



African Journal of Political Science Revue Africaine de Science Politique

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EDITORIAL

Africa beyond Political Sovereignty: a 60@ Anniversary Imperative



SIPHAMANDLA ZONDI , TINUADE OJO  & JOSEF KEUTCHEU 
Editors

This year marks 60 years since the establishment of the first inter-state institution for Africa, the Organisation of African Unity. It was established principally to support the achievement of independence and political freedom by African colonies during a decade that is associated with the idea of winds of change. Political sovereignty through the control of the nation-state was seen as critical to the achievement of the ideals of Pan-Africanism, including African unity, African pride, cohesion, and common African prosperity.

Looking back now, we can see the matter of political sovereignty first as a matter for debate, but at the time there was not much debate about the wisdom of this determination, but more on the process and its management. Ali Mazrui has given us many concepts to help us understand the African story, one of them is the concept of the Curse of Berlin that manifests in the creation of unviable colonies through arbitrary borders and artificial nationhood. He contended that this curse outlived independence and continued to haunt the independent Africa. It has only achieved the nominal unity of states at the elite level but remains fragmented and divided on many other grounds.

As we look back at the 60 years, there are many achievements to be counted and some progress was made in several fronts, but the fundamental purpose remains elusive. The continent's political sovereignty, which largely is associated with regime security, has yet to lead to social sovereignty and progress.

For hundreds of millions of young and old Africans, it is not yet Uhuru with such levels of poverty and economic underdevelopment, and with such evident levels of dependency on the West and others manifest in the conduct of the political elite.

The anniversary is not one to use to celebrate vain glory, but to frankly account for our past failures and to reconnect with the lofty ideals of the old. We must work further and better to bring about the change that has long eluded us. This includes being careful about what leaders we choose, and how we as citizens participate in our governance between elections. It is about citizens seizing the moment and taking the destiny of their countries into their hands. It is about partnerships and solidarity in this pursuit of peace, justice, and prosperity.

This journal is committed to hosting ideas and thoughts that contribute to this resurgence of African citizens in one way or another.

This edition would not have been possible without the hard work of anonymous peer reviewers and the positive response of the authors. The editors, Dr Tinuade Ojo and Joseph Keutcheu, and volunteer assistants have taken their responsibility seriously. We wish Africa visible and measurable progress in 2024.

Editor in Chief

Siphamandla Zondi