

SAN JOSE STATE UNIVERSITY

AFRICAN POLITICS

**PROF. HARRIS
Off. Hrs. T & R 3-4
Telephone 924-5568**

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The politics of the African continent for over five hundred years have been shaped more by foreign forces than indigenous forces. African people were torn from their mother country only to be turned into Chattel / Property-Slaves which represented the absolute total dehumanization of another human being ever recorded! However, the most important story of African and its people is their indomitable spirit. In North and South America enslaved African labor led to the industrialization of Western Europe and development of both North and South America. Modern language, dance and music were created by Africans. Imagine even the Tango was an African Dance. However, it can never be overstated the tragedy and destruction of African people for the last five hundred years! Perhaps the most aspect of the trans-Atlantic slave trade was loss of maybe fifty to a hundred million Africans could build up their own countries instead they were forced to use their human capital to build Europe, the US, and Latin America! However, the former enslaved Africans left an indelible cultural implant of music, dance and food. Imagine their more Afro-Latinos than Afro-Americans. Although their presence is larger than African Africans they still suffer invisibility except when it comes to football!

The modern political history of Africa begins with Vasco De Gama's voyage around the world. This historic voyage began ironically started the Trans-Atlantic slave trade that would last five hundred years!

The modern political history of most of the current nation-states in Africa begins what is called the Scramble for Africa.

This in turn led to the Congress of Berlin in 1885-1886 whose purpose to try and avoid a war over Germany wanting to become an imperial. However, because Germany was a new rising power the older imperial powers such as France, Britain power did not want Germany encroaching on any of their colonies on other countries in Europe! Hence, the other European powers decided the best way to avoid another European war was to carve up Africa which would allow Germany to become an imperial at the expense of African liberty! During this period of the Scramble for Africa the only country that did not become a European colony was Ethiopia because they defeated the Italian invasion. Although they lost their access to the Red Sea!

APPROACHES TO THE STUDY OF AFRICAN POLITICS:

SOCIAL SCIENCE IS MORE AN INTERPRETATIVE MODE OF ANALYSIS BASED ON LAWS AND PREDICATIONS THAT EXPLAIN WHY SOCIAL SCIENTISTS HAVE FAILED TO DEVELOP A UNIFORM SYSTEMATIC WAY TO EXPLAIN THE BEHAVIOR OF CITIZENS, ELITES, OR POLITICIANS AND OR THEIR CONNECTIONS TO THE STATE, POLITICS IN ANY SOCIETY. HOWEVER, THE FAILURE OF SOCIAL SCIENCE IS MORE APPARENT IN AFRICAN STUDIES BECAUSE ALL OF THE MODELS ARE BASED ON AN ARTIFICIAL EURO-CENTRIC COLONIAL MODEL PARADIGM!

HENCE, THE MAJOR INTELLECTUAL CHALLENGES FOR AFRICAN SCHOLARS IS TO DEVELOP A POLITICS CONSISTENT WITH SOCIO-ECONOMIC AND CULTURAL CONDITIONS BEFORE COLONIZATION, DURING COLONIZATION AND POST-COLONIAL PERIOD! IN SUM AFRICA MUST DEVELOP IT'S OWN PARADIGM BASED ON THE PARTICULAR CHARACTER OF EACH AFRICAN STATE AND THEIR COLONIAL EXPERIENCES!

Nonetheless, in broad terms several major paradigms have emerged to explain African Politics derived from western paradigms. The Modernization paradigm was based on how the Europeans made the transition from a Feudal agricultural base to an industrial society! This model was based that all

developing societies would follow the paths of western Europeans and the US to reach modernity:

- **Identity: fostering a common purpose among a diffuse population**
- **Legitimacy : how to develop legitimate authority from a illegitimate colonial state**
- **Penetration : Creating an administrative capacity to penetrate throughout the society**
- **Distribution: how to distribute the resources from the center to the regions**
- **National Integration: how to create the idea of citizenship for a multi-national state**

DEPENDENCY/UNDERDEVELOPMENT

- **Western Imperialist did not development an integrated economy.**
- **Unequal Exchange is the difference between the wages of diamond workers and the price of diamonds that they produce.**
- **Legitimacy crisis in Africa is based on the illegitimacy of the state and cultural boundaries that use foreign colonial boundaries and languages.**
- **African countries produce diamonds but they are cut and polished outside of Africa.**
- **The colonial system only used African labor to extract raw materials, but never to process or manufacture products because without the African market it would reduce the wealth of Great Britain.**

REQUIRED TEXT BOOKS

BIG AFRICAN STATES, CLAPHAM

AFRICAN IN WORLD POLITICS, HARBESON
CHINA SAFARI, MICHEL

Recommended

A NEW BEGINNING, EDIE

LISITENING FOCUS ON AFRICA MONDAY-FRIDAY

<http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/world/africa/default.stm>

<http://www.worldbank.org/afr>

READING ASSIGNMENT AND LECTURE GUIDLINE.

