

# White War, Black Soldiers: Two African Accounts of World War I

*by*

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## Synopsis

*Strength and Goodness (Force-Bonté)* by Bakary Diallo is one of the only memoirs of World War I ever written or published by an African. It remains a pioneering work of African literature as well as a unique and invaluable historical document about colonialism and Africa's role in the Great War. Lamine Senghor's *The Rape of a Country (La Violation d'un pays)* is another pioneering French work by a Senegalese veteran of World War I, but one that offers a stark contrast to *Strength and Goodness*. Both are made available for the first time in English in this edition, complete with a glossary of terms and a general historical introduction. The centennial of World War I is an ideal moment to present *Strength and Goodness* and *The Rape of a Country* to a wider, English-reading public. Until recently, Africa's role in the war has been neglected by historians and largely forgotten by the general public. Euro-centric versions of the war still predominate in popular culture, Many historians, however, now insist that African participation in the 1914-18 War is a large part of what made that conflict a world war.



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