

为什么今年的诺贝尔文学奖会颁给一个来自桑给巴尔的黑人作家

- ▶ 为什么今年诺贝尔文学奖会颁给之前没有获得过任何文学奖项的古尔纳？
- ▶ 非洲的八位诺贝尔文学奖得主如何与英美世界有千丝万缕的联系？
- ▶ 古尔纳的家乡桑给巴尔体现了怎样的多元文化和悠久历史？
- ▶ 为什么说古尔纳的《天堂》受到康拉德的影响？
- ▶ 古尔纳的文学编辑如何评价他长期以来受到的冷落？
- ▶ 为什么古尔纳的所有小说都在描写流变不居的动荡生活？
- ▶ 你知道阿契贝和提安哥关于非洲作家采用英文写作的争论吗？
- ▶ “wind someone up” 这个短语是什么意思？



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听课笔记

Abdulrazak Gurnah wins the 2021 Nobel prize in literature

Zanzibari novelist becomes first black African writer in 35 years to win prestigious award

By Alison Flood, *The Guardian*, Published by Oct. 7, 2021

The Nobel prize in literature has been awarded to the novelist Abdulrazak Gurnah, for his "**uncompromising and compassionate penetration** of the effects of **colonialism** and the fate of the refugee in the gulf between cultures and continents". No black African writer has won the prize since Wole Soyinka in 1986. Gurnah is the first black writer to win since Toni Morrison in 1993.

Gurnah grew up on one of the islands of Zanzibar before fleeing **persecution** and arriving in England as a student in the 1960s. He has published 10 novels as well as a number of short stories. Anders Olsson, chair of the Nobel committee, said that the Gurnah's novels – from his **debut** *Memory of Departure*, about a failed uprising, to his most recent, *Afterlives* – "**recoil from stereotypical** descriptions and open our gaze to a culturally diversified East Africa unfamiliar to many in other parts of the world". Gurnah's fourth novel, *Paradise*, was shortlisted for the Booker prize in 1994, and his sixth, *By the*

Sea, was longlisted in 2001. Olsson said that *Paradise* "has obvious **reference** to Joseph Conrad in its **portrayal** of the innocent young hero Yusuf's journey to the heart of darkness".

Gurnah, who was in the kitchen when he was informed of his win, said that he believed it was a **wind-up**. "I thought it was a **prank**," he said. "These things are usually floated for weeks beforehand, or sometimes months beforehand, about who are the runners, so it was not something that was in my mind at all. I was just thinking, I wonder who'll get it? I am honoured to be awarded this prize and to join the writers who have preceded me on this list. It is overwhelming and I am so proud."

His longtime editor, Alexandra Pringle at Bloomsbury, said Gurnah's win was "most deserved" for a writer who has not previously received due recognition. "He is one of the greatest living African writers, and no one has ever **taken** any **notice of** him and it's just killed me. I did a **podcast** last week and in it I said that he was one of the people that has been just ignored. And now this has happened," she said.

Pringle said Gurnah had always written about **displacement**, "but in the most beautiful and haunting ways of what it is that uproots people and blows them across continents. It's not always **asylum** seeking, it can be so many reasons, it can be trade, it can be commerce, it can be education, it can be love," she said. "The first of his novels I took on at Bloomsbury is called *By the Sea*, and there's this haunting image of a man at Heathrow airport with a carved **incense** box, and that's all he has. He arrives, and he says one word, and that's 'asylum'."

Afterlives, published last year, tells the story of Ilyas, who was stolen from his parents by German colonial troops as a boy and returns to his village after years fighting in a war against his own people. It was described in *the Guardian* as "a **compelling** novel, one that gathers close all those who were meant to be forgotten, and refuses their erasure".

"In Gurnah's literary universe, everything is shifting – memories,

names, identities. This is probably because his project cannot reach completion in any **definitive** sense," said Olsson. "An unending exploration driven by intellectual passion is present in all his books, and equally prominent now, in *Afterlives*, as when he began writing as a 21-year-old refugee."

Gurnah was born in 1948, growing up in Zanzibar. When Zanzibar went through a revolution in 1964, citizens of Arab origin were persecuted, and Gurnah was forced to flee the country when he was 18. He began to write as a 21-year-old refugee in England, choosing to write in English, although **Swahili** is his first language. His first novel, *Memory of Departure*, was published in 1987. He has until recently been professor of English and **postcolonial** literatures at the University of Kent, until his retirement.

