)
Prof. Vulindlela Wobogo, Dr. Carter G. Woodson (A)
Dr. Conrad Worrill, Dr. Bobby Wright (A)
Dr. Mwalimu Baruti


Benton, Joe, Derrick Jackson, Burnett Gallman (1998): *Project Sankofa: A Rites of Passage Program: Philosophy, Theory, and Overview*. Our Community Organization, Columbia, SC *Good practical information that will be especially useful to those who work with youth. Contains tried and true methods.*


Carruthers, Jacob H. (1984): *Essays in Ancient Egyptian Studies*. University of Sankore Press, Los Angeles *This is a “must-read” for anyone interested in the history, culture and philosophy of ancient Egypt.*

Carruthers, Jacob H. (1985): *The Irritated Genie: An Essay on the Haitian Revolution*. The Kemetic Institute, Chicago *Excellent analysis of the forces and personalities at work in the Northern Hemispheres first Black Republic that defeated the Imperial forces of France and Britain.*


Hilliard, Asa G. III, Larry Williams, and Nia Damali (1987): The Teachings of Ptahhotep: The Oldest Book in the World. Blackwood Press and Company, Atlanta *One of the wisdom books of Kemet that beautifully provides advice on relationships. It is perfect for all ages and will stimulate profound discussions. Must read.

Hilliard, Asa G.: The Maroon Within Us: Selected Essays on African American Community Socialization. Black Classic Press, P.O. Box 13414, Baltimore, MD 21203 *Excellent essays that put the process of socialization into an appropriate perspective.


Jackson, John G (1970): Introduction to Black Civilizations. The Citadel Press, Secausus, NJ *Very important book by a very important scholar. Not only a “must-read” but should be the 1st or 2nd or 3rd book read.


Obenga, Theophile (1992): Ancient Egypt and Black Africa: A Student’s Handbook For the Study of Ancient Egypt In Philosophy, Linguistics, & Gender Relations. Karnak House, Chicago *Enlightening information about ancient Egypt by Diop’s student and one of the world’s leading living Egypt experts.


Welsing, Frances Cress (1991): *The Isis Papers: The Keys to the Colors*. Third World Press, 7524 South Cottage Grove Avenue, Chicago, IL, 60619 *Very important top ten “must read”.

Williams, Chancellor (1976): *The Destruction of Black Civilization: Great Issues of a Race From 4500 B.C. to 2000 A.D*. Third World Press, Chicago *One of the greatest and most important books written in the 20th century. It is timeless and provides a historical analysis of the plight of Afrikan people as well as realistic suggestions on how to remedy our situation. It is a top three “must-read”.


Woodson, Carter G. (1933): *The Mis-Education of the Negro*. The Associated Publishers, Washington, D.C. *A classic book that is as truthful and revealing today as it was when it was written. It is a top ten “must-read”.

*It is important to realize that this doesn’t even scratch the surface of fulfilling the edict, “Man, Know Thyself”. It is a start, however. It is equally important that real attempts be made to stem the anger and impatience that will occur as one starts on the road to self-discovery. Those emotions are probably inevitable and should be anticipated so that they can be dealt with appropriately. The following books are excellent and very important but are not first line reads. These should be read after the above books are read and digested. The Books that are especially important are marked with a *. Both these lists will be constantly revised.*

*Akbar, Na'im (1984): *Chains and Images of Psychological Slavery. New Mind Productions, PO Box 5185, Jersey City, NJ 07305


Karenga, Maulana (Editor) (1990): Reconstructing Kemetic Culture: Papers, Perspectives, Projects. University of Sankore Press, Los Angeles


Wright, Bobby: The Psychopathic Racial Personality and Other Essays. Third World Press
There are some writers of Non-Afrikan Ancestry who have written works of importance to Afrikan people. This list is not exhaustive, but is a good start. It covers a broad but important range of topics.


Bradley, Michael: *Chosen People From the Caucasus*

Budge, E.A.Wallis: Has written several excellent books about Kemet (ancient Egypt. Must bear in mind his era and orientation.

Davidson, Basil: Has done good work on Afrika.

Davies, David (1973): *The Last of the Tasmanians*. Frederick Muller, Ltd., London

de Lubicz, Schwaller: He and his wife, Ischa, have done excellent and insightful work on Kemet.


Ginzburg, Ralph (1988): *100 Years of Lynchings*. Black Classic Press, P.O. Box 13414, Baltimore, MD 21203


*NOTE: Has been republished under the title*, *The Bible Myth: The African Origin of the Jewish People.*


Kuhn, Alvin Boyd (1941): Who Is This King Of Glory? Academy Press, 213 W. Jersey Street, Elizabeth, NJ


NOTE: His other works, Book of Beginnings and Natural Genesis are also excellent.


Volney, Count: The Ruins of Empires
NOTE: Excellent book by this 19th century European who saw Kemet before the European Egyptologists.


West, John Anthony: Serpent in the Sky