

Editorial

Continuing in the tradition of its precursors, this volume of *African Nebula* features articles from different regions in a sense that affirms the consolidation of the international texture of the journal. The contributions also cut across fields in the humanities, thus allowing for a wide range of views and discourses relating to Africa, its Diaspora and the location of the continent in relation to the rest of the world.

The volume is nevertheless unique for featuring a revised version of one of the seminar papers presented at the International Summer Seminar Series of the College of Humanities and Culture of Osun State University in August 2010. This is the article by Jendele Hungbo of the University of the Witwatersrand, South Africa. The said article titled “‘Emerging’ Communities and New Understandings of the Self: Talk Radio in Post-apartheid South Africa”, extends discussions on the apprehension of communities as “imagined”. As a lead article, it provides a fresh perspective on the understanding of post-apartheid realities by problematizing the notion of the rainbow nation, illuminating in the process the implications of mediated radio communities which rest substantially on an imagined configuration to address questions of politics, economics, and other similarly conceived challenges that South Africa faces in a post-apartheid dispensation. By privileging an analysis of two radio talk shows programmes (SAFM’s ‘The After Eight Debate’ and Talk Radio 702’s ‘The Redi Direko Show’), Hugbo contends that “the persistence of markers of difference in different forms questions the idea of ‘shared interests’ and continues to threaten social relations that form the basis for emerging communities or ‘new’ communities in present-day South Africa”.

Autobiographical in slant and nuance, Rowell Makombe’s article, organizes personal thoughts around the memory of Zimbabwe’s recent past of economic and political downturn in order to affirm the veracity of literary articulations about the audacity of survival of the marginalized through a process of interpolation on the discourse and practice of domination. This is so irrespective of the temporality of domination-- be it Euro-American racism, apartheid or post-colonial tyranny. Crucial to his illustration are “Richard Wright’s depiction of Jimcrow America in *Native Son* and *Black Boy*, Athol Fugard’s and Lewis Nkosi’s portrayal of apartheid South Africa in *Sizwe Bansi is Dead* and *Mating Birds* respectively”. Olumide Ayeniwo contends that while the Nigerian urban poor face a number of challenges, especially with respect to “affordable housing ownership”, there is nonetheless a lot to be learned and harnessed from the strategies of “adoption of co-operative Housing Scheme and the involvement of International Donor Agencies in addressing housing problems of the urban poor.” Central to this, he contends, is the vital role women can play in realizing the housing ownership prospect on account of their population. Bolu Folayan’s contribution centralizes the fate of Nigerian children who are exposed to adult video films through the agency of Nollywood, expressing concerns over their future in the face of the resulting moral compromise and the toll the consumption of *mass culture* is taking on them.

Olumide Ayeniwo addresses the problems militating against the urban poor in achieving home ownership in Nigeria. In doing this, he reviews the existing National Housing Policy and identifies the issue of mortgage loans affordability, which has been identified as the major constraint against the urban poor in having access to housing finance and subsequently denying them of housing ownership. The paper attempts to proffer appropriate strategies and

recommendations for addressing the problem of housing in Nigeria. Closely following on the heels of Ayeniyo, Jacob Babarinde's article presents some methods and strategies by which the commercialisation of Old Ibadan Airport was professionally evaluated at inception and later subjected to legal action by some of the aggrieved land allottees following a perceived breach of contract by the project's owners. After presenting some possible options that policy makers and key stakeholders could have considered and adopted in resolving the impasse facing the implementation of the project, the author concludes that locational conflicts can always be resolved if opposing parties are willing, able and ready to invest in cooperative dialogue based on mutual respect, rather than resorting to the force of arms in the interest of local, regional and national sustainability.

If the pro-colonial aggression of Nupe people led to the resettlement of Yagba people from their original location to inaccessible mountain-top settlements, A. T. Ekundayo, through an application of historical analytical tools, contends that bringing them back to participate in the succeeding modernization project of British colonialism was not as easy as anybody would think, as the memory of Nupe aggression with a combination of other factors served to explain their reluctance to relocate to the original settlements. It was on account of this that British colonial authorities had to adopt stringent measures, including burning down some of their settlements for them to descend from the mountains to occupy what is now mostly known as their present location in Kogi State of Nigeria.

The next article by Nike Akinjobi presents an investigation of the relevance of academic competence to linguistic performance in the use of English intonation tunes in Nigeria. From an empirical cum linguistic point of view, the paper reveals that academic competence has little or no effect on the appropriate assignment of intonation tunes in polite requests, complex sentences and attitudinal functions.

The field of strategic studies is of significant interest to Zhe Zhang and Omon Osiki. In this last article the authors analyse the historical forces that shaped the strategic thinking of Xiang Yu, Hannibal and Shaka the Zulu and discuss their tremendous contributions to the development of military science and history. From a comparative perspective the authors argue that these three historical personalities shared remarkable military ingenuity in the prosecution of their respective battles and contend that the three military strategists significantly transformed warfare from a 'ritualized' exercise into a true method of subjugation and professional endeavour.

With this array of articles, prospective readers as scholars, students and others will find this volume interesting particularly for the fresh and incisive insights it provides on issues ranging from media to literature to history to strategic studies and to urban planning.

Happy reading!

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September, 2011