

## INTRODUCTION

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Recibido: 15 Agosto 2012 / Revisado: 2 Octubre 2012 / Aceptado: 4 Octubre 2012

In this age when regional economies, cultures, and societies have become increasingly integrated through the instrumentality of a globe-spanning network of communication and commerce, it is instructive to take a more than cursory look at Africa and explore the degree of the connectivity and involvement of the continent in the “Global Village”. This dossier on Africa presents the situation on the continent using five works.

–“Democracy, the Arab Spring or a new Agenda for a Second Colonization of Africa? Lessons for sub-Saharan Africa”, G.S. Mmaduabuchi Okeke, University of Lagos (Nigeria).

Okeke presents the argument that the involvement of the West in the Arab Spring was and still is a strategic move towards a re-colonisation of Africa. The author contends that the manner of participation and level of involvement of the West, especially in the Libyan civil war, through the instrumentalities of the North Atlantic Treaty Organisation and the United Nations Organisation should be seen as diplomatic contrivances because the true motive of the West in Libya, the Arab World or Africa, as elsewhere, lies in the resources. He thus calls on Africans to put their house in order as the many of the internet-savvy youths of these countries who studied in the West see autocrats and absolute monarchies as anachronisms.

–“Reflections on the development of multi-racialism in South Africa: An Historical Overview”, Mgwebi Lavin Snail, South African Army Research Pool (South Africa).

Snail analyses the tortuous route South Africa took to reach her world-renowned Constitution as

a non-racialist document. The author begins by observing that at the onset ANC Youth League emphasized black exclusiveness as the basis of African solidarity and that they were prepared to work with other non-European groups {i.e. the Indians and the so-called coloured} only on common issues. He goes on to posit that after the sentencing of Mandela and his comrades in 1964, an important multi-racial group, called the African Resistance Movement, emanated from white liberals and former white communists, but that it was white-led, which caused concern amongst the black members on the whole agenda of multi-racialism. The connection between the SACP and other communist parties on the international platform, the CPSA’s maintenance of policies of multi-racialism and internationalism as well as the SACTU’s link with the Trade Union Movement, Snail presents, as some of the developments en route in the great march. The author also acknowledges the vital involvement of the Soviet Union, the USA and European countries in insisting that the ANC remain multi-racial, and that the multi-racial arrangements put in place by the ANC acted as contact-building platform amongst races. All these crystallized into the new dawn in South Africa.

–“International Pressure and Domestic Politics: The Crisis of Democratic Values and Stability in Post-Independence Equatorial Guinea”, David Aworawo, University of Lagos (Nigeria).

Aworawo primarily addresses the issue why international pressure for the country’s leaders to adopt democratic norms and values has been unsuccessful. He notes that the structures of democracy and good governance that the Spanish

colonial authorities and the United Nations Organisation as well as leaders of the independence movement attempted to establish in Equatorial Guinea at independence were dismantled by Macias who rather chose the path of tyranny and authoritarianism. The author goes on to show as well as analyse how and why the travails of democracy and good governance in Equatorial Guinea have persisted for over four decades. Aworawo posits that the fact that periodic elections have held in Equatorial Guinea, at least since 1982, and economic opportunities which have come from the exploitation of oil and gas in the country since the mid-1990s, made external pressure on the Obiang government somewhat weak and spasmodic.

–“Sir John A. MacDonald and the Pragmatics of Nation-Building in Canada: Lessons for Nigeria”, Ademola Adeleke, University of Lagos (Nigeria).

Adeleke looks at the Nation-Building process in Canada under MacDonald and identifies the relevance of the Canadian experiment to the ongoing Nation-Building process in Nigeria as a multicultural society. He submits that through what became known as the nation-building policies, Sir John transformed disparate and disaggregated territorial entities brought together by an act of British parliament in 1867 into an integrated transcontinental nation and in the process laid a solid foundation for the transformation of Canada into one of the most advanced economies in the world.

The nation-building programme initiated by the government, according to the author, had three major components: the development of the country's manufacturing base through tariff protection; the settlement of the west and the construction of a transcontinental railway. Thus, the author submits that the Canadian experience demonstrates that visionary leadership, not vision documents and slogans, provides the key to unlocking the process of nation-building, Adeleke advocates that the Canadian experience should be emulated by Nigerian leaders.

–“The Nigerian Diaspora: A Study on International Migration”, Paul Obiyo Mbanaso Njemanze, University of Lagos (Nigeria).

Njemanze adopts the holistic approach in the analysis of international migration. The paper presents an in-depth examination of the Nigerian Diaspora, bringing into sharp focus the forces that engendered emigration {push factors}, immigration {pull factors} as well as a host of personal and intervening factors. Njemanze goes on to present a lucid description of the nature of the Nigerian Diaspora by x-raying the physical {demographic} and cultural presence. While not ignoring the host-immigrant relationship as critical aspect of the existence/continuation of the Nigerian Diaspora in the present era of the “Global Village” exigency, the author also analyses the Diaspora-Homeland relations.