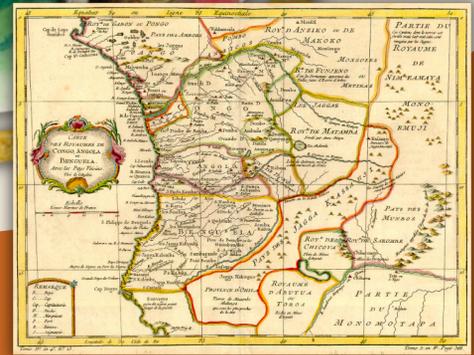


"QUEEN" NZINGA OF NDONGO AND MATAMBA

"Nzinga Mbandi (1581–1663), Queen of Ndongo and Matamba [modern-day Angola], defined much of the history of seventeenth-century Angola. A deft diplomat, skilful negotiator and formidable tactician, Nzinga resisted Portugal's colonial designs tenaciously until her death in 1663." - UNESCO



SMASHING

GENDER NORMS & THE PATRIARCHY

FEMALE
WARRIOR



As a child, Nzinga's father, King of Ndongo, taught her how to fight and took her to battles. They resisted the Portuguese invasion.

FIERCE
DIPLOMAT



When negotiating for the release of her brother, King Mbandi, the Portuguese denied her a seat at the table. Refusing to sit on the floor, she had her servants kneel for hours, spending the whole meeting sitting on them.

FIRST
"QUEEN"



As ruler, Nzinga used the title "Ngola," just as her brother and father who ruled before her. "Ngola" is a masculine word, translated as "king."

MALE
ATTIRE



As ruler, Nzinga often dressed in traditionally male attire. She required her consorts, all men, to dress in traditionally feminine clothing, her "wives."