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Africa: the Politics of Unity

F. W. Ulbricht
U.S. Navy

Immanuel Wallerstein

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and imports will fall until the deficit is wiped out. The gold-exchange system is bad because a deficit in the central reserve country (read the United States) does not cause an outflow of purchasing power necessary to achieve adjustment. Rueff has at least a half-truth by the tail. But he has derived from a simple theoretical model a set of policy prescriptions for a complex, messy world. Reliance on Rueff's "automatic" market adjustment would take balance of payments policy out of the hands of the policymakers. It would leave them no options; they might be compelled to sacrifice other economic goals (full employment, economic growth) for the goal of balance of payments equilibrium. Ultimately, therefore, Rueff's position reduces itself to the value judgment that balance of payments stability is the supreme economic goal.

This book is not recommended for the lay reader, except possibly the first article. The economist-reader will be annoyed by the use of strange names and phrases for the standard terminology of economic theory. Apparently, the translator knows nothing about economics as expressed in English.

F. R. ROOT
Chair of Economics

Wallerstein, Immanuel. *Africa: the Politics of Unity*. New York: Random House, 1967. 274 p.

Mr. Wallerstein, the author of *Africa: the Politics of Unity*, is to be commended for maintaining a positive approach to the subject matter, as disunity rather than unity seems to have dominated contemporary African politics. He makes a courageous attempt to systematize the multitudinous African events which have occurred during the 1957-1965 time frame through the vehicle of the principal theme: African unity, as an ideal and as an objective.

He is even generous in his interpretation of the positive contribution that revolutionaries like Kwame Nkrumah have made in advancing the ideological force of unity as a movement. Also, he generally ascribes to the actions of some of the new ministates a foresight and maturity of conduct which might be questioned at times. Because of the number of minute events examined in detail this is not an easy book to read unless one is already well versed in this period of African history. The author also presupposes a background knowledge of what transpired in Africa prior to 1957. His propensity to review political events without identifying associated factors, such as economics, detracts from the completeness of the discussion. The philosophy underlying the role of the trade unions as the avant garde in the movements toward African unity is related in a detailed, historical manner. The plethora of organization initials that occur as many as 30 times to a page makes for a difficulty in reading that is only partly alleviated by a five-page glossary of initials provided in appendix A. However, for someone desirous of understanding the detailed interplay of African labor leaders and unions the information would be of value.

The synthesis of the author's knowledge appears in the final chapter, "African Unity in the World Context." Relations between the United States and the U.S.S.R., as they have affected African political fortunes, bring forth some critical philosophy from Mr. Wallerstein. He assumes a détente between the two and views this as circumscribing the flexibility enjoyed by African nations during the cold war. The book is recommended only for the serious student of Africa, and even he might start with the last chapter first.

F. W. ULBRICHT
Captain, U.S. Navy