

# Black American perceptions of Black Africans

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Black Americans, like other ethnic entities in the US are believed to have a special connection with their ancestral homeland. The evidence for this characterization can be seen in black Americans referring to themselves as African American, and in African cultural survivals in the US (Nobles, 1981; Sudarkasa, 1981). Nevertheless, the little quantitative evidence available provides contradictory information on black American affiliative ties with Africans. Case studies indicate a tenuous relationship between black Americans and Africans. For example, Isaacs (1963) found that prominent black Americans were ashamed of their ancestral homeland and had no basis to establish close ties with Africa. Other investigators found that black students had no special interest in Africa or African affairs (Reid, 1972; Davis et al., 1961; U.S. Advisory Commission on International and Cultural Affairs, 1966).

Studies using small or nonrepresentative samples indicate a close and/or a special connection between blacks in Africa and in the US: Laosebikan (1972) found that among black Americans positive attitudes toward Africans ranked second out of thirty ethnic groups surveyed. Krystall and associates (1970) described black students as having intense positive feelings towards Africa, although middle class respondents' views were tempered by a concern with how those feelings might hamper their entering the mainstream. In a study of fifty black and African students, Moikobu (1981) described individuals who felt it was important to identify with Africans, who said they had much in common with Africans and who wished to study or live in Africa if the opportunity arose. A survey of black American interest in South Africa revealed that blacks had a greater interest in Africa-South Africa than did any other ethnic group (Baker et al., 1979; Fierce, 1982).

As the above literature review indicates, black American affinity with Africa may be portrayed as a mixture of pride and prejudice. However, conclusions drawn from this research are circumscribed by evidence obtained through case studies, nonrepresentative samples and student populations. Beyond anecdotal evidence there is little known of the attitudes toward Africa of the great majority of black Americans. The extent of that bond with Africans thus remains open to question.

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# Black Perceptions

**Ying Liu**



## **Black Perceptions:**

## Decoding **Black Perceptions**: Revealing the Captivating Potential of Verbal Expression

In an era characterized by interconnectedness and an insatiable thirst for knowledge, the captivating potential of verbal expression has emerged as a formidable force. Its power to evoke sentiments, stimulate introspection, and incite profound transformations is genuinely awe-inspiring. Within the pages of "**Black Perceptions**," a mesmerizing literary creation penned with a celebrated wordsmith, readers set about an enlightening odyssey, unraveling the intricate significance of language and its enduring impact on our lives. In this appraisal, we shall explore the book's central themes, evaluate its distinctive writing style, and gauge its pervasive influence on the hearts and minds of its readership.

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