

Nabudere Dani and Mandaza Ibbo (eds), Pan Africanism and Integration in Africa, Sapes Books, Harare 2002, pp339, ISBN: 1-77905-149-2.

Pan-Africanism and Integration in Africa is a pacesetting book that endeavours to analyse the African situation in the face of the powerful forces of globalisation. The contributors in the book generally push for the inclusion of a Pan-African flavour in any attempt to defeat the destructive forces of globalisation.

In the first part, Kwesi Kwa Prah grapples with African Unity, Pan Africanism and the Dilemmas of Regional Integration. From the very beginning, he alerts readers of the perils of recolonisation, particularly in the framework of Bretton woods institutions. Prah warns that the success in achieving African unity will not be an easy affair but on a positive note, still achievable. All the challenges facing Africa need a unified approach and this will lead to, in his own words “an economically sustainable and viable, ethno-culturally co-existent, democratic and peaceful Africa.”

Kaumbi aptly defines “African Diaspora” as to refer to all those people of African descent who live outside of the continent of Mother Africa. In tracing the development of this phenomenon, the author begins by examining how slave trade beginning in 1441, caused so much displacement of Africans. The diaspora however also consists of Africans who have voluntarily migrated to places outside of the continent. The author mourns so much about the untapped potential of these people in Africa’s development.

Nabudere alerts readers that globalization is actually not going in one direction; another force of globalization is also shaping itself. This is what Nabudere refers to as the Janus-headed concept of globalization for there is another approach that is the direct anti-thesis to the aforementioned one. Further, the very history of Africa should inform the African Renaissance in so far as it seeks to re-awaken and re-energise the African.

Ibbo Mandaza highlights the Regional Integration in Africa remains one of the possible avenues to improve the continent’s condition. However, this far, economic globalisation that is happening at a global scale, risks derailing the integration process. Further, the continued marginalisation of Africa in international trade does not seem to have fully awakened African leaders to revolutionise regional integration this far to three factors that have also been confirmed by the African Development Bank.

Part Two attempt to grapple with the issue of globalization versus regional integration. The reader emerges wiser of the impact of globalization on the continent. Balefi Tsie sets out to examine the

effects globalization has had on Southern African regional integration. He admits that the multiplicity of the definitions of globalization, stemming from the fact that it is itself a problematic concept beset by ambiguity. He posits however that though contentious, globalisation is not a myth but a reality of our times and clearly a “distinct phase in the way the world economy is presenting organized.”

Dhliwayo discusses the capital situation in Africa, essentially proving that very little capital is coming into the continent while paradoxically, African capital is being exported elsewhere. Walter Chidhakwa appreciates and even underscores the potentialities of this innovation to generate the much-needed foreign currency while at the same time attracting investment through Export processing Zones or Industrial zones. Kambudzi traces the roots of development assistance, which seems to have emerged in the immediate post-war aftermath, firstly with the Marshall Plan. The central argument by the author is that official development assistance is swaying away from the concern for poverty reduction or real development.

Three authors in Part Three offer an in depth analysis of regional integration in Africa. Chipeta argues convincingly that the former is most favorable for the developing countries as it takes into account political cooperation. It also appreciates the unequal and uneven development within and between member countries. Mwila observes that globalization should even make economic regionalism even more necessary as a countervailing force to the dominance of powerful economic interests. In summary, Mwila calls for the elimination of tariffs and reduction of costs through the simplification of customs procedure at borders.

The need for a harmonised financial policy has eluded many African leaders. According to Munyaka this is a prerequisite for regional integration. Since most national markets are too narrow and inadequate to sustain sizeable economic operations, integration is the answer as resources can be pooled for investment by taking advantage of the economies of scale only made available by large markets.

In Part Four, an analysis is made on the investment in the social services of the SADC region. The discussion examines private sector investment in the context of globalization. There is an extensive coverage of the telecommunications sector with the authors concurring that there has a phenomenal growth in this sector. Mwanza focuses his attention on two social services that is education and health in this discussion on the social sector. Malawi, Mozambique, Zambia and Zimbabwe stand out as examples of social sector expenditure cuts, which in the case of education, caused enrolments to drop drastically. Cuts in health spending led to introduction of fees and the majority failed, and is still failing to meet them.

Grace Ropholo, Oupa Mokuena and Heloise Endon advocate infrastructural development. For any economy to run, a good telecommunications infrastructure is a pre-requisite. With the deterioration of the fixed line assets, Southern Africa has witnessed a massive development of mobile telephone networks. That Telecommunications is a requirement for economic development seems to be the author's contention. The author makes a valuable observation to the effect that telecommunications development has so far sidelined the rural areas. A lot of risks, however, are associated with investing in sub-Saharan Africa. The author ends by briefly discussing the other challenges to investments in SADC. Inadequate infrastructure and low levels of technology and corruption are cited. The author quite believes that with all those opportunities in the telecommunications sector and given political will, Southern Africa can tap it for its overall development.

A gender perspective into Pan-Africanism is given in Part five where the scholars prove the importance of involving women, youth and the masses in the whole project. The activities of women in cross border trade are given as a reference point. Mugo's article seeks to highlight the invisibility of African women, youth and the masses in the articulation of the Pan-African agenda. Mugo however discusses other definitions of Pan-Africanism and one thing is clear: Pan-Africanism is both dynamic and still evolving. Mugo goes on to give examples of African. Ntseane confirms the artificiality of national borders by showing how African women have managed to defy these boundaries in their cross-border trading activities. The trade networks those Southern African women –including rural women-have established as a key to their success bears the status of a new model for economic organization of the continent.

The final section is devoted to land issue. Moyo notes that market-assisted land reform which is championed by most multi-lateral institutions is regarded as having been a failure in Zimbabwe because it is not people-centered. One significant statistic, which however comes out, is that it is a fallacy to imagine peaceful land reform anywhere in the world and Zimbabwe is no exception. The author makes a valid assessment to the effect that land reform is a political issue and the failure of market-related land reform naturally gave birth to compulsory acquisition, in most cases skirting legal considerations to redress unacceptable colonial imbalances.

Reviewed by
Percyslage Chigora
Department of History and Development Studies
Midlands State University, Zimbabwe