

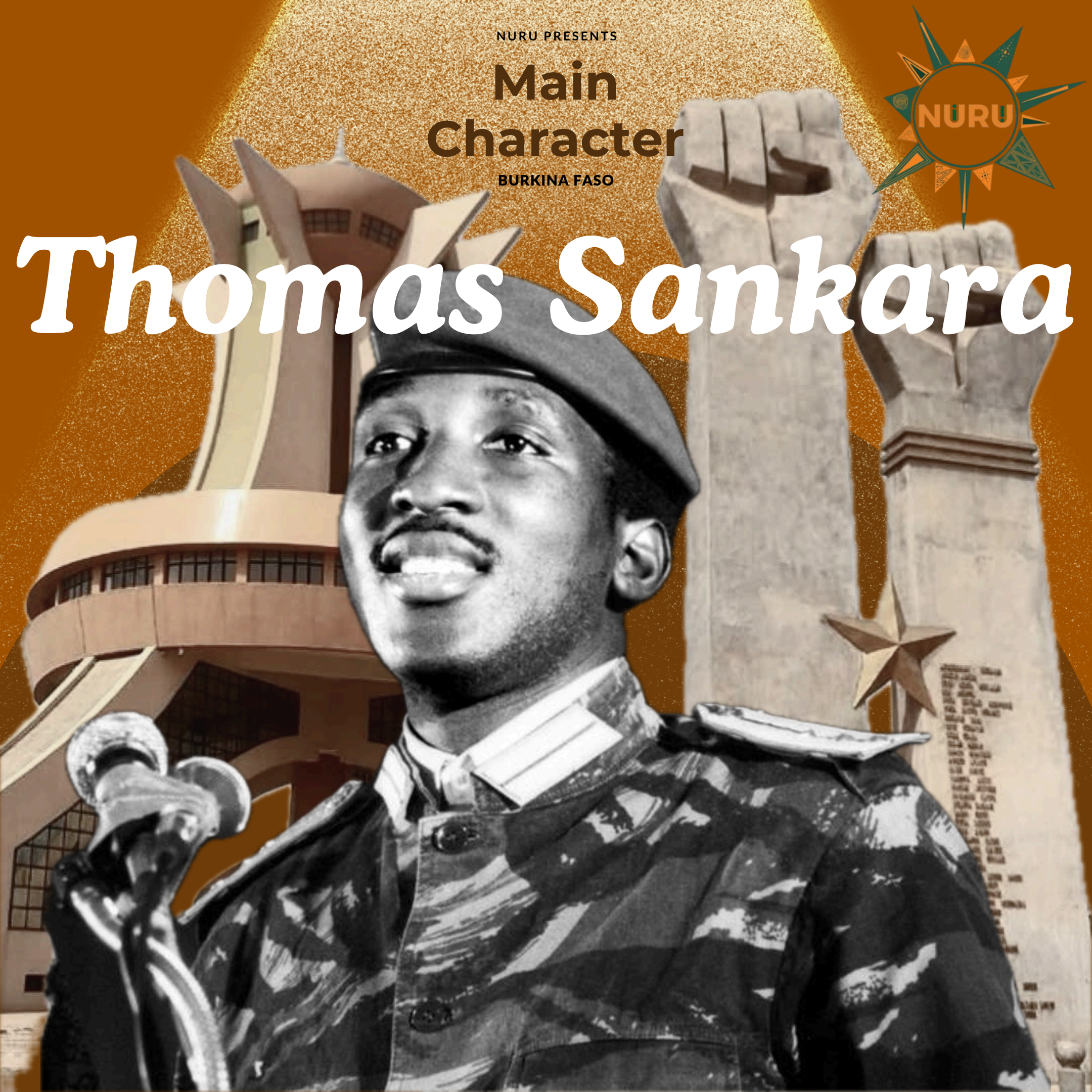
NURU PRESENTS

Main Character

BURKINA FASO



Thomas Sankara





WHO IS HE ?



NAME

Thomas Isidore Noël
Sankara

DATE OF BIRTH

December 21, 1949

PLACE OF BIRTH

Yako, French Upper Volta
(Burkina Faso)

OCCUPATION

Liberation leader and first
President of Burkina Faso



Thomas Sankara, often referred to as the “**Che Guevara of Africa,**” was indeed a **transformative figure** in **Burkina Faso and beyond.** His leadership from **1983 to 1987** marked a period of **profound change,** driven by his commitment to **self-reliance, anti-imperialism, and social justice.**

HIS CAREER

1976

Becomes commander of the **National Center of Commando Training (CNEC)** after receiving an officer training in **Madagascar**.



