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## Being a truly incredible woman during Antiquity: Hatshepsut and Queen Manthatisi

Women were known to be inferior to men in the past. The rights of women were denied to them and they had to survive by obeying their men and staying behind the ruler ship of men. For a woman to rule or to make a difference in the society, makes it enough for her to be noticed, she had to go out of her way to make sure that she attracted the attention and the respect of men. It is the level of difficulty and almost impossibility that makes women who rose into power during the olden days as strong, smart and fierce (Sweetman, 1984). For these women to surpass the great numbers of men who were interested in leadership roles, they had to have a special ability and personality that regards them as great women leaders.

Hatshepsut and Queen Manthatisi are among the most notable women in David Sweetman's book on African women leaders. Hatshepsut is a strong leader and her bravery as illustrated in the book causes one to grow curious of her. Hatshepsut depicts herself as a man through statues and imagery on her request. She requests this to be done so that she can portray her ability and her strength as the leader of people (Sweetman, 1984). Hatshepsut rises to power and due to the fact that she is a woman; she is not expected to rule and reign with authority or with sufficient wisdom. It is such an aspect of her self confidence and ability that portrays her as special and interesting. Hatshepsut is thus one of the most interesting characters in David Sweetman's book.

Upon the passing of Hatshepsut's brother, she started as an official or regent for her stepson, the newborn child Thutmose III, however later, she tackled the full powers of a pharaoh, getting to be co-leader of Egypt around 1473 B.C (Sweetman, 1984). As pharaoh, Hatshepsut broadened Egyptian exchange and directed eager building ventures, most eminently the Temple of Deir el-Bahri, situated in western Thebes, where she would be covered (Sweetman, 1984). Delineated (at her own particular requests) as a male in numerous contemporary pictures and models, Hatshepsut remained largely obscure to researchers until the nineteenth century (Sweetman, 1984). It was at this point that she was realised and her name was on the lips of most researchers during the time.

Hatshepsut became a worldwide phenomenon in that researchers became more and more interested in her and her story. Interest from other researchers with the same intention of finding out more about her is the among the key motivation to regarding Hatshepsut as the ultimate woman to consider and choose from among the long list of women leaders in David Sweetman's book.

Hatshepsut was the senior of two little girls destined to Thutmose I and his ruler, Ahmes. After her dad's passing, 12-year-old Hatshepsut has to be ruler of Egypt when she wedded her stepbrother Thutmose II, the child of her dad and one of his optional wives, who acquired his dad's throne around 1492 B.C. They had one little girl, Neferure (Sweetman, 1984). Thutmose II kicked the bucket youthful, around 1479 B.C., and the throne went to his newborn child, additionally destined to an auxiliary wife. As indicated by custom, Hatshepsut started going about as Thutmose III's official, taking care of issues of state until her stepson became an adult (Sweetman, 1984). Due to her bravery and ability to rule, she took over the role of regent with

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pride and a mode of organization that makes her even more interesting to study and known more about her.

## **Queen Manthetisi**

The queen Manthetisi was one of the most feared and respected women leaders of all time. She was well known for her ability to influence men and the people in general. The queen was reported to be a tall and attractive woman. She was feared by most men and she had the capacity to demand and authoritatively order men into doing things for her. She was the perfect example of a woman-dominated society. She made sure that her enemies were well aware of her abilities and her rage and limits of mercy. She seems to be one of the most interesting people to know about in David Sweetman's book.

Her authoritative and dominant figure and aspect are some of the many features that make her interesting and could attract a researcher into finding out more about her. It is the same reason that i am interested in finding about queen Manthetisi (Sweetman, 1984). She seems to be the type of woman that would be interesting to figure out. Interests in the queen Manthetisi came from all over the world. Researchers and other groups of people created a lot of interest to known or at least get to interact with the queen.

The fact that she had conquered men in her society and that men had decided to choose a woman as their leader created even more hype and interest on the queen. Praise of her doings had spread all over the neighbouring areas. She was considered the ultimate woman and even women of her society respected and feared her as if she were a man. Her intimidation, sight of beauty and fierce authority led her to be among the most popular females of her time (Sweetman, 1984). On a personal opinion she seemed to be the among the most intimidating and interesting life stories that i would like to know more about.

The two chapters that are to be focused under the book African-American Women Confront the West will be chapter one and two. In the first chapter, the authors look to develop the view of the African-American woman. It is seen that the African woman played an important role in the development of gender and ethnicity in the historical times. It is seen when the author reveals that all the people living at a certain time define history (Taylor & Moore, 2003). They go further to highlight that of these people, half are women. Specifically, historian Elisa Brown notes that recognition of the woman playing the historic role is portrayed in relation to time, race and place. Ancestry attached to the African Woman can be dated back to initial contact with the Spanish people.

This occurred in 1598 when colonization of New Mexico was underway, and three female Negros were brought into the scene. It is worth noting that this is one of the oldest information relating to African American women that can be traced back to history. It is worth noting that these women were brought into the area to work as slaves and servants. Therefore, the first traces of African women in Spain can be equated to colonial settlers who arrived with them to aid in their house chores as servants and slaves (Taylor & Moore, 2003).

The author goes further to give the history of the first English-speaking women in this area. It is seen that the first black woman to speak English arrived in Texas from Mexico, in the post-independence period of 1821. One of the main reasons for the shift was seeking refuge in the

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United States. By mid 1800s, the number of free black women had increased significantly with the number of English speaking Texans being infiltrated by the black slaves (Taylor & Moore, 2003). It is important to note that the number of women under slavery in the West was increasing rapidly, with the exploitation of black women's abilities and sexual autonomy. Therefore, these African-American now speaking English resided in the Western states and territories. The author goes further to provide information relating to how these women infiltrated the U.S. population to become some of the most influential people in the society that are celebrated today.

