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# UFAHAMU

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AFRICAN STUDIES CENTER  
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UFAHAMU will accept contributions from anyone interested in Africa and related subject areas. Contributions may range from scholarly articles and book reviews to freelance writing and poetry.

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U F A H A M U

VOLUME VIII, NUMBER 3, 1978

CONTENTS

*Apartheid, Imperialism, and Southern Africa Re-Examined*

Editorial Notes	2
Contributors	4

ARTICLES

Black Consciousness and the Quest for a True Humanity.....Stephen Biko	10
Reformism, Populism, and Proletarianism in Urban Africa.....Peter Gutkind	24
I Write What I Like.....Steve Biko	62
South Africa: Beyond Liberalism.....Walusako Mwalilino	69

ISSUES

Ethiopia and the Horn of Africa.....Fassil Demissie	94
The Meaning of Black Consciousness....Harry Nongwenkulu	107
The South African Wobblies: The Origins of Industrial Unions in S.A...John Philips	122

POLITICS; STATEMENTS AND NEWS

Steve Biko the Martyr	6
America/Soviet Friendship	21
Stop the Execution of Solomon Mahlangu	89
Stop Banking on Apartheid	101
Campus Activism Surges Around South Africa	116
A Letter to My Friends	141

<u>BOOK REVIEWS</u>	143, 147, 155
---------------------	---------------

POEMS

Steve Biko's Anthem.....Mazisi Kunene	5
Congo; <i>Wars Against the Portuguese</i> (p.159)	23
Massacre; Solitary Confinement: For the Political Prisoners in South Africa.....Susan Anderson	68
Found in a Catacomb.....Methode Butoyi	139
Shaka, the King of Zulu.....Denise A. Smith	92
The Last Word.....Sandra Jackson	141
	153

<u>BOOKS RECEIVED</u>	157
-----------------------	-----

Freedom Fighter.....Hezbon Owiti	160
<i>SOLIDARITY MESSAGE</i>	158

## EDITORIAL NOTES

Like elsewhere, in Africa it is also *the* time of consolidation of victories gained by progressive forces and the formation of broad *patriotic fronts* against imperialism. The period has also contributed towards the *unveiling* of reactionaries who continue to use *racism and force* to dominate the majority of the people. Ufahamu is proud to dedicate this issue to *activism*; and specifically to our revolutionary heroes who struggle against those evils and in turn have been murdered, imprisoned, exiled, etc., by that notorious enemy of humanity: *apartheid*. Stephen Bantu Biko symbolised the unity and also the revolutionary practice of the struggles of the late 1970's. Biko, a *revolutionary democrat*, contributed towards uniting all progressive forces opposed to *racism and imperialism*. During that period, Biko struggled with the broad masses of the people in *evicting* the bourgeoisie from the popular alliance.

At the same time the continuing armed struggle in South Africa has been stepped up by the peoples' militia such as *Umkhonto we Sizwe*. Consequently we wish to emphasize the plight of political prisoners from Nelson Mandela to Solomon Mahlangu in the light of Steve Biko's and hundreds' others death behind bars of the South African prisons. In contributing towards the 1978/79 *Year of Solidarity Against Apartheid*, as earlier declared by the General Assembly of the United Nations, we wish to join the call of many to demand that South Africa stop the execution of patriots fighting apartheid. Mahlangu, and other political *prisoners of war* must be treated under the *relevant Geneva Conventions*. We give recognition to progressive forces in the world, who have stood by the South African people; similarly, on the other hand we continue to participate in the exposure of reactionaries who continue to strengthen apartheid, imperialism, and oppressive groups in Africa. It is hoped these would become evident from our journal.

