

**Tunde Adeleke. *UnAfrican Americans: Nineteenth Century Black Nationalists and the Civilizing Mission* (Lexington: University Press of Kentucky, 1998).**

Tunde Adeleke's *UnAfrican Americans: Nineteenth-Century Black Nationalists and the Civilizing Mission* explores an often neglected topic in Pan-African scholarship, namely, African-American nationalists and their role in the colonization of Africa. Adeleke asserts that African-nationalists, specifically Martin Delany, Alexander Crummell and Henry McNeal Turner's Euro-American values aided in the eventual colonization of Africa.

*UnAfrican Americans* consists of six chapters, excluding the introduction. The introduction entitled "Black American Nationalism: Definition, Background, Concepts" offers various descriptions of nationalism ranging from broad to narrow. The author traces the process of Black Nationalist consciousness in America, as well as, introducing current and important contributions to the scholarship of Black Nationalism. Chapter One focuses on the cultural context that allowed for the development of Black American Nationalist ideology. Adeleke asserts that while it grew in reaction to Euro-American practices, it embodied many of the same qualities. Chapter Two traces the historical context of Black American nationalism and its relation to Black Americans' quest for identity. Chapters Three through Five are dedicated respectively to Martin Delany, Alexander Crummell, and Henry McNeal Turner. The author delves into the contradictory nature of their respective ideologies. While forwarding pro-emigration rhetoric and connection to Africa, these African nationalists simultaneously attempted to apply European standards and systems to Africa. Finally, in Chapter Six, Adeleke further explores his thesis that Black Nationalists embraced Eurocentric ideals (i.e. Christianity and the civilizing mission) which served to oppress Africans. This nationalism, along with Europeans, "ultimately destroyed African sovereignty" (p. 152).

Adeleke's book is a valuable contribution to Pan-African/Black Nationalist scholarship. A major criticism of the scholarship is the tendency to focus exclusively on the positive aspects of the issue. This results in the failure of addressing its flaws, namely the questioning of leaders. Thus, Adeleke's addition is vital to the breadth of scholarship. Considering this, Adeleke is often too critical, as evidenced by his use

of language as well as his failure to consider intent. Throughout the book, Adeleke uses the term "scheme" in order to address the respective programs set forth by the Black Nationalist in his book. While unsure of the intended use of the word, it strikes the reader as antagonistic. The connotation of the word has a conspiratorial and devious manner. While intent is often a major factor in identifying Black Nationalist, Adeleke does not properly address it.

Another important issue is that of class. Adeleke briefly mentions class distinctions among black Americans and connects the relationship of middle class black Americans and working class Black Americans within the context of his discussion of Black American Nationalist's paternalistic relationship to Africans. He fails to delve more deeply into the relationship of black American middle class with the working class—a relationship that was very paternalistic in nature, evident in WEB DuBois famous "talented tenth." Finally, Adeleke raises a very interesting subject in the final chapter of his book regarding the role of Africans in the enslavement of the future black Americans. He focuses on the irony of the involvement of descendants of enslaved Africans in the colonization of Africans (p. 151). However, his discussion, though brief, raises an interesting dialogue. It addresses the need for Africans on the continent and throughout the Diaspora to address serious wounds. Adeleke's book successfully opens that dialogue. In turn, a dialogue concerning the involvement of Africans in the transatlantic slave trade is worthy of address.

Tunde Adeleke's *UnAfrican Americans: Nineteenth-Century Black Nationalists and the Civilizing Mission* is an important addition to the existing scholarship on the subject. It is an in-depth analysis of the overlooked issue surrounding the contradictions of African American nationalism. Students of African and African-American studies at both the undergraduate and graduate level will greatly benefit from the discussion set forth in *UnAfrican Americans*.

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