

46-1318 PL8010 MARC

Goff, Barbara. *Crossroads in the black Aegean: Oedipus, Antigone, and dramas of the African diaspora*, by Barbara Goff and Michael Simpson. Oxford, 2008, (c2007). 401p bibl index afp ISBN [9780199217182](#), \$130.00

Exploring African adaptations of Greek tragedy, Goff (Univ. of Reading, UK) and Simpson (Goldsmiths, Univ. of London, UK) read plays and epic poems by Ola Rotimi (*The Gods Are Not to Blame*), Rita Dove (*The Darker Face of the Earth*), Lee Breuer and Bob Telson (*The Gospel at Colonus*), Kamau Brathwaite (*Odale's Choice*), Derek Walcott ("Omeros"), Athol Fugard, John Kani, and Winston Ntshona (*The Island*), and Femi Osofisan (*Tegonni: An African Antigone*) against Sophocles' Theban cycle. Detailed critical analyses, buoyed by sturdy theoretical apparatus, seek to uncover how works "engage with the European canon, even as they also cultivate more indigenous traditions." Prisms of reception studies, creolization, and meta-theatricality enhance close readings of productions. One finds subtle, convincing formulations throughout, as in this: "... African-Americans are both makers of the country and its victims, and their performance traditions are thus those of 'the other' as well as of 'the self.'" As if to extend Martin Bernal's concept of a "Black Athena" (*Black Athena: The Afroasiatic Roots of Classical Civilization*, 1997-2006) in vibrant postcolonial formation, Goff and Simpson successfully (albeit in elevated scholarly language) describe a black Aegean, a "zone of cultural transmission among Africa and the diaspora, ancient Greece, and contemporary Europe." **Summing Up:** Recommended. Graduate students, researchers, faculty.

--T. F. DeFrantz, Massachusetts Institute of Technology

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