The development of proletarian consciousness and the demise of populism in South Africa, and Africa in general has signalled the eclipse of imperialism on the continent. Populists as varied as Siad Barre, Mobuto and Idi Amin who all at one time or another held the African record for *sloganeering* have in the service of imperialism, consciously or otherwise attacked friendly and progressive regimes in Africa. Populism has been dangerous also in the sense that in Africa its foundation has been concretely based on a *sectional/ethnic* cultural nationalism. On the other hand, *proletarian consciousness and praxis* ensures that cooperative, socialist and communalistic means of transformation form the *core* of the peoples' economic, state, and ideological structure.

At this stage we would like to extend deep appreciation to Thamsanqa Ngubeni, the Chairperson of *African Activists Association* for comradely support and help in putting together this special *activist* issue on the state of liberation in South Africa. While we are on the subject, we all at *Ufahamu* and African Activists Association wish to bid farewell to Professor Boniface Obichere and welcome Professor Michael Lofchie to head the African Studies Center at UCLA. We hope that we all continue to work cooperatively for the benefit of African studies and the liberation of African peoples .

\* \* \* \* \*

The forthcoming *Ufahamu* volumes will continue to be organised around certain political and ideological themes. Volume IX Number 1 will be inter-disciplinary but focus on theory: dependency and underdevelopment, class analysis and Africa, theory and praxis, ideology and so on. Contributions are still being accepted. Volume IX Number 2 is being entirely devoted to an analysis of the political economy of Kenya. We have already titled it *Kenya Tumaenda Wapi?*

Finally, some not so good news. Everybody knows these are hard times. The area studies centers and universities themselves are facing tightening budgets (*inflation and proposition 13*). We have thus decided to minimally increase subscription rates. Surprisingly as it might sound, our total earnings barely cover our mailing expenses alone. So starting from Volume IX Number 1, our new rates will be:

Individuals in U.S and Canada	-	\$ 8.00
For the same, single issue	-	\$ 3.00
Individuals in Overseas	-	\$10.00
Single issue for Overseas	-	\$ 4.00
All Institutions (U.S & Overseas)		\$12.00

For *Air Mail* postage overseas, add \$7.50 to the yearly rate or \$2.50 to the single issue rate.

PLUS: *Ufahamu* is now accepting advertisements from institutions, publishers, and book-sellers connected with African studies. We have in mind such announcements as job listings, conferences, new publications, and other relevant subject matter. The rates are:

Per Issue: Full Page-	\$60.00...	Half Page-	\$35.00
		Quarter Page-	\$20.00
Per Volume: Full Page-	\$165.00...	Half Page-	\$96.00
		Quarter Page-	\$48.00. (3 issues)

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## CONTRIBUTORS

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*Methodé-Alain Butoyi*, a former graduate student in African Studies, is now pursuing his Ph.D. in French at UCLA.

*Fassil Demissie* is a member of the Editorial Board of *Ufahamu* and currently on leave from the School of Architecture and Urban Planning, UCLA.

*Peter C.W. Gutkind* teaches in the Department of Anthropology, McGill University, Montreal. His main interest is in urbanization in Africa, and in particular, in African workers, working class formation, expression and action.

*Masisi Kunene* is a well-known African scholar presently based at UCLA. His *progressive* contribution in African politics and literature as expressed in his publications, action, teaching and other works of solidarity have been instrumental in championing the quality, range and dimension of African thought and reality.

*Walusako A. Mwalilino* is a Malawian national who graduated from State University College at New Paltz, New York. In May 1977, he also received an M.A. in International Relations from the John Hopkins University.

*Harry Nongwenkulu* is the spokesperson for the *Black Consciousness Movement (B.C.M.)* and presently is based in Botswana. He has also served as the Vice President of *South African Students Organisation (S.A.S.O.)*.

*John Philips* is a graduate student in African Studies at UCLA. He is also a member of the *Industrial Workers of the World (I.W.W.)* where during 1977 he served on its Executive Board.

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*Gloria Waite* is a Ph.D. candidate in History at UCLA. She submitted this review enroute to Africa where she has been conducting research in medical history.