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The plot of Shakespeare's Othello is largely taken from Giraldi Cinthio's Gli Hecatommithi, a tale of love, jealousy, and betrayal; however, the characters, themes, and attitudes of the two works are vastly different, with Shakespeare's play being a more involved study of human nature and psychology. One of the major deviations from the source, is the motivation of the Iago figure. Act IV, scene i: Cyprus. Before the castle. Summary. Othello is trying, even after swearing that Desdemona was unfaithful, not to condemn her too harshly. He is talking with Iago about the handkerchief still, and its significance in being found; but, soon, Iago whips Othello into an even greater fury through mere insinuation, and Othello takes the bait. . Othello falls into a trance of rage ...Download Othello Study Guide Subscribe now to download this study guide, along with more than 30,000 other titles. Get help with any book. Download PDF The Role of Race in Othello Why does Shakespeare's play Othello have the subtitle, 'The Moor of Venice'? Why is Othello so often referred to as 'the Moor'? It turns out this is an essential piece of understanding this play's ...