Ngũgĩ wa Thiong’o was born in 1938 in Kamiriithu in Central Province, one of Kenya’s eight provinces. He is a link between the pioneers and the new generation of African authors. When *Weep not, Child* was published in 1964, it was the first novel in English by an East African author. After a period as a lecturer in English literature at different universities, he returned to his village to protest against the independent Kenya’s regime and particularly against the use of the language of the colonisers. He founded a travelling theatre group and began writing in Kikuyu. He was imprisoned in 1978 without trial as a result of activities that were critical of the regime. In 1982, he went into self-exile.

The importance of restoring the status of the African languages has been a recurring theme in wa Thiong'o’s writing and work ever since. This is the case of both *Decolonizing the Mind* (1986) and *Something Torn and New: An African Renaissance* (2009), in which he asserts the importance of language in order for Africa to be able to totally free itself from colonialism. He has continued to write in Kikuyu and claims that African authors need to write in their own language before their literature can be called African. When *Wizard of the Crow*, his first English-language novel in almost 20 years, appeared in 2006, it was Thiong’o’s own translation of the Kikuyu original. In 2010, *Dreams in a Time of War: A Childhood Memoir*, was published.