

African Activists in a Decolonising World

As wars of liberation in Africa and Asia shook the post-war world, a cohort of activists from East and Central Africa, specifically the region encompassing present-day Malawi, Zambia, Uganda and mainland Tanzania, asked what role *they* could play in the global anticolonial landscape. Through the perspective of these activists, Ismay Milford presents a social and intellectual history of decolonisation and anticolonialism in the 1950s and 1960s. Drawing on multi-archival research, she brings together their trajectories for the first time, reconstructing the anticolonial culture that underpinned their journeys to Delhi, Cairo, London, Accra and beyond. Forming committees and publishing pamphlets, these activists worked with pan-African and Afro-Asian solidarity projects, Cold War student internationals, spiritual internationalists and diverse pressure groups. Milford argues that a focus on their everyday labour and knowledge production highlights certain limits of transnational and international activism, opening up a critical – albeit less heroic – perspective on the global history of anticolonial work and thought.

Ismay Milford is a historian at Leipzig University. This book is based on a PhD awarded by the European University Institute.



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African Activists in a Decolonising World

*The Making of an Anticolonial Culture,
1952–1966*

ISMAY MILFORD
Leipzig University



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Abbreviations

AAPC	All-African Peoples Conference
AAPSO	Afro-Asian Peoples Solidarity Organisation
AASC	All-African Students Conference
AASU	All-African Students Union
AATUF	All-African Trade Union Federation
AFA	Africa Freedom Action
ASC	Asian Socialist Conference
BAA	Bureau of African Affairs
CAO	Committee of African Organisations
COPAI	Congress of Peoples Against Imperialism
FBC	Federal Broadcasting Company (Lusaka)
FLN	<i>Front de Libération Nationale</i> [National Liberation Front] (Algeria)
ICFTU	International Confederation of Free Trade Unions
ISC	International Student Conference
IUS	International Union of Students
IUSY	International Union of Socialist Youth
KAU	Kenya African Union
Legco	Legislative Council
MCF	Movement for Colonial Freedom
MCP	Malawi Congress Party
MRA	Moral Re-Armament
NAC	Nyasaland African Congress
NRANC	Northern Rhodesia African National Congress ¹

¹ The party is generally referred to as simply the African National Congress (ANC), but I have retained the ‘NR’ to avoid confusion with the South African ANC.

NUSAS	National Union of South African Students
OAU	Organisation of African Unity
PAFMECA	Pan-African Freedom Movement of East and Central Africa
TAA	Tanganyika African Association
TANU	Tanganyika African National Union
TBC	Tanganyika Broadcasting Company
UAR	United Arab Republic
UDC	Union of Democratic Control
UNC	Uganda National Congress
UNIP	United National Independence Party (Northern Rhodesia/Zambia)
UPC	Uganda People's Congress ²
WASU	West African Students' Union
WAY	World Assembly of Youth
WFDY	World Federation of Democratic Youth
WFTU	World Federation of Trade Unions
WPB	World Peace Brigade

² To avoid confusion, I refer to the *Union des Populations du Cameroun* [Union of the Peoples of Cameroon] in full.