

**Decolonizing The Mind (DTM)  
a theoretical framework  
Part 5 – Africa as the cradle of European  
civilization**

**Sandew Hira**



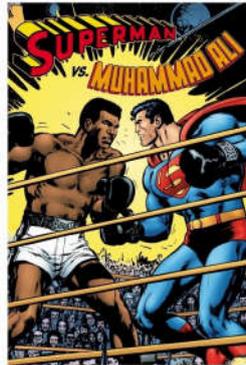
International Institute for Scientific Research

**Shocking discovery of Mary Lefkowitz**

*“Although I had been completely unaware of it, there was in existence a whole literature that denied that the ancient Greeks were the inventors of democracy, philosophy, and science. There were books in circulation that claimed that Socrates and Cleopatra were of African descent, and that Greek philosophy had actually been stolen from Egypt. Not only were these books being read and widely distributed; some of these ideas were being taught in schools and even in universities.” (p. xi)*

Welcome in the 21<sup>st</sup> century!

**EUROCENTRISME EN AFROCENTRISME  
SANDEW HIRA EN DJEHUTI-ANKH-KHERU  
VERSUS  
GERARD BOTER EN JAAP-JAN FLINTERMAN**  
ZATERDAG 27 JUNI VAN 12.00-15.00 UUR  
VRIJ DRIPSCHRIJF: BALLELAAN 110D, 1062 XY AMSTERDAM



Emma-Lee Aponsah

**Herodotos - 1**

- *“Egyptians, who surpassed all other nations in wisdom” (p. 478)*
- *“The Egyptians were the first to discover the solar year, and to portion out its course into twelve parts. They obtained this knowledge from the stars. (To my mind they contrive their year much more cleverly than the Greeks, for these last every other year intercalate a whole month, but the Egyptians, dividing the year into twelve months of thirty days each, add every year a space of five days besides, whereby the circuit of the seasons is made to return with uniformity).” (p. 324)*
- *“The worship of Bacchus through knowledge derived from Egypt, [was] introduced it into Greece, with a few slight changes, at the same time that he brought in various other practices.” (p. 370)*

**Herodotos - 2**

- *“Almost all the names of the gods came into Greece from Egypt. My inquiries prove that they were all derived from a foreign source, and my opinion is that Egypt furnished the greater number.” p. 371*
- *“Horus, the son of Osiris, [is] called by the Greeks Apollo. He deposed Typhon, and ruled over Egypt as its last god-king. Osiris is named Dionysus (Bacchus) by the Greeks.” (p. 470)*
- *“The following tale is commonly told in Egypt concerning the oracle of Dodona in Greece, and that of Ammon in Libya. My informants on the point were the priests of Jupiter at Thebes. They said “that two of the sacred women were once carried off from Thebes by the Phoenicians, and that the story went that one of them was sold into Libya, and the other into Greece, and these women were the first founders of the oracles in the two countries.... Lastly, by calling the dove black the Dodonaeans indicated that the woman was an Egyptian.” (p. 375, 378)*

**Herodotos - 3**

- *“The Egyptians were also the first to introduce solemn assemblies, processions, and litanies to the gods; of all which the Greeks were taught the use by them. It seems to me a sufficient proof of this that in Egypt these practices have been established from remote antiquity, while in Greece they are only recently known.” p. 379*
- *“From this practice [the distribution of land], I think, geometry first came to be known in Egypt, whence it passed into Greece.” (p. 430)*

## Herodotos - 4

- "They were also the first to broach the opinion that the soul of man is immortal and that, when the body dies, it enters into the form of an animal which is born at the moment, thence passing on from one animal into another, until it has circled through the forms of all the creatures which tenant the earth, the water, and the air, after which it enters again into a human frame, and is born anew. The whole period of the transmigration is (they say) three thousand years. There are Greek writers, some of an earlier, some of a later date, who have borrowed this doctrine from the Egyptians, and put it forward as their own. I could mention their names, but I abstain from doing so." (p. 449).
- "Both the shield and the helmet came into Greece from Egypt." (p. 857)

## Socrates: Egypt – inventor of science

*"At the Egyptian city of Naucratis, there was a famous old god, whose name was Theuth; and he was the inventor of many arts, such as arithmetic and calculation and geometry and astronomy and draughts and dice, but his great discovery was the use of letters."*

Plato (n.d.); Phaedrus.  
Translated by Benjamin Jowett, p. 51.

## Plato: Egypt as model for art education

*"Long ago they appear to have recognized the very principle of which we are now speaking—that their young citizens must be habituated to forms and strains of virtue. These they fixed, and exhibited the patterns of them in their temples; and no painter or artist is allowed to innovate upon them, or to leave the traditional forms and invent new ones. To this day, no alteration is allowed either in these arts, or in music at all. And you will find that their works of art are painted or moulded in the same forms which they had ten thousand years ago; this is literally true and no exaggeration."*

Plato (360 BCE): Statesman. translated by Benjamin Jowett, p. 23).