词汇

uncompromising /ʌn'kɒmprəmaɪzɪŋ/ adj. 不妥协的, 不让步的, 坚定的

- unwilling to change your opinions or intentions
- e.g. an uncompromising opponent of democratic reform 民主改革的坚决反对者

compassionate /kəm'pæʃənət/ adj. 有同情心的, 表示怜悯的

- feeling or showing sympathy for people who are suffering
- e.g. He was allowed to go home on compassionate grounds. 他因为得到同情而获准回家。

penetration /,penə'treɪʃən/ n. 敏锐, 洞察力

- a special ability to understand things very clearly and completely
- e.g. The survey shows subtlety and penetration. 那项调查表现出了细心和洞察力。

colonialism /kə'ləʊniəlɪzəm/ n. 殖民主义

- the practice by which a powerful country controls another country or other countries
- e.g. European colonialism 欧洲殖民主义

persecute /'pɜ:sɪkjʊ:t/ v. (因种族、宗教或政治信仰) 迫害, 残害, 压迫

- to treat sb. in a cruel and unfair way, especially because of their race, religion or political beliefs
- e.g. Throughout history, people have been persecuted for their religious beliefs. 人们因宗教信仰而受迫害的情况贯穿了整个历史。
- **persecution** /,pɜ:sɪ'kju:ʃn/ n. 迫害
- e.g. the victims of religious persecution 宗教迫害的受害者

debut /'deɪbjʊ:/ n. (演员、运动员等的)首次登台, 初次亮相, (新事物的)问世

- the first public appearance of an entertainer, sports player, etc. or of something new and important
- e.g. He will make his debut for the first team this week. 本周他将在第一支出场的队伍中首次亮相。

recoil /rɪ'kɔɪl/ v. 对...作出厌恶(或恐惧)的反应, (因为不喜欢而)拒绝, 回绝

- to react to an idea or a situation with strong dislike or fear
- e.g. He recoils from everything in life that demands hard work. 生活中凡是需要付出努力的事, 他都踌躇不前。

stereotype /'steriətaɪp/ n. 模式化的思想, 老一套, 旧框框

- a belief or idea of what a particular type of person or thing is like. Stereotypes are often unfair or untrue
- e.g. racist stereotypes in the media 媒体中的种族主义成见
- **stereotypical** /,steriə'tɪpɪkəl/ adj. 老一套的, 陈规的
- e.g. the stereotypical image of feminine behaviour 关于女性行为举止的模式化观念

reference /'refrəns/ n. 参考, 查询, 查阅; 提到, 谈及, 涉及

- the act of looking at sth. for information
- e.g. Keep the list of numbers near the phone for easy reference. 把电话号码表放在电话旁边, 方便查找。
- a thing you say or write that mentions sb./sth. else; the act of mentioning sb./sth.
- e.g. The book is full of references to growing up in India. 这本书谈到许多在印度怎样长大成人的事。

portrayal /pɔ:'treɪəl/ n. 描绘, 描写, 描述; 扮演; 表现

- the way someone or something is described or shown in a book, film, play, etc.
- e.g. the newspapers' portrayal of Islamic culture 报纸上对伊斯兰文化的描绘

wind-up /'waɪnd ʌp/ n. 戏弄人或惹人气恼的玩笑(或行动)

- something that sb. says or does in order to be deliberately annoying, especially as a joke

prank /præŋk/ n. (尤指使人难堪的)玩笑, 恶作剧

- a trick, especially one which is played on someone to make them look silly
- e.g. a childish prank 孩子气的恶作剧

take notice of 注意到

- the fact of sb. paying attention to sb./sth. or knowing about sth.
- e.g. Don't take any notice of what you read in the papers. 别在意你在报上看到的東西。

podcast /'pɒdkɑ:st/ n. 播客

- a digital audio file that can be taken from the Internet and played on a computer or a device that you can carry with you
- e.g. To listen to the podcast, click on the link below. 点击下面的链接收听播客。

displacement /dis'pleɪsmənt/ n. (人群或兽群的) 被迫迁徙

- when a group of people or animals are forced to leave the place where they usually live
- e.g. the largest displacement of civilian population since World War II 自第二次世界大战以来最大规模的平民迁移

asylum /ə'saɪləm/ n. (政治) 避难, (政治) 庇护

- protection given to someone by a government because they have escaped from fighting or political trouble in their own country
- e.g. He has been granted asylum in France. 他在法国获得了政治庇护。

incense /'ɪnsens/ n. (燃烧时发出怡人香味的) 香

- a substance that has a pleasant smell when you burn it
- e.g. a church filled with the smell of incense 充满焚香气味的教堂

compelling /kəm'pelɪŋ/ adj. 极为有趣的, 令人激动的, 引人入胜的

- very interesting or exciting, so that you have to pay attention
- e.g. His life makes a compelling story. 他的一生是个引人入胜的故事。

definitive /dɪ'fɪnətɪv/ adj. 最后的, 明确的, 决定性的; 不可更改的

- final; not able to be changed
- e.g. The definitive version of the text is ready to be published. 文本的正稿已备妥, 可以发表了。

