This book provides students of Africa with a guide to the bewildering variety of scholarly work on the issue of modernity in Africa, and to offer some tools for dealing with its intellectual paradoxes. Part One contains both analytical and historical examples of the genealogies of modernity in the African continent and the fragmentation over time of its unilinear meta-narrative. Part Two provides a set of rich ethnographic sketches of its current manifestations in politics, urban space, technology and the realm of the invisible. What emerges as critically important in this challenging collage of texts, are the varying ways in which modernity actually produces its other - that is, 'tradition'.
Modernity is a period in human history, roughly from the enlightenment (late 18th century and early 19th century) marked by the division of the religious and the secular, the increasing mechanization of the world, the rise of industrial capitalism, the increased role of the state, the increased regulation of time and space, and the discourses of emancipation of women, working classes. Etc. It may be taken to refer to a Euro-American trend in literature of 1920's with the works of James Joyce, T.S.Eliot, Hilda Doolittle, Virginia Woolf, Samuel Beckett and Ezra Pound. The literature of the time The thing is, the title Readings in Gender in Africa is misleading to anyone who hasn’t had it ingrained during undergraduate that gender is everything, and Africa is a construct, and that both words signify the opposite to what the ‘non—specialist’ (and completely alienated) would imagine them to mean. Needed this book for one of the many African Studies classes I will be taking this fall. Its in great condition and it arrived a lot sooner than I thought it would. Great job!