AFRICAN AIMS & ATTITUDES
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SELECTED DOCUMENTS

EDITED BY

MARTIN MINOGUE
Director, Postgraduate Diploma Studies in Development Administration
Department of Administrative Studies for Overseas Study Fellows, University of Manchester

JUDITH MOLLOY
Assistant Executive Secretary
The World Development Movement

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CONTENTS

Preface xi  Introduction 1

PART I  COLONIALISM AND DECOLONISATION

1 Africanus Horton  15
2 Casely Hayford  17
3 Kwame Nkrumah  20
4 J. B. Danquah  26
5 Nnamdi Azikiwe  29
6 Kenneth Kaunda  35
7 Oginga Odinga  37
8 Patrice Lumumba  42
9 Mamadou Dia  46
10 Aimé Césaire  48
11 Sekou Touré  52
12 Frantz Fanon  54
13 Léopold Sédar Senghor  62

PART II  NATION-BUILDING: PHILOSOPHIES AND PROBLEMS  63

A Documents on Tanzania

1 Nyerere: Freedom and Development  64
2 The Arusha Declaration  67
3 Nyerere: Education for Self-Reliance  78
4 Nyerere: Socialism and Rural Development  86
5 TANU Guidelines on the Tanzanian Revolution  92
6 Nyerere: Decentralisation  97
## CONTENTS

### B Documents on Zambia

- **7 Kaunda: Humanism in Zambia**  
  
- **8 Kaunda: The Mulungushi Declaration**  
  109

- **9 Kaunda: After Mulungushi**  
  118

- **10 Zambia's Second National Development Plan**  
  124

- **11 Kaunda: The Kabwe Declaration**  
  127

### C Documents on Kenya

- **12 African Socialism in Kenya**  
  129

- **13 Kenyatta: the One-Party State**  
  141

- **14 Opposition in Kenya: The Kenya People's Union**  
  145

- **15 Tom Mboya**  
  148

- **16 The Kenyan Bureaucracy**  
  153

### D Selected African Documents

- **17 Uganda: The Common Man's Charter**  
  158

- **18 Seretse Khama: Kagisano – A Policy for Harmony**  
  164

- **19 The Dakar Colloquium on African Socialism**  
  167

- **20 Ghana: Nkrumah**  
  173

- **21 Ochieng: The African Revolution**  
  180

- **22 Frantz Fanon: National Consciousness**  
  182

### PART III PANAFRICANISM

#### A African Unity: the Institutions

- **1 The Accra Conference 1958**  
  191

- **2 The OAU Charter 1963**  
  195

- **3 OAU Resolution on Border Disputes, July 1964**  
  199

- **4 OAU Resolution on Non-Alignment, February 1964**  
  199

- **5 OAU Resolution on Regional Groupings, August 1963**  
  200

- **6 The ‘Good Neighbours’ Policy: East and Central Africa**  
  201

- **7 Declaration by the Governments of East Africa, June 1963**  
  203
### CONTENTS

8 Nyerere’s Response 205  
9 The Treaty for East African Co-operation 1967 207  

B African Unity: the Leaders  
10 George Padmore 209  
11 Kwame Nkrumah 212  
12 Nnamdi Azikiwe 216  
13 Mamadou Dia 218  
14 Modibo Keita 219  
15 Sekou Touré 221  

C African Unity and African Culture  
16 The First Congress of Negro Writers and Artists, Paris, 1956 225  
17 The Second Congress of Negro Writers and Artists, Rome, 1959  
18 Léopold Sédar Senghor: Negritude 230  
19 Alioune Diop: The African Personality 234  
20 Ezekiel Mphahlele: Negritude and Culture 236  
21 K. A. Busia: Negritude 238  
22 L. Vambe: African Characteristics 240  
23 James Ngugi: National Culture 241  
24 Aimé Césaire: Culture and Political Leadership 243  
25 Frantz Fanon: On National Culture 247  
26 Robert Gardiner: Race, Culture and Community 251  

### PART IV THE STRUGGLE GOES ON

A International Organisations 254  
1 OAU Resolutions, Addis Ababa, 1963 255  
2 OAU Resolutions, Rabat, 1972 259  
3 The Khartoum Conference, 1969 264  

B Southern Africa  
4 The Lusaka Manifesto 267  
5 Hastings Banda 274
CONTENTS

6 Seretse Khama 275
7 Leabua Jonathan 277
8 OAU Declaration on Dialogue 278
9 Albert Luthuli 280
10 Nelson Mandela 287
11 L. Vambe 294
12 The Zimbabwe African National Council 296
13 The Pearce Commission 300
14 Constitution of the Front for the Liberation of Zimbabwe (FROLIZI) 307
15 Namibia (South-West Africa) 309

C The Portuguese Territories
16 Amilcar Cabral: Portuguese Guinea 311
17 Edward Mondlane: Mozambique 321

D Neo-colonialism
18 Mamadou Dia 331
19 Kwame Nkrumah 333
20 Frantz Fanon 340

PART V POLITICAL ATTITUDES OF THE MILITARY 345

1 A. A. Afrifa 346
2 I. K. Acheampong 351
3 J. D. Mobutu 353
4 C. O. Ojukwu 356
5 Amin: The Coup 361
6 Manifesto of the Ugandan Army 364
7 Amin: Policy Statements 366
8 Amin: Foreign Policy 369
9 Kwame Nkrumah 372

Biographies 377 Bibliography 396
PREFACE

The aim of this book is to give the reader some direct acquaintance with the political attitudes and objectives of African leaders and intellectuals, as expressed in their own writings and speeches. We believe that the study of political systems and political activity in Africa is incomplete without reference to the ideas of those who exercise substantial practical or intellectual authority in the African continent. For the purposes of this book, Africa is defined as Africa South of the Sahara; and we include readings from non-Africans who have influenced Africans.

As the Bibliography shows, there is no lack of original material, and we have been compelled to make arbitrary selections, both in terms of the authors to be included and omitted, and of the passages to be selected from their texts. In making these choices, we have tried to reconcile the need to concentrate on material which is not readily available with the need to maintain a representative and coherent selection. Equally, there is an arbitrary air about the groupings of material under particular headings. Political leaders rarely write or think in neatly labelled compartments, and for the convenience of the reader our selections attempt to impose a degree of order and unity on a large output of miscellaneous and overlapping material.

The book is arranged in five parts. Each part has a short introduction linking together the texts which follow. Each text is placed in its particular context, and its source indicated. Together with the detailed biographies which are placed at the end of the book, this introductory material should provide adequate information on the authors and their texts. A discussion of the characteristics and significance of African political ideology is provided in the Introduction.

Spelling and punctuation conventions were retained in their original form in the individual documents, with the exception of the distracting variations on the word Panafri canism; in its ideological meaning it has been spelt ‘Panafri canism’ and in its geographical meaning as ‘pan-
PREFACE

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