Swahili /swə'hi:li/ n. 斯瓦希里语 (通行于东非, 尤作第二

语言)

- a language widely used in East Africa, especially between people who speak different first languages

postcolonial /pəʊs(t)kə'ləʊniəl/ adj. 后殖民的

- occurring or existing after the end of colonial rule
- e.g. postcolonial literature 后殖民时代的文学

今日习题

1. 根据英文释义写出文中出现的对应单词

_____ : unwilling to change your opinions or intentions

_____ : a trick, especially one which is played on someone to make them look silly

2. 一词多义

Which of the following underlined words is closest in meaning to the one in the sentence "The Nobel prize in literature has been awarded to the novelist Abdulrazak Gurnah, for his 'uncompromising and compassionate penetration of the effects of colonialism and the fate of the refugee in the gulf between cultures and continents'."? _____

- A. It did not require a lot of penetration to realize the interview was over.
- B. The plant grows in clear, still waters where there is strong sunlight penetration.
- C. The exterior walls are three to three and a half feet thick to prevent penetration by bombs.
- D. The software has attained a high degree of market penetration.

3. 翻译：根据给定中文回译英文

古尔纳的小说摒弃了刻板的描述，拓宽了我们的视野，让我们看到具有文化多样性的东非——一个在世界其他地区的许多人所不熟悉的地方。

习题答案

3. Gurnah's novels recoil from stereotypical descriptions and open our gaze to a culturally diverse East Africa unfamiliar to many in other parts of the world.

2. A

1. uncompromising; prank

2021 年诺贝尔文学奖获奖者为坦桑尼亚小说家阿卜杜勒拉扎克·古尔纳 (Abdulrazak Gurnah)，颁奖词称其“毫不妥协并充满同理心地深入探索着殖民主义的影响，关切着那些夹杂在文化和地缘裂隙间难民的命运”。诺贝尔文学奖自 1901 年设立以来，目前共有 118 位作家获得了该荣誉，这些作家都是“在文学领域朝着理想的方向创作出最杰出作品的人”。

阿卜杜勒拉扎克·古尔纳，1948 年出生于坦桑尼亚桑给巴尔岛。1963 年 12 月，在从英国的殖民统治下和平解放后，桑给巴尔岛经历了一场革命。阿比德·卡鲁米 (Abeid Karume) 总统上台后，国内政治混乱，对阿拉伯裔公民迫害严重，屠杀时有发生。20 世纪 60 年代末，古尔纳属于少数族裔作为难民来到英国，最初就读于坎特伯雷基督教会学院，后来在肯特大学获得了博士学位。

迄今为止，他已出版了十部长篇小说和诸多短篇小说作品。难民在身份与文化上的分离一直贯穿于他小说的主题。截至目前，中国尚未引进其长篇作品，中文版只有两个短篇小说——《博西》和《囚笼》收录在《非洲短篇小说选集》中。下面列举三部古尔纳的代表作：

《天堂》(Paradise, 1994) 曾入围英国虚构文学最高荣誉布克奖短名单及惠特布莱德奖。《天堂》是古尔纳的第四部作品，讲述了一个非洲少年的成长历程和他的悲惨爱情故事，再现了在英殖民统治下非洲贸易腐败的真相，给予读者一种独特的视角，去审视世界上的鲜为人知的“角落”。这部作品的灵感来自于作者在 1990 年前后到东非的一次考察。在写作手法上，借鉴了约瑟夫·康拉德 (Joseph Conrad)，一位擅长写海洋冒险小说的英国作家。

《在海边》(By the Sea, 2001) 曾入围 2001 年度布克奖和《洛杉矶时报》图书奖。这是一部关于难民的作品，“沉默”是难民保护自己身份不受种族主义和偏见影响的策略，也是避免过去和现在发生冲突、产生失望的自我欺骗手段。古尔纳在小说中创造了一种特殊的张力，笔下的人物发现自己处于文化和大陆的间隙中，过去的生活和身份与当下的生活有着无法逾越的隔阂。《时代杂志》评论该小说“将悲惨、堕落和丧失变成了优雅的散文和动人的人性”。

《遗弃》(Desertion, 2005) 是古尔纳创作巅峰期的作品，曾入围 2006 年度英联邦作家奖。该作品讲述了一段试图跨越种族的悲惨爱情故事，以不列颠帝国的全盛期到非洲独立为背景，彼此相爱却不能在一起的恋人生活在“遗弃”对方而引发的懊悔与恐惧中，在跨越几个大陆的三代人之间产生了巨大的回响。

参考资料：诺贝尔奖官网