

FROM MAGIC SURREALISM TO SOCIAL REALISM: A RE-READING

NGUGI WA THIONGO'S *WIZARD OF THE CROW*

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ABSTRACT

The African continent has been a continent with a chequered history and unpleasant experiences; a continent that has endured several pains and injustices from other continents which have exerted a greater influence in her shaping and making, especially her present physiognomy on the world scene. First is her experience with slavery that robbed her of great men and women of enviable skills and manpower. Again, is colonialism that destroyed her culture and left her in pains of humiliation and perpetual search for what is left behind that will guide her in the perfect direction and sooth her wounds forever. Problems of leadership, poverty, neo-colonialism, dictatorship, corruption, ethnic rivalry and all sorts of afflictions characterize the map and identification of the continent and though unarguably one of the richest continents in the world, Africa still remains undeveloped and poor when compared with the rest of the world. In congruence with this, Africa writers across the globe have taken it upon themselves the laborious task of addressing several nuances of injustices and past errors in their creative works. Ngugi Wa Thiong'o is a household name in literature. He is best known for his revolutionary writings and literature of resistance which has in no small measures affected greatly and impacted positively too, the political situation of his country. In his novel, *Wizard of the Crow*, we witness a radical departure from the common themes and problems of his Kenyan society to a rather seismic shift to incorporate on a larger scale the problems of his African continent in all her miasma of corruption and socio-political decay. Ngugi in his ever radical and revolutionary pose typified the seemingly way forward for the continent in the manner of resistive and eruptive struggle from all classes of societies and nations in Africa. This paper studied his over novel, *Wizard of the Crow*. The study critically examined and highlighted the significant import of Ngugi's ideas and radial viewpoints in his quest as a patriotic writer to save and one day end the battle for the soul of the African continent in the hand of cabals, perverted and beastly dictators and neo-colonial imperialists.

KEYWORDS: Magic Surrealism, Realism, Economic Collapse, Social Decay, Depression, Gateway