## Aristoteles Egypte founder of astronomy and math

*"Similar accounts of other stars are given by the Egyptians and Babylonians, whose observations have been kept for very many years past, and from whom much of our evidence about particular stars is derived."*

Aristotle (350 BCE): On the Heavens. Translated by J. L. Stocks, p. 32.  
*"For this we must not only accept the authority of the Egyptians who assert it, but we have ourselves observed the fact. Besides, the Egyptians affirm that conjunctions of the planets with one another, and with the fixed stars, take place, and we have ourselves observed Jupiter coinciding with one of the stars in the Twins and hiding it, and yet no comet was formed."*

Aristotle (350 BC): Meteorology. Translated by E. W. Webster, p. 5.  
*"The mathematical arts were founded in Egypt"* Aristotle (350 BC): Metaphysics. <http://pinkmonkey.com/dl/library1/gp010.pdf>. Accessed June 22 2015. translated by W. D. Ross, p. 2.

## The Greek went to study in Egypt

- Pythagoras – mathematician
- Democritus – physicist



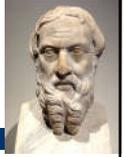
## Phytagoras

- Iamblichus (245-325): Life of Pythagoras
- Pythagoras: at the age of 18 went to study in Egypt, returned after 22 years
- *"He confessed that his own reputation for wisdom, was derived from the instructions of these priests... But endeavoured to introduce the symbolical code of teaching, in a way perfectly similar to the documents by which he had been instructed in Egypt."*

## What to do with the Greek evidence?



## 1: Herodotos is a liar



Lefkowitz: "His ideas about the relationship of Greece to Egypt are speculative, and often misleading. Apparently he was so impressed by the antiquity and complexity of Egyptian culture that he wanted to establish connections with Greek customs wherever he could." (p. 62)

Herodotos: "Thus far I have spoken of Egypt from my own observation, relating what I myself saw, the ideas that I formed, and the results of my own researches. What follows rests on the accounts given me by the Egyptians, which shall now repeat, adding thereto some particulars which fell under by own notice." (p. 420)

## 2: Herodotos was not a Greek!



Lefkowitz: "Although few Greeks were able to travel there at the time because the country was occupied by their enemies, the Persians, Herodotus was, technically a Persian subject. He visited Egypt sometime before 430 B.C." p. 62.

## 3: a new framing

Lefkowitz: "Herodotus thought that the Greeks might have been influenced by Egyptian culture because the civilization of Egypt was more ancient than that of Greece. In logic, this type of argument is called *post hoc ergo propter hoc*, 'after which means on account of which.' He does not seem to have reasoned that cultural exchange almost always works in both directions." p. 65.

## 4: You might study, but that does not mean that you have learned something



- Lefkowitz on what African priests told Diodorus: "they knew from accounts in their sacred books that the Greek wise men Orpheus, Musaeus, Melampus, Daedalus, the poet Homer, the Spartan lawgiver Lycurgus, the Athenian lawgiver Solon, the philosopher Plato, Pythagoras, the mathematician Eudoxus, Democritus, and Oenopides had all come to their country. The priests showed Diodorus statues of these men, and buildings or places that were named for them. They brought exhibits of the course of study attempted by each man, and stated that 'everything for which they were admired by the Greeks was brought from Egypt.'" (p. 72-73).
- Lefkowitz: "Evidently he followed Herodotus's example in imagining that any similarity was proof of direct connection, rather than a sign of indirect influence, or simply a coincidental occurrence. Like Herodotus, he seems eager to discover correspondences, with such zeal that he takes the most superficial similarities as a sign of borrowing." (p. 72-73)

## 5: If it is not in the newspaper, then it did not happen

The hieroglyphs did not confirm the story: "On the basis of these new discoveries, European scholars realized that they could no longer take at face value what Herodotus, Diodorus; and the church fathers had to say about Greece's debt to Egypt. Once it was possible to read Egyptian religious documents, and to see how the Egyptians themselves described their gods and told their myths, scholars could see that the ancient Greeks' accounts of Egyptian religion were superficial, and even misleading." Lefkowitz, M. (1996): Not out of Africa. How Afrocentrism Became an Excuse to Teach Myth as History. Basic Books. New York, p. 58.

## 6. Egypt is not in Africa but in Asia (the orient)



## Traffic in the Mediterranean: the multicultural societies of Greece



Lefkowitz: "The Greeks and Romans were less precise in their use of color terms than we would wish, because skin color to them was no more important than: the color of a person's eyes or hair." (p. 31)

## Were the Greeks white?



Anders Breivik, terrorist

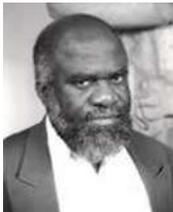


Yanis Varoufakis, Greek minister of finance

## Obama, first black president but his mother is white: the theory of one drop of blood



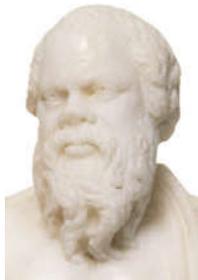
## Socrates was black! Oh heavens!!



Kwame Nimako



Socrates



## Questions and discussion