1981

Appointed **Secretary of State to information** but **resigned** 8 months after, **opposing** the “**regime’s anti-labour drift**”.

1983

After a **coup** (November 1982), Sankara became **President of Upper Volta** and put in place the **National Revolutionary Council (CNR)**.

1987

Sankara was killed in a **coup** organized by his former colleague **Blaise Compaoré**, stating that Sankara **jeopardized foreign relations**.





FROM UPPER VOLTA TO BURKINA FASO

"We need to chose between champagne for some and drinkable water for everyone.", T. Sankara

One year after his accession to the Presidency, Sankara decided to **rename the country Burkina Faso**, "the land of upright people" in Mooré and Dyula (major languages of the country).



T. Sankara and F. Mitterrand,
President of France

Of **marxist** inspirations, he promoted the "**Democratic and Popular Revolution**" (RDP) redefining the "real" **independence** of their territory from the former colon France.

His **CNR** composed of secret "**ordinary people**" aimed at **building the political and social changes** of the country which they did with **drastic reforms** in all fields.



THE REFORMS PT.1

"Without patriotic political formation, a soldier is only a potential criminal", T. Sankara

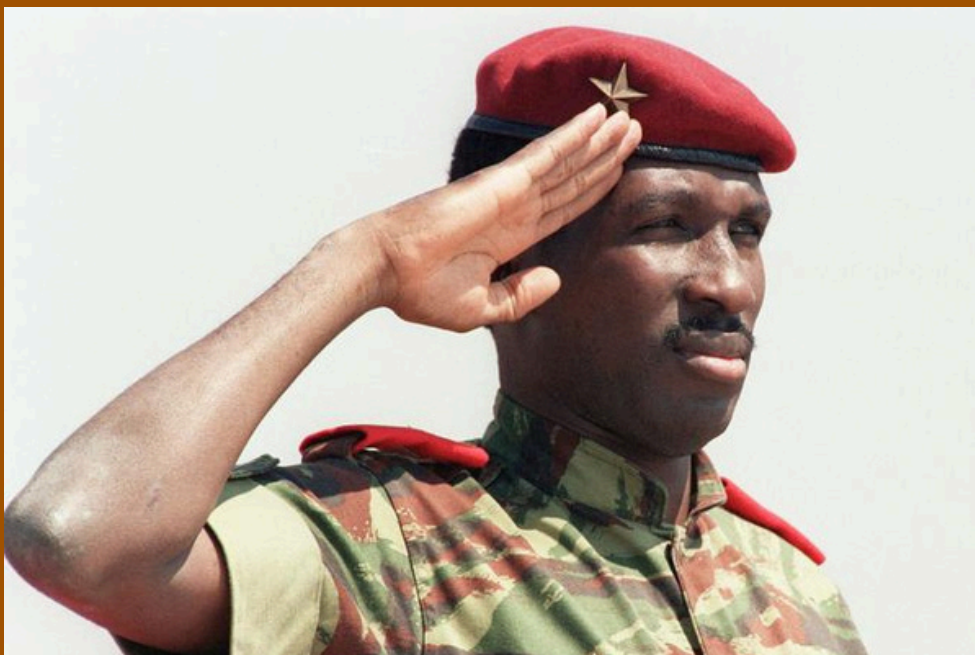
Agriculture

He **redistributed land** to peasants, **promoted local farming**, encouraged food self-sufficiency, introduced **irrigation projects**, and combated **desertification**, transforming agriculture into a pillar of Burkina Faso's economic independence.



Education

He **built schools**, made education **accessible in rural areas**, **reduced illiteracy** (high to 98% of the population), promoted **girls' schooling**, and established education as a cornerstone of national development.



