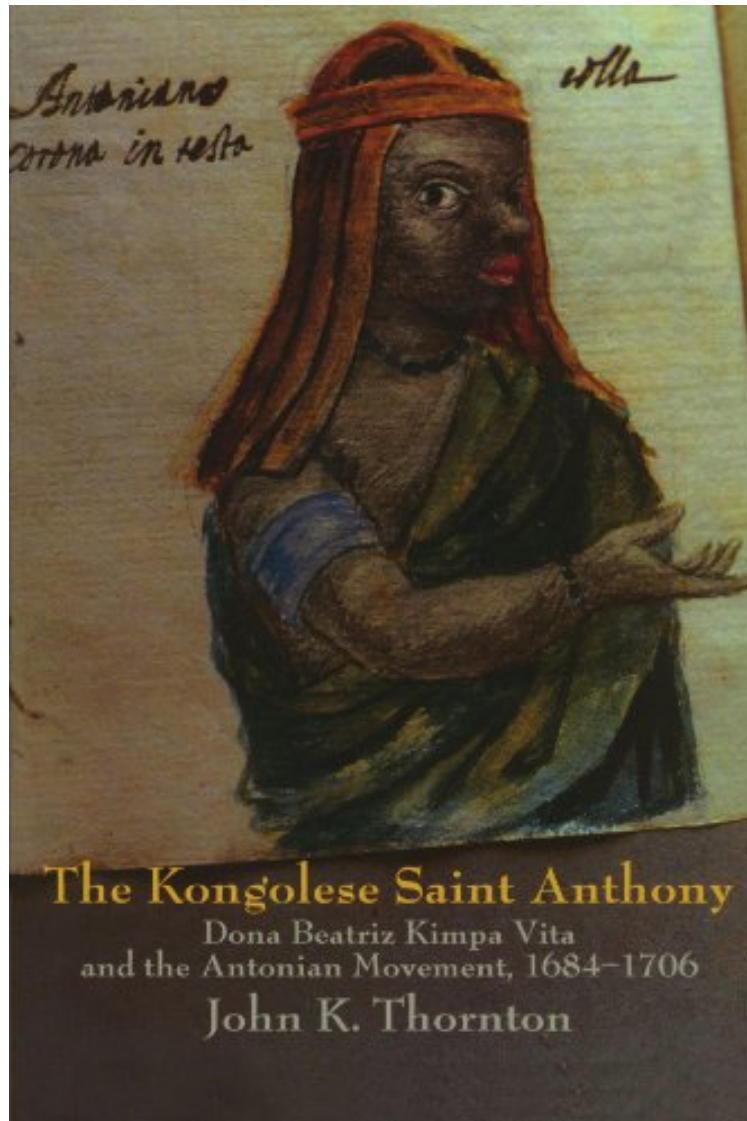


(Download) The Kongolese Saint Anthony: Dona Beatriz Kimpa Vita and the Antonian Movement, 1684-1706

## The Kongolese Saint Anthony: Dona Beatriz Kimpa Vita and the Antonian Movement, 1684-1706

John Thornton

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**John Thornton : The Kongolese Saint Anthony: Dona Beatriz Kimpa Vita and the Antonian Movement, 1684-1706** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Kongolese Saint Anthony: Dona Beatriz Kimpa Vita and the Antonian Movement, 1684-1706:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Five StarsBy LSfine2 of 13 people found the following review helpful. Worst Book I've Ever ReadBy Sinead TwainThis book was painful to read. His writing style is incoherent. He saturates the text with unnecessary details, which make the book almost impossible to read. Thornton is very knowledgeable and includes a lot of good information in his book but he needs to learn how to write. He just lists fact after fact without providing enough information on specific events or people. I do not know who wrote the other reviews on this book because it is certainly not "engaging." Thornton takes a good story and muddles it with hundreds of unnecessary details. He mentions dozens of people and places on each page but he does not actually discuss them or their importance.8 of 9 people found the following review helpful. A Strong African History NarrativeBy ChimonshoJohn Thornton distills some of his prodigious research on Kongo and Angola to tell a coherent and exciting story. The result is a rare achievement, a solid full-length study of a precolonial African woman. Dona Beatriz was a young woman who inspired a religious movement against the internal wars which overwhelmed the Kingdom of Kongo in the Atlantic slave trade era. Her charismatic leadership ran afoul of civil authorities and the Catholic Church and she was executed in 1706, but echoes of the movement endured for several decades both in West Central Africa and the New World. The author answers important questions on cultural syncretism, women's political and spiritual roles, and the adaptation of world religions to indigenous settings. The main drawback is the welter of unfamiliar Kongo place and personal names, which unavoidably frustrate some readers. A future edition could address this with more detailed maps, a glossary and list of main actors. Thornton skillfully provides more context in "Africa Africans in the Making of the Atlantic World," and the more recent "Cultural History of the Atlantic World."

Dona Beatriz Kimpa Vita was a young Kongolesse woman who in 1704 claimed to be possessed by St. Anthony, argued that Jesus was a Kongolesse, criticized Italian Capuchin missionaries for not supporting black saints, and attempted to stop the devastating cycle of civil wars between contenders for the Kongolesse throne. She was burned at the stake in 1706. Background information is supplied on Kongo, the development of Catholicism there, and the role of local warfare in the Atlantic slave trade.

"Thornton's study of Beatriz Kimpa Vita is a new departure in slave studies. African history is propelled to the fore; Thornton's approach taps the potential of the Afro-centric vision." Paul Lovejoy, York University"Perhaps the greatest of the many achievements of Thornton's book is its depiction of Africans in very much the same terms that he, and most other European or American writers, would use to describe their own pasts. With that, Thornton bridges the gap between 'us' and 'them' that still lurks subtly in much scholarship on Africa. This is accordingly a book for non-specialists in many fields--and that is not to say that Africanists will not also find it fascinating." Joseph C. Miller, University of Virginia"...a most impressive study." Richard Gray, The Catholic Historical "John K. Thornton's study of political and religious turmoil in the Kongo kingdom at the close of the seventeenth century will appeal to several audiences..." Wyatt MacGaffey, The International History "...this is a very good publication, which portrays in a very lively way a society and conflicts hidden for almost three centuries. The narrative has a certain dramatic, almost Shakespearean tension, which is likely to engross the reader's attention." International Journal of African Historical Studies"Thornton presents a fascinating and comprehensive account of the Christian movement led by Donna Beatriz Kimpa Vita in the Kingdom of the Kongo, from her birth in 1684 until her death....This study relies upon an impressive body of sources." Journal of Women's History"Altogether this is a masterly reconstruction of events in late seventeenth-century Kongo by an experienced scholar who for over twenty years has published on many aspects of Kongo history from politics top demography, from church history to family history, and from the slave trade to the diaspora. Thornton's acquaintance with a host of difficult sources is well displayed." American Historical "The Kongolesse Saint Anthony...reflects a superb mastery of the rich multilayered texture of the Kongolesse Christian experience....immensely pleasing....the unexpected twists and subplots provide ample footholds for the most tentative reader....the book constitutes a valuable academic resource. That it makes a pleasant read is surely a welcome bonus." Church History"I know of no other book that recreates the history of precolonial African society in such a vivid and compelling way. It should become standard reading in courses on African history and diaspora history." Historian, Robert Harms, Yale UniversityAbout the Authorfm.author\_biographical\_note1