

**UCLA**

**Ufahamu: A Journal of African Studies**

**Title**

Decolonization in West African States with French Colonial Legacy.  
Comparison and Contrast: Development in Guinea, the Ivory Coast and  
Senegal 1945-1980

**Permalink**

<https://escholarship.org/uc/item/0wc568cg>

**Journal**

Ufahamu: A Journal of African Studies, 13(2-3)

**ISSN**

0041-5715

**Author**

Demissie, Fassil

**Publication Date**

1984

**DOI**

10.5070/F7132-3017106

**Copyright Information**

Copyright 1984 by the author(s). All rights reserved unless otherwise indicated. Contact the author(s) for any necessary permissions. Learn more at <https://escholarship.org/terms>

Peer reviewed

Several considerations emerge from the study of "Indian multi-nationals." Lall suggests that while there are smaller Indian companies which occasionally venture abroad, much of the field is dominated by large firms with considerable experience and financial resources. In part the growth of these multi-nationals was conditioned by the lack of local investment potentials due to the state's anti-monopoly restrictions.

The Indian 'multi-nationals', according to Lall, utilize different market strategies. For example, the Birla group exploits its expertise by direct investments through projects and technical services, while the Tata group relies on a more diversified range of exports. A major problem with the 'Indian multi-nationals' is associated with their inability to create new technological breakthroughs. This has to do more with lack of research and development activities by most of these companies. Lall also notes that the technology which is transmitted by Indian enterprises has a very high "embodied" content in terms of Indian plant, equipment and components.

What emerges from Lall's discussion of the Indian case is that multi-nationals from developing countries are showing the organizational capabilities to set up large-scale, complex, well-diffused technology, marketing-intensive projects, making it possible for them to compete on a par with multi-national firms from the industrialized countries.

While much research on South-South relations has yet to start, the articles in the book raise a number of theoretical and policy issues. Although the articles are unevenly written, collectively they represent a beginning towards a more comprehensive study on South-South relations.

Fassil Demissie  
Urban Planning Program  
UCLA

#### BOOK NOTES

Aguibou, Yansané Y. Decolonization in West African States with French Colonial Legacy. Comparison and Contrast: Development in Guinea, the Ivory Coast and Senegal 1945-1980. Cambridge, Massachusetts: Schenkman Publishing Co., Inc., 1984. 540 pp., bibliography, index, paperback.

Colonialism and its profound impact has occupied a prominent place in the study of the social and economic history of Africa. The demise of colonialism in Africa has taken two

distinct phases. In the first phase, the process of decolonization was negotiated between the colonial power and the indigenous strata, resulting in a limited political and economic autonomy. In the second phase, particularly in the former Portuguese colonies, decolonization came about by a protracted military, political and diplomatic struggle in which the forces of national liberation assumed popular control of the political and economic processes.

Dr. Yansané's book on the decolonization of West Africa discusses the first phase and provides a comprehensive analysis of the divergent paths taken by Guinea, the Ivory Coast and Senegal in the aftermath of the demise of French colonialism. The book offers a fresh examination of the motives and foundation of French colonial policy and traces the dynamic process that led certain modifications to accommodate the interests of the emerging indigenous ruling strata.

A significant aspect of the book's contribution to African Studies lies in the in-depth comparison between the non-capitalist development of Guinea, on the one hand, and those of the capitalist model of Senegal and the Ivory Coast, on the other. In particular, Dr. Yansané assesses the political and economic implications of the divergent paths taken by each country and concludes by way of providing an alternative framework for achieving political and economic autonomy for these three countries.

Fassil Demissie  
Urban Planning Program  
UCLA

#### BOOKS RECEIVED\*

Green, Reginald (ed.). Namibia: The Last Colony. New York: Longman, 1981. 310 pp.

Arnold, Guy. Modern Kenya. New York: Longman, 1981. 156 pp.

Nolutshongu, Sam. Changing South Africa: Political Considerations. New York: Africana, 1982. 128 pp.

Caute, David. Under the Skin: The Death of White Rhodesia. Evanston, Ill: Northwestern, 1983. 447 pp.

\*This is a list of books in our hands for which we couldn't find room in this issue. Some of them will be reviewed in subsequent issues. (Ed.)

- Oyeneye, Ibiyemi. West African Government for O-level. New York: Longman, 1981. 191 pp.
- Bailey, Anne and Joseph Llobera. The Asiatic Mode of Production: Science and Politics. London: Routledge and Kegan Paul, 1981. 363 pp.
- Stichter, Sharon. Migrant Labour in Kenya: Capitalism and the African Response, 1895-1975. New York: Longman, 1982. 210 pp.
- Harris, Leonard. Philosophy Born in Struggle: Anthology of Afro-American Philosophy from 1917. Dubuque, Iowa: Kendall/Hunt, 1983. 316 pp.
- Anker, Richard and James Knowles. Population Growth, Employment and Economic-Demographic Interactions in Kenya. New York: St. Martin's, 1983. 375 pp.
- Ishumi, Abel G.M. The Urban Jobless in Eastern Africa. Uppsala. 1984. 112 pp.
- Moorsom, Richard. Exploiting the Sea. New York: C.I.I.R., 1984. 123 pp.
- Madunagu, Eddie. Problems of Socialism: The Nigerian Challenge. London: Zed Press, 1982. 117 pp.
- Robinson, Cedric J. Black Marxism: The Making of the Black Radical Tradition. London: Zed Press, 1983. 467 pp.
- Astrow, Andre. Zimbabwe: A Revolution That Lost Its Way? London: Zed Press, 1983. 254 pp., index.