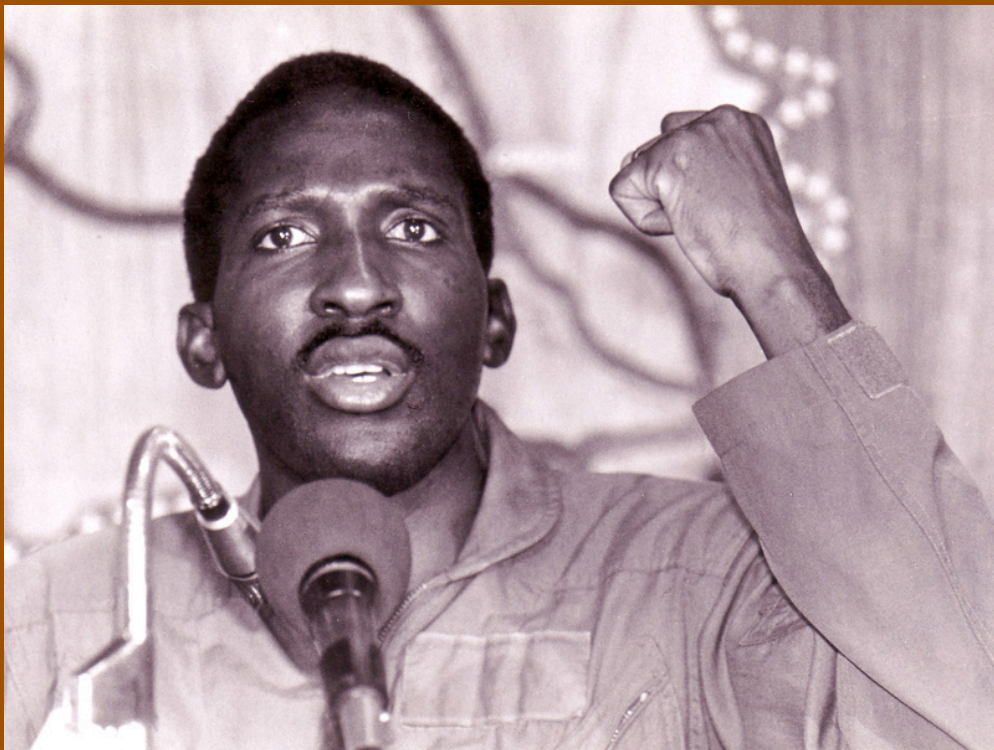
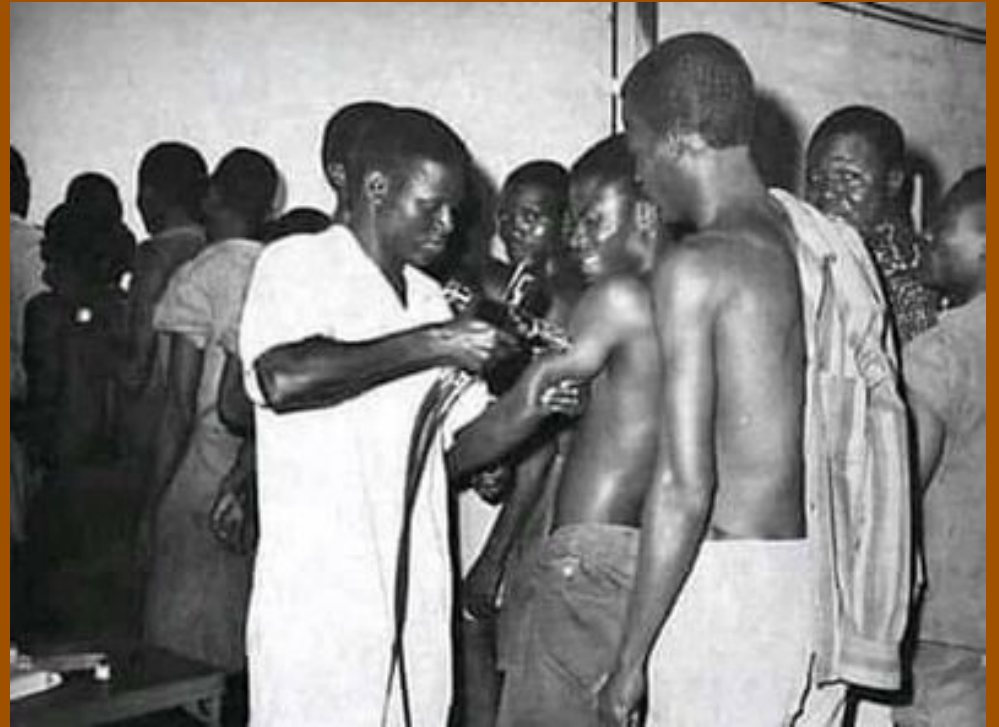


THE REFORMS PT.2

"The homeland or death, we shall overcome.", T. Sankara

Health

He launched **mass vaccination campaigns**, built **health centers**, prioritized disease prevention, improved **access to healthcare** in rural areas, and **reduced infant mortality**, transforming health into a national priority.



