

U F A H A M U

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*UFAHAMU will accept contributions from anyone interested in Africa and related subject areas. Contributions may include scholarly articles, political-economic analyses, commentaries, film and book reviews and freelance prose, art work and poetry.*

*Manuscripts may be of any length, but those of 15-25 pages are preferred. (All manuscripts must be clearly typed, double-spaced originals with footnotes gathered at the end. Contributors should endeavor to keep duplicate copies of all their manuscripts.) The Editorial Board reserves the right to edit any manuscript to meet the objectives of the journal.*

*All correspondence -- manuscripts, subscriptions, books for review, inquiries, etc., -- should be addressed to the Editor-in-Chief at the above address.*

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Volume XIII, Number 1, 1983

Contents

Contributors . . . . .	3
Editor's Quill. . . . .	4

Articles

African History: The Rise And Decline of Academic Tourism . . . . . Dr. Tiyambe Zeleza	9
The Political Economy of Health Care Problems In Nigeria . . . . . Dennis A. Ityavyar	45
Criteria For The Criticism of African Literature . . . . . Kyalo Mativo	65
Marxian Epistemology And The Criticism Of African Literature . . . . . Adebayo Bolarin-Williams	84
Apartheid And Cinema . . . . . Ndugu Mike Ssali	105
Resolving The Cultural Dilemma of The African Film . . . . . Kyalo Mativo	134

Forum

OAU: Forces Of Destabilization . . . . . P. Godfrey Okoth	148
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Book Reviews

al-Fustat: Its Foundation And Early Development . . . . . Mahmood Ibrahim	165
Katakata For Sofahead . . . . . Aliyu Umar Modibbo	168
Women In Tanzania: An Annotated Bibliography. . . . . Sandra Jackson	170
The Marcus Garvey and Universal Negro Improvement Association Papers Vol. I 1826 - August 1919 And Vol. II August 1919 - August 1920. . . . . Fassil Demissie	173

Poetry

A Law Unto Themselves . . . . .	Janet Scott Hunter	8
The Meek Shall Inherit Nothing. . . . .	Pierre H.L. Désir	43
Shall We Be Bound Up. . . . .	Janet Scott Hunter	64
Why Are We So Blest?. . . . .	Ali Jimale Ahmed	104
The Last Punch. . . . .	Janet Scott Hunter	147

Short Story

Secular Choice. . . . .	Kyalo Mativo	175
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*The front cover illustration is based on a photograph taken in 1977 of a young boy named Usuf from Daura, Northern Nigeria. The photograph and artist rendering are both by Diana Leoni.*

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## EDITOR'S QUILL

On Tuesday, October 25th, 1983, U.S. Marines and Rangers invaded the tiny black Caribbean island nation of Grenada to restore what the cowboy administration in Washington, in a diarrhea of verbal gymnastics, calls "stability, order and democratic freedom." A week later on November 2nd, white voters in apartheid South Africa, were to vote on an amendment to their constitution allowing for a pittance of political power to the Asian and Coloured populations while excluding Africans from this epidemic of "democratic freedom". The word, of course, from Washington, came as expected in the form of praises for the generous Boer electoral action directed towards the "natives". This sort of imperialist double-standard not only reeks with racism, but has consistently shaped U.S. foreign policy towards the Third World.

Grenada witnessed the first socialist revolution in an English-speaking country and was indeed undertaking a socialist experiment with unlimited support in the population, grounded as it was in the Grenadian people's thirst for social justice, material well-being and real self-determination. But the true meaning of the Revolution lies in the annals of the history of the Caribbean people's constant struggle against foreign rule and capitalist exploitation. It was the direct ideological heir to other similar popular uprisings in the Caribbean. For just like the invasion follows a whole history of brutal American interventions in Caribbean nations such as Cuba, Puerto-Rico, Haiti, and the Dominican Republic, so has the Caribbean people's determination to hold out against the forces of imperialism and capitalism expressed itself in the countless slave rebellions of the past, the Haitian Revolution, Marcus Garvey's grass-roots United Negro Improvement Association, the Cuban Revolution and ultimately the Grenadian Revolution - as the latest model of further positive socio-political developments in the Caribbean.

