

**Life Under White Man's Burden: Ngugi Wa Thiongo's Memoir *Dreams in a Time of War***

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**Abstract**

Ngugi wa Thiong'o is one of the most influential and versatile writers of Africa. He is a novelist, dramatist, essayist, critic and thinker. In all his writings, his undeterred commitment to change the social, political and economic conditions of his country is evident. In the memoir selected for study *Dreams in a Time of War* the novelist delineates the lived experiences of Kenyans under the white man's burden i.e. white man's hegemony. The colonial, social and cultural forces of the society shaped his personality. In the memoir Ngugi narrates his life experiences right from his birth to his student life in primary school. In the adversity of life the only hope for Ngugi as a child and his mother is education supported by colonial power to create slavish mentality of young natives to serve colonizers. But education proved like a boomerang for the colonizers as the education shaped the thoughtful mind of young natives who denied looking at the colonizers administration from Eurocentric point of view. Thus colonial education provided the natives the required insight into the power structures of colonization, as a result decolonization process accelerated.

**(Key Words: hegemony, colonial power, colonizer, Eurocentric point of view, colonial education, power structures, decolonization)**