

# "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."