On reading the chapter, one tends to have an additional question on why the first black woman to speak English was from Mexico. Most of the people in Mexico usually speak Spanish; English was rarely spoken in the native Mexico. It were expected that the first black speakers would have originated from the United States or any other English speaking nation. It is certain that chances of the first black woman originating from Mexico were very slim compared to that the woman would have come from an English speaking country.

In the second chapter, an article by Glenda Riley is critically evaluated in relation to the history of the African American women. The title of the 1988 article is "American Daughters: Black Women in the American West." In this article, it is portrayed by the author that black women that resided in the Trans-Mississippi West deserved more appreciation from historic scholars than what they received (Taylor & Moore, 2003). It is seen that being a woman of colour, these women faced significant challenges because they were at the bottom of the ladder. In the African culture, they were considered as being irrelevant, hence were to be seen and not heard. Therefore, under slavery, they fell at the bottom of the chain.

Only a few writers are seen to have had the sight to look into the role these women were playing, and how significant they worked to circumvent these situations. Through *The Negro Trail Blazers of California*, we are able to see the appreciation of the African woman from as early as the 1919. This was work that was developed by Delilah Beasley because she saw these women to hold power in the nation. Another article developed by Lawrence De Graaf in 1980 focused on the lives of black women living in the American West between the 1850 and 1920 (Taylor & Moore, 2003). It is seen from the article that black women on the West had differing experiences from their white counterparts. Therefore, the historians that had hoped for the redemption of black women in the 20th century will have to settle that their appreciation will be realized in the 21st century.

An additional question that arises on reading the chapter could be on the opinion of the author regarding African society. The author states that coloured women were irrelevant to the African society. It is such an aspect of the chapter that could make one inquire on the attitude and opinions of African women and the culture. It could not be certain that coloured women would be discriminated in the African culture but rather the outcome of their fate could vary depending on the specifics and uniqueness of the African culture.

*Making Sense of the Central African Republic* is a book written by Tatiana Carayannis and Louisa Lombard. The book talks about the struggles and the coupes of the Central African Republic. The book generally talks about the development, democracy and the oversight of Africa and it specifies mostly on the Central African Republic (Carayannis & Lombard, 2015).

In the first chapter of the book, the author's main point is to bring out the history and the

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background of the Central African Republic. The first chapter of the book talks about the under goings and the earlier events that had occurred in the Central African Republic (Carayannis & Lombard, 2015). The same chapter explains about the people of the Central African Republic and how they have a defined culture and mode of living.

The authors in the book 'Making Sense of the Central African Republic' go ahead and identify their main point by illustrating the cultures of the Central African Republic. They outline the nature and the culture of the Central African Republic by mentioning on the rising number of corruption based and unofficial agreements that are made between the government and other individual or corporate groups (Carayannis & Lombard, 2015).

In addition, in the first chapter of the book, the author gives and an account of the number of deaths and rebellions that have been undergoing. The author intends to illustrate the sufferings and the history of the Central African Republic.

Another example provided in the first chapter of the book that illustrate the author's main point of outlining the background and history of the Central African republic, is the mentioning of the countries geographical history and position in regards to other countries (Carayannis & Lombard, 2015). The authors tend to mention about the history of the Central African Republic alongside with how it has affected other countries.

Reading the chapter tends to make one think about an additional question regarding the rebellions and the war that has occurred in the Central African Republic. The government refused to take responsibility in the cause and the outcomes of the conflicts and it makes one to wonder of the source or the main reason for the conflicts. One would be inclined to investigate on full filling their curiosity for the reaction of the government even after the rebellions and conflict have stopped (Carayannis & Lombard, 2015).

In the second chapter of the book, the author concentrates on the violence and the deaths that were brought in the rebellions and conflicts. The author goes ahead and illustrates the main point by printing out at the sufferings and extra judicial killings that were reported during the conflicts. The author also mentions on the killing of youths and the raping of young women and children. Alongside this, the author also mentions on the availability of weapons that were used to carry out killings and commit violence and chaos (Carayannis & Lombard, 2015).

In the second chapter, the unimaginable explanations of the deaths of some of the community heads, raises additional questions on my part. This is because their deaths were never investigated and the government and other senior officials or individuals did not put in any sufficient or genuine effort to carry out any investigations on the unnecessary killings of community leaders and youths of the society.

The pre twentieth century women leaders are essential to be identified and known. Most of these women were strong in their own accord. Since women were rebuked in the past, rising to power or making a significance difference in the community was a major challenge to the women. Thus, it is important to known about these women because they represent the rise of women to power and the knowledge acquired could be utilised for personal wisdom in the current world They also represent the strength and courage that women posses even after appearing to be weak and naïve (Sweetman, 1984).

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It is important to study African American women in order to appreciate their involvement in the development of African American history. Women of the American west were faced by problems and challenges such as being oppressed and unjustly tortured and forced to work against their will. These women proved to be very strong and consistent in their survival through their strength and perseverance. Their husbands were weak as they could not redeem their women from the hands of the white man and thus the courage of the women had to come into play in order to keep them strong and with the will to move forward.

These women were governed by slavery and their families lived their life in the past while serving the white man. These women were oppressed and their lives dealt along serving and obeying every command of the white man. Even after these challenges, these women still went ahead, served their husbands, and took great care of their children (Sweetman, 1984). This cat showed strength and leadership qualities in them. Thus, it is important to know and study these women for appreciating their effort and their challenges and how they conquered these challenges.

It is important to know and study about the Central African Republic for the reasons of appreciating all the lives lost in the search for democracy and freedom. Rebellions and conflicts that occurred in the Central African Republic outline the struggles and the bloodshed by Africans in the efforts to fight tyranny and forceful governance.

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