

Towards the Vision of the African Union: a Critical Evaluation of the AU Agenda from the Perspective of Anyiam-Osigwe's Group Mind Principle

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In 2001, the African Union (AU) was established on the need for a larger synergy that will offer Africa a higher socio-economic yield and build a common identity. Almost two decades on, the pan-African vision is yet to be realised. For Anyiam-Osigwe, Africa's integration necessitates a Group Mind consciousness, where member states willingly resolve to pool together their various attributes towards the vision of the Group. They must be guided by the knowledge that the existence of the one is best assured by the existence and survival of the other. Also, that the survival and existence of the other is integrated in the existence and preservation of the whole. Member states' interests, though subsumed in the overall interest of the new superstructure, is recognised as being protected and more attainable, within the larger whole.

This paper suggests that if the internal workings of member states are premised on Anyiam-Osigwe's Group Mind, the AU's objectives will be greatly served. It introduces the Group Mind as indigenous African social theory and development philosophy predicated on the logic of Anyiam-Osigwe's metaphysics and discusses the transition from the Organisation of African Unity to the African Union, recognising the desire for greater unity and inter-African co-operation. Within this context, African unity, development, democratisation and good governance as key AU goals are examined, with critical analysis drawn from Anyiam-Osigwe's postulations on the Group Mind. It will maintain that the Group Mind principle presents a pathway towards the vision of the African Union.