

The foreign policy orientation of the Shagari regime was of course not surprising. As a conservative regime committed to the sustenance of Nigeria's neo-colonial status and composed of the junior partners of Western imperialism and its transnational agencies, a subservient foreign policy was inevitable. In fact, it can be said that but for the attentive Nigerian public, Shagari's regime might simply have had its foreign policy made in Washington and London and merely implemented by his appointees. Like its political practice and economic management, Shagari's conduct of foreign policy manifested the worst dimensions of the unregenerate practices of the bourgeois restoration: subservience to imperialism, indifference to the genuine expectations of Nigerians and inept management of the political economy. Nigeria never had it so bad.

At a general level, the book is particularly gratifying because it is written by a group of Nigerian social scientists using Nigerian empirical data and seeking to understand the origins and character of the Nigerian neo-colonial order so as to contribute to its transformation. It is important because it signifies the progressive emergence of a Nigerian radical social science, which is firmly committed, activist and as much as possible free from the ritualistic invocation of irrelevant and distractive theoretical constructs of Western Africanology - bourgeois or Marxist. Hopefully, these social scientists will proceed to formulate original theoretical constructs with which to better understand the workings of Nigeria's neo-colonial society so as to liberate it. This book is highly recommended.

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Nzongola-Ntalaja (ed.) **The Crisis in Zaire**. Trenton, N.J.: Africa World Press, 1986. 327 pp., Cloth \$32.00, Paper \$11.95.

The Crisis in Zaire is an impressive collection of scholarly papers, examining the continuous social and institutional crisis of this resource rich country (Zaire), marked by the chronic inability to generate and sustain economic growth and development since its independence in 1960. It seeks to examine the reasons for this apparent failure, to chart a new course of more adequate explanations of the crisis, and to generate new ideas and approaches with regard to problem-solving research. According to these articles, Zaire is a name virtually synonymous with crisis. In this case, a major

emphasis is placed on the international dimensions of the crisis and the survival strategies of the ordinary people in the face of the declining capacity of the state for development. This book seeks to highlight the plight of the ordinary people of Zaire as well as the quest for economic and social development. It aims at unveiling the realities of this vast land in the heart of Africa which has slipped into international obscurity since the Congo crisis which was the center of world attraction from 1960-65.

After 26 years of independence, including 21 years of relative political stability under the authoritarian rule of President Mobutu Sese Seko, there is virtually no improvement in the quality of life of ordinary people. At the same time, Zaire's rulers continue to accumulate wealth in the face of popular misery, inadequate infrastructure communication and power, and the deterioration of social infrastructure of schools and clinics. There has also been a dramatic decline of the people's purchasing power in such a potentially rich country. The breakdown of the socio-economic infrastructure and the repressive character of the state and its various agencies add to this grim and dismal picture of the suffering ordinary citizens. The absolute decline in their standard of living and the deterioration of all social and economic services have left them vulnerable to diseases and frequent epidemics. Ordinary citizens live in a state of permanent insecurity as a result of the extortions and brutality to which they are subjected by the security forces, tax collectors, and other state officials.

This volume is divided into five sections. The first section deals with the nature of the crisis -- what Ilunga Kabongo in his introductory essay describes as a fundamental breakdown in the equilibrium of social structure.

The second section examines some of the variables that may prove useful for understanding the Zairian crisis in a historical and comparative perspective. Chapters 3 and 4 by Sang Mpam and Rene Lemarchand, respectively, deal with the manner in which political regimes attempt to consolidate and preserve their control over the state through clientelism and factional politics. Chapter 5, by Jean Philippe Peemans, is a historical analysis of the major characteristics of the accumulation process in Zaire and its impact on the agrarian crisis.

In section three, five chapters are devoted to the survival strategies of ordinary people. The common thread of the five essays on survival strategies is their sympathy with the victims of the Zairian crisis. Their focus is on the declining capacity of the state for development and its consequences for ordinary people. They describe the mechanisms by which the rural and urban poor as well as intermediate social strata manage to survive in spite of the state.

Section Four examines development issues and prospects, which raise a number of critical issues for a useful debate on development in Zaire. The most important concern is the meaning of development, the overall development strategy, the respective roles of the public and private sectors in the development process, decentralization, the delivery of social services, including education, and the prospects for development.

The last major aspect of the Zairian Crisis to be discussed in this book is its international dimension. As in other areas of Zairian crisis, there has been a lack of serious research on the involvement of external powers, international organizations and transnational corporations in Zairian affairs and its consequences for the people of Zaire. Part Five (chapters 14-17) examines this important dimension of the crisis.

Finally this collection of essays offers a comprehensive but by no means exhaustive analysis of the Zairian crisis. Many questions remain that require further study. This is why there is an urgent need not only for a clearer definition of this particular crisis, its character, origin and social implications, but also for new and better approaches to the study of the structural crisis of peripheral capitalism in Zaire.

Duke More

Bertil Egerö, Mozambique: A Dream Undone, The Political Economy of Democracy, 1975-1984 (Uppsala: Scandinavian Institute of African Studies, 1987). Edmond J Keller and Donald Rothchild, (eds.), **Afro-Marxist Regimes: Ideology and Public Policy** (Boulder, Co.: Lynne Reiner Publishers, 1987).

These two recent books, Egerö's focusing exclusively on Mozambique while the Keller and Rothchild collection includes Angola, Zimbabwe, and Ethiopia, as well as Mozambique, address and extend the ongoing debate about the nature of Marxism in Africa's socialist states. In each book the authors begin by defining their terms, and then allow their definitions of "democracy" and "Afro-Marxism" to set the framework of a book. Nonetheless, both books make many important points regarding current political structures, particularly in southern Africa.

Egerö relies on the concept of popular or people's power ("poder popular" in Portuguese) as the foundation of Mozambican