

Introduction to the second volume of Nkrumah Chair papers

It has been two years since the first volume of the papers from the second Kwame Nkrumah Pan African Intellectual and Cultural Festival was published in the CJAS. Papers in that volume answered questions about and suggested ways to improve the pedagogical, epistemological and knowledge production in realizing the goals of Global Africa 2063. Global Africa which was the focus of the previous festival embraced all peoples of African descent across the continents. Global Africa 2063 reconceptualized African Union's Agenda 2063 to reflect the realities of the fragility of global capital, along with the urgency for the reconstruction and transformation of Africa and its peoples outside the continent. The call for African agency in its reconstruction and transformation is as important now as it was during the Nkrumah Festival in 2017, and the publication of the first set of papers in 2019.

Before 2019 ended, COVID-19 ushered the world into extraordinary times which continue with all its ramifications at the time of this second publication. The challenges of the COVID-19 pandemic have exposed the critical need for stronger bonds across Africa in managing challenges and mobilizing all resources available to save lives. COVID-19 has exposed the porosity of the preparedness of Africa in managing health crises as individual countries. The pandemic has also harshly levelled the ground for everyone in its infection, 'virality', and sting. Consequently, African leaders and financial operators could no longer ignore dilapidating health systems and structures in their societies. The untimely passing of notable personalities at the highest level of societies in Africa exposed the fallacy of the past where leaders flew to foreign lands for treatment while the masses of Africans suffer under poorly resourced, neglected, and sometimes non-existing health facilities.

As the world battled the COVID-19 pandemic, the brutal lynching of George Floyd drew global attention to the continuing pandemic of systemic racism, white supremacists violence, unwarranted police killings, and injustice against black peoples. This persisting pandemic has historicity in the legacies of racial capitalism, genocidal economic relations, enslavement in the Americas and mutates in forms of subjugation, imperialism, and racism across the world.

The mobilizing work of several grassroots movements have shown the strength in self-organizing teams and the effectiveness of fractal spread of such movements in promoting justice and human dignity everywhere. The demands of these groups differ but black lives and justice for exploited peoples provide a rallying front. The Second Kwame Nkrumah Festival had sought to build on the momentum that had been inspired by the World Conference Against Racism (Durban 2001) and in the new prospects that the struggles around the programme of action had opened for reparative justice. A breath of revival was clearly palpable in Durban arising from the solidarity of the Afro-Asian peoples attending and this energy was communicated by Hilary Beckles in his keynote address to the festival. In fact, a renewal of this solidarity is one of the essential, or rather fundamental, conditions for building better relations between the peoples of Global Africa. Clearly, historical injustices and beneficiaries of genocidal systems must face the stark truth about institutionalized perpetration of crimes and evils against blacks and other non Anglo-Saxon peoples. These calls for justice must resist tendencies of elites and mainstream political groups to hijack novel moves to correct continuing injustices for parochial interests.

These times therefore demand continuing and deepened understanding about the tasks required for the reconstruction and transformation of Africa. The African transformation and reconstruction agenda must link with the freedom of humanity as reflected in global protests that surrounded the killing of blacks and racist police violence in all parts of the world.

The papers of these volume therefore present aspects of the Global African questions that require further interrogation amidst the ongoing challenges. Africa can take advantage of the crisis and forge stronger bonds as it struggles to reconstruct the continent and transform the lives of African peoples.

About papers in the current volume

Mario Nisbett's paper on diaspora attempts the Global Africa question within the perspectives of post/development discussions and how African peoples outside the continent share or could share in the transformation solutions for Africa. The importance of history has also meant paying attention to historical figures in the Pan African world which Rodney Worrell's paper on George Padmore and Tennyson Joseph and Maziki Thame's paper on Kwame Nkrumah accomplish. Both papers appreciate the contemporary significance of the policies of these Pan African legends and/or their activism regarding solutions to the challenges of the Africans. The activism of women and their portrayal in African spaces are also necessary for clearer appreciation of how the tasks of liberation, reconstruction, and transformation have evolved across Africa and the globe. Annecka Leolyn Lovell Marshall's paper and that of Ruth Epochi-Olise and Peter Monye provide these highlights.

Acknowledgements

The Director of the Institute of African Studies, Professor Dzodzi Tsikata, is much appreciated for the unparalleled cooperation and encouragement throughout the publication process. reconstruction, and transformation have evolved across Africa and the globe. Annecka Leolyn Lovell Marshall's paper and that of Ruth Epochi-Olise and Peter Monye provide these highlights.

Professor Akosua Adomako Ampofo, the Editor-in-Chief of CJAS, is also herein appreciated for the opportunity to guest edit the volumes containing papers from the Second Kwame Nkrumah Festival. I appreciate the collaboration that ensured the success of this project.

Thanks also to the Conference's editorial team that did the groundwork to ready the papers for subsequent external review. Peter Narh, Mjiba Frehiwot, Irene Appeaning-Addo, Julialynne Walker deserve mentioning in this regard.

To our peer reviewers who helped to bring these papers to their level of scholarship, many thanks. The process has indeed been rigorous and some of you have had to review revised versions several times. These great efforts towards the reconstruction and transformation of Africa are much appreciated.

It has been much work coordinating the papers, connecting with reviewers and authors as well as the editorial team. Thank you, Peter Bembir for your persistence in these tasks and maintaining communication with the guest editor, the editorial team of the CJAS, and reviewers, to ensure this process came this far.

To all the readers and the forces working towards the realization of the goals of reconstruction and transformation of Global Africa in these challenging moments, and to the forces increasingly demanding for systemic changes, your tasks just gained additional momentum.

Professor Horace HC Campbell

Guest Editor

Horace G. Campbell holds a joint Professorship in the Department of African American Studies and the Department of Political Science in the Maxwell School at Syracuse University, in the United States. He served as the Third Kwame Nkrumah Chair in African Studies at the Institute of African Studies, University of Ghana, 2016–2018. In February 2017 he delivered the inaugural lecture on Reconstruction, Transformation and the Unification of the Peoples of Africa in the 21st Century: Rekindling the Pan African Spirit of Kwame Nkrumah. In February 2018 he participated in the International Conference on Saving the Lake Chad in Abuja, Nigeria.

Professor Campbell has published widely. His most recent book is *Global NATO and the Catastrophic Failure in Libya: Lessons for Africa in the Forging of African Unity* (Monthly Review Press, USA, 2013). He has also authored *Barack Obama and 21st Century Politics: A Revolutionary Moment in the USA* (Pluto Press, London 2010), *Reclaiming Zimbabwe: The Exhaustion of the Patriarchal Model of Liberation* (David Phillip, Cape Town, South Africa and Africa World Press, New Jersey, 2003), and *Pan Africanism, Pan Africanists and African Liberation in the 21st Century* (New Academia Publishers, 2006). His most well-known book, *Rasta and Resistance: from Marcus Garvey to Walter Rodney* (Africa World Press, Trenton, 1985) is going through its eighth printing, and has been translated into French, Spanish, Turkish and Italian. He co-edited the book, *Tanzania and the IMF: The Dynamics of Liberalization* (Westview Press, 1991), with Howard Stein. Additionally, Professor Campbell has published more than 100 journal articles and a dozen monographs as well as chapters in edited books. Professor Campbell completed his Ph.D. at Sussex University in England in 1979.