

France paid off in producing assimilated civil servants and auxiliaries prepared to conform to French imperial policies. In conclusion, Dr. Yansane raises several important questions about Western social science and its norms in approaching the study of African society, and the results that have accompanied them (pp. 356-359).

Overall, the book is a well organized and well-researched presentation that clearly illustrates the nature of the double impact. It is true that colonialism made an impact on the colonizers both in the colonies and in the metropole itself. The book therefore is an important contribution that must pave the way for further historical research on the impact made by the Africans on France during the colonial and post-colonial periods.

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Bender, Gerald J. Coleman, James S. Sklar, Richard L. (eds.)
African Crisis Areas and U.S. Foreign Policy. Berkeley, Los Angeles: University of California Press, 1985. pp. xiv-373. Index, paperback, \$9.95.

The central theme of this book is the so-called major "African crisis area" (Southern Africa, the Horn of Africa, Zaire, Chad and Western Sahara), how U.S. policy in these areas has been formulated, and the options for the U.S. in the same areas. The book presents the so-called "Africanist" case that claims to narrow the gap between scholarship and policy pertaining to contemporary U.S.-Africa relations.

Divided into four parts, the first part of the book discusses American diplomacy in southern Africa amidst the forces of destabilization generated by the racist white minority regime in South Africa against its independent neighbors. Part two deals with American policy in the Horn of Africa (Ethiopia and Somalia), while part three examines U.S. policy toward Zaire and the subordinate role Motubu's Zaire has played in Chad and Western Sahara on the behalf of the U.S. Part four discusses elements of regionalism versus globalism in U.S. policy toward "African crisis areas."

Comprising eighteen chapters by different authors, a number of them are the result of a conference sponsored by the African Studies Center and the Center for International and Strategic Affairs at UCLA. The eighteen chapters are supposed to represent the official American perceptions and/or mis-perceptions of the intentions and capabilities of the Soviet

Union. They correctly maintain that because U.S. Policies are often confined to naive and narrowly defined imperatives of anti-communism and Rusophobia, these policies are insensitive to the discrepancy between African and American priorities. This fact, the authors contend, distorts U.S. foreign policy to the overwhelming disadvantage of America.

Overall, the authors present a fairly balanced and provocative view of the areas they chose to study vis-a-vis U.S. diplomatic responses. However, much more needs to be discussed beyond what the authors have done. For instance, the so-called "African crisis Areas" are in the opinion of this reviewer, actually areas of heavy U.S. imperialist activities geared toward destabilization in Africa as a whole. The areas studied are in fact the extension of the crisis of international monopoly capitalism. Similarly, the conflicts in these areas are for the most part imperialist-sponsored conflicts. U.S.-led imperialism uses the resident African bourgeoisies to inculcate and maintain its exploitation and plunder of the vast resources of Africa. Thus U.S. policy toward Africa has historically been geared toward the merciless exploitation of that continent, having no regard for the masses of the African people. Herein lies the reason why the successive U.S. administrations have bolstered the fascist regime of Mobutu and South Africa against the forces of national liberation in that country.

The major objectives of U.S. foreign policy toward Africa have been to dismantle the political unity of independent African states; to promote the establishment of a "counter-force" to the increasing anti-imperialist front in Africa by encouraging the creation of a coalition of governments and forces amenable to U.S. policy dictates; to retain Africa as a vital source of strategic raw materials for U.S.-led imperialism, and as a source of super profits to the transnational corporations; to establish an extensive network of military bases in and around Africa as a weapon against the free and full development of African independence, the national liberation movements and the socialist-oriented states in particular.

Additionally, U.S. policy has been to isolate and punish those countries in Africa that pursue anti-American and yet progressive policies. Herein lies the reason for the Reagan administration dislike of such countries as Angola, Ethiopia, Libya, Mozambique and Zimbabwe. Running parallel to this diabolical policy, is the U.S. policy of "rewarding" such reactionary regimes as those in Chad, Egypt, Kenya, Liberia, Morocco, Somalia, South Africa, Tunisia and Zaire. As part of its larger global strategy of trying to restrict the influence of the Soviet Union and other socialist countries, U.S. imperialism has relied on a strategy of creating zones of

"vital interests" of anti-Sovietism and anti-communism. Washington has decisively moved to militarize these countries as part of its destabilization program in Africa.

Congressman Howard Wolpe ably discussed "The Dangers of Globalism" in U.S. foreign policy in chapter fifteen. However, his effort seems to have been jeopardized by Peter Duignan's "Africa from a Globalist Perspective" chapter sixteen. Duignan's piece is perhaps the poorest of the eighteen chapters. Naively supportive of Reagan's disastrous policy of "Constructive Engagement" and South Africa's so-called "strategic importance to the West," Duignan has for a long time been an ardent apologist of colonialism and neo-colonialism in Africa.

Despite such apologia, the policies of the U.S. government aim at strangling the national economies of such countries as Angola, Ethiopia, Libya, Mozambique, Zimbabwe and others. Such policies disrupt the links of these countries with their allies and the rest of the world, thereby purchasing internal subversion and sabotage. This retrogressive policy has supplanted international diplomacy as a way of dealing with nations, particularly wherever the people of the developing world choose to form their own governments and plan their own economic ways forward out of poverty. These imperialist machinations conform to the U.S. grand strategy of "rolling back the frontiers of communism," and creating a continent that will once more be a docile cog in the capitalist world of "free enterprise" and the greedy pursuit of private profit.

Overall, African Crisis Areas and U.S. Foreign Policy should prove to be of interest to both students and specialists concerned with U.S.-Africa relations. Its shortcomings can be used as a starting point in reconstructing these relations.

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