WEEK ONE

INTRODUCTION AND REVIEW OF SYLLABUS.

1/26

WEEK TWO

**REVIEW AND DISCUSSION ABOUT AFRICA'S
POLITICAL AND SOCIAO ECONOMIC
HISTORY**

T-1/31

R 2/2

DISCUSSION ON MATERIAL GIVEN ON 1/26.

WEEK THREE

BIG AFRICAN STATES S CHAPTERS1-3

2/7

2/9

WEEK FOUR

BIG AFRICAN STATES S CHAPTERS 4-6

2/14

2/16

WEEK FIVE
2/21
2/23

BIG AFRICAN STATES CHAPTER 12
MOVIE ON AFRICA (TBA)

WEEK SIX
2/28
3/1

AFRICAN IN WORLD POLITICS CHAPTER
1-2

WEEK SEVEN
3/6
3/8

AFRICAN IN WORLD POLITICS CHAPTERS
3-4

WEEK EIGHT
3/13
3/15

AFRICAN IN WORLD POLITICS CHAPTERS
5-6

WEEK NINE
3/20
3/22 TAKE HOME MID TERM

AFRICAN IN WORLD POLITICS CHAPTERS 7

TERM -PAPER DUE IN CLASS ON 4/3

WEEK TEN
SPRING BREAK
3/26-4/1

NO CLASS

WEEK ELEVEN

4/3

3-5 MINUTES ORAL PRESENTATION ON THE MID
TERM PAPER DUE IN CLASS

4/5

WEEK TWELVE **CHINA SAFARI CHAPTERS 1-3**
4/10
4/12

WEEK THIRTEEN **CHINA SAFARI CHAPTERS 4-7**
4/17
4/19

WEEK FOURTEEN **CHINA SAFARI CHAPTERS 8-9**
4/24
4/26

WEEK FIFTEEN **CHINA SAFARI CHAPTERS 10-12**
5/1
5/3

WEEK SIXTEEN **CHINA SAFARI CHAPTERS 13**
5/8
5/10 **LAST DAY OF INSTRUCTION**

WEEK SEVENTEEN
TUESDAY 5/15 FINAL EXAM!!LAST DAY OF CLASS

PAPER DUE IN CLASS ON 5/15.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS:

**Students are required to have read the assigned reading:
before they come to class. Every class begins with a 10
minute QUESTION TIME ABOUT AFRICA.**

GRADES:

**MID-TERM BASED ON THE ASSIGNED READING 3-4 PAGES
AND A SHORT ORAL PRESENTATION ON AN AFRICAN
COUNTRY SOCIO ECONOMIC AND POLITICAL STRUCTURE
(40 pts.)**

FINAL: A 4-6 PAGE PAPER COMPARING TWO COUNTRIES THAT WE DID DISCUSS. THE INVOLVEMENT OF CHINATAKE A PRO OR CON STAND IN YOUR DISCUSSION

PAPER DUE IN CLASS ON 5/15 NO LATE PAPER ACCEPTED

LEARNING OBJECTIVE: TO UNDERSTAND WHY ALL NEW STATES WILL BE REVOLUTIONARY STATES BECAUSE THEY MUST DESTROY THE PAST TO CREATE A NEW UNION HOWEVER, ONLY TIME WILL DETERMINE WHETHER THESE NEW STATES WILL SURVIE OR THEY LACK LEGITMACY. IN SHORT, ONLY TIME CAN MAKE NEW STATES LEGITMATE. HENCE IT WILL TAKE NEW STATES AT LEAST GENGERATION OR MORE BEFORE THEY BECOME STABLE STATES. NEW STATES ALSO LACK LEGITIMACY BECAUSE EVERY REVOLUTION MUST DESTROY THE PAST AND JUSTIFY WHY THEY SHOULD HAVE A NEW BEGING CREATE NEW AND MORE PERFECT FOUNDING! NONTHELESS, HOW THEY WOULD CONDUCT THEMSELVES IN POWER. I SUPPORT THE THEORY THAT IT'S TAKES AT LEAST A GENERATION FOR ALL NEW STATES TO BECOME LEGITMATE!

SPECIAL NEEDS

If you need any course adaptations or accommodations because of a disability, or you need special arrangements in case the building must be evacuated, please make an appointment with the Professor or visit him during his office hours as soon as possible. Presidential Directive 97-03 requires that students

must be registered with DRC to establish a record of their disability!

PLAGIARISM

At SJSU plagiarism is the act of representing the work of another as one's own (without giving appropriate credit) regardless of how that work was obtained, and submitting it to fulfill academic requirements. Plagiarism as SJSU includes but is not limited to: The acts of incorporating ideas, words, sentences, paragraph, or parts thereof, or specific substance of another's work, without giving appropriate credit, and representing it as one's own work. Do not do it students caught plagiarizing automatically fail the course. If you are unsure about the policy on Academic Integrity please see the policy on academic integrity on the University Website <http://sa.sjsu> .