Justice

He **reformed the justice system**, fought **corruption**, established **revolutionary tribunals**, promoted accountability, reduced bureaucratic delays, and ensured equal access to justice, emphasizing fairness and transparency in governance.



THE REFORMS PT.3

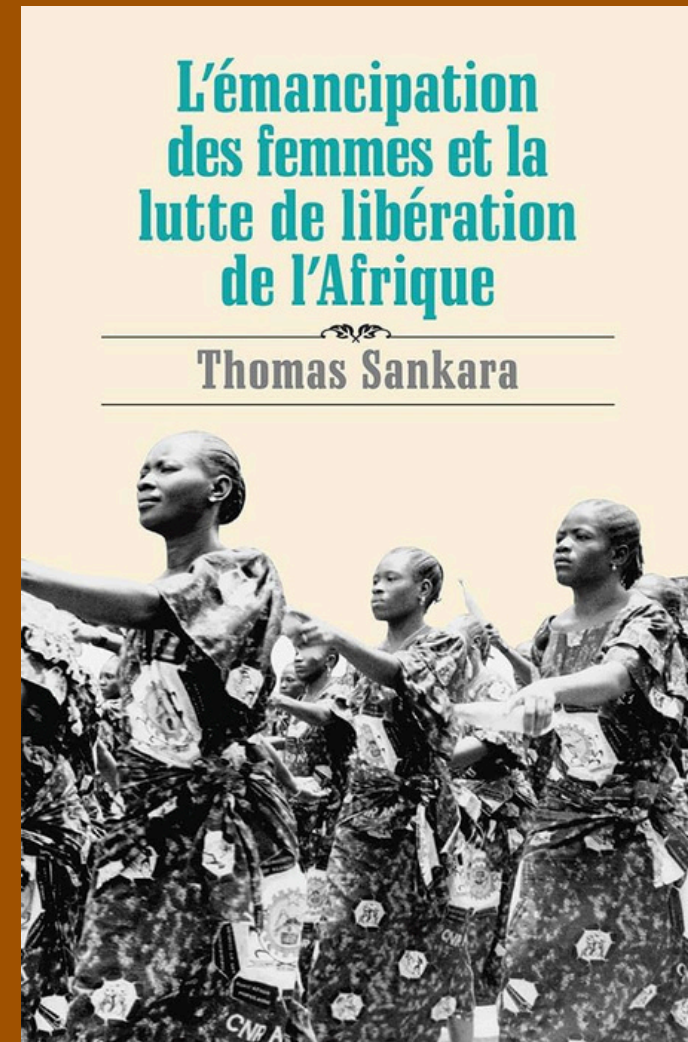
"True emancipation of women is the one that empowers women.", T. Sankara

Women's rights

Thomas Sankara had another key focus: women's rights.

On one hand, he appointed **three women** among the country's 22 ministers, a sign of progress for the time.

He also championed women's role in society by introducing new regulations, such as **banning forced marriages, female genital mutilation, and dowries.**



*Nuru Book Club
recommendation*





AT WAR WITH THE WORLD ?

"When the people stand up, imperialism trembles.", T. Sankara

In his **anti-imperialist rhetoric** and opposition to the former colonial power, France, Thomas Sankara aimed for Burkina Faso to **depend on no external aid**, hence his push for **food self-sufficiency** in this landlocked country.

He **denounced globalization** and its **injustices**, the **international financial system**, particularly the **debt burden on African** and Third World countries. However, this same desire for independence from the rest of the world ultimately contributed to his **downfall**, as **his neighbors eventually turned against him**.

Allies



Enemies





FOREVER A SYMBOL

"You can kill a man but not ideas.", T. Sankara



He became the victim of a coup d'état on **October 15, 1987**, which led to his death at the age of only **37**.

Even 37 years after his death, Thomas Sankara remains a powerful symbol for African youth. He championed a united, independent Africa free from colonialism, and was among the first to address issues like debt and climate change—challenges that continue to shape the continent today.