It is clear that the invaders' goal goes far beyond the containment of "communist subversion" in the Caribbean. The stated objectives of restoring "democratic freedom" in Grenada are nothing but a throwback to the good old days of colonialism, exemplified by the forced departure of progressive Americans from the Island, the postponing of promised popular elections, the arrestation of Grenadian citizens without habeas corpus, the introduction of wooden "sweat boxes" as punishment for political prisoners - all true-to-form actions that fall in the best tradition of imperialist military occupation. Yet, however much we may regret and condemn the aggressive and brutal repression in Grenada, we have to point out that Imperialism has only succeeded in putting in focus a historical process far beyond the understanding of the six-shooter toting gunslingers

in Washington: namely that the Caribbean is fermenting with revolutionary energy. The people of the Caribbean are at a historical cross-roads of socio-political change comparable in scope and magnitude to the state that Mother Africa found herself in 1945 in the morrow of WW II. Neither sweat boxes nor the putting in power of a monarchist Uncle Tom can stop this historical development.

We find ourselves once again before the first issue of Volume XIII in a bloody aftermath of brutal imperialist aggression against Third World peoples as was the case in Kenya after the attempted coup as well as the Zionist invasion of Lebanon in summer 1982. We therefore repeat the editorial statement made in the first issue of Volume XII that "recourse to force to enforce moribund 'order' is the best expression of the invalidity of that order." Lebanon figures prominently this year, even more so than last, for it was in response to growing criticism about the role of the Marines in Lebanon that the U.S. administration decided to invade Grenada as a means of quelling opposition at home. But the unleashing of Yankee repression on Grenada did not stop the tears shed by parents for the 241 young men who perished in Beirut after the car-bombing of Marines headquarters three days before the invasion of Grenada. The issue here is not whether or not one deplores the car-bombing. What is clear is that the Marines are part of the foreign occupying force in Lebanon, and therefore are the legitimate if unfortunate targets of the Lebanese people's resistance.

In the first issue of Volume XIII, we have decided to discard the guest theme policy carried on last year. The ideological battle that we are involved in has taken on a new meaning in the wake of the invasion of Grenada. The first issue of Volume XIII is an interdisciplinary one whose common denomination is the general denunciation of Imperialism. In this respect the editors have decided, in lieu of the standard editorial, to publish a prison letter from a comrade in jail for his outspoken "political ideas" against moribund order in Kenya, otherwise known in close circles as "Nyayo-land!" A luta.

M.C.

#### LETTER FROM PRISON

Greetings,

I am sure that you have overheard that I was one of the six Kenyan intellectuals who were arrested in June 1982 for our political ideas. We were accused of spreading "dangerous ideas" (Marxism) among the University students. My colleagues were detained without trial and I was dragged to a Kangaroo Court and sentenced to six years imprisonment. We have to pay the

supreme sacrifice for our patriotism, for our stance against imperialism, for refusing to support the mortgage of our country to U.S. imperialism.

Here in prison we are subjected to all types of brutality - hunger, the horror of beatings and insults. We sleep on the cement floor and the blankets are full of lice, fleas, ticks and bedbugs. Here the struggle is more harsh, more violent, more acute.

You know, they are falsely convinced that by imprisoning me I would renounce my anti-imperialist, pro-socialist stance, and support their reactionary line (peace, love and unity policy). I have made it very clear that I am not for sale, that I would rather go to hell than betray my conscience.

But despite all this brutality, despite the iron-bars and chains, despite the dungeon into which I am thrown, my patriotism is "as resilient as steel which grows stronger every time it's plunged into the flames." My faith in socialism and humanity will continue to increase and to heighten.

Since your journal is independent, free and patriotic I hope you will support the demand for our release, you will let the world know the conditions we are forced into.

Fraternally yours\*

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\*The author of this letter wishes to remain anonymous. Ufahamu has graciously agreed to this request.

ANNOUNCEMENT:

*Ufahamu* intends to prepare a SPECIAL ISSUE ON THE OLYMPICS, due to be held here in Los Angeles in the summer of 1984. The focus-point will be South Africa, with the express purpose of revealing how the Apartheid system functions in the sports arena. Our readers are welcome and encouraged to make contributions to that effect. Please forward your articles and other documents to reach us by the end of April, 1984.

SUBSCRIPTION RATES

We are sorry to inform our readers that our immunity to inflation has finally been broken! Accordingly, starting with Volume 13, No. 1, subscription rates will change as follows:

Individuals (three issues per year)	\$10.00 (U.S. & Canada)
Single issues	4.00 (U.S. & Canada)
All institutions	14.00
Individuals	12.00 (Overseas)
Single issues	5.00 (Overseas)
Air mail postage overseas add	10.50 to the yealy rate
	3.50 single issue rate