

The final part of the book is worthy of the title ‘Redirecting the field’, as it takes a fresh look at old questions and attempts to ask new ones. Eric Burin reinterprets the initial settlement of Liberia by highlighting the role of the ACS in obtaining and contracting for land, while Andrew Diemer brings a powerfully fresh perspective to this history by exploring the role that European immigration to the United States played in the conversation about African colonization. Robert Murray assesses black attempts to recreate America in Liberia, and investigates the tension produced by the rhetoric of white colonizationists who were unwilling to accept blacks as equals, yet who touted them as agents of civilization in Africa. The adoption by black settlers of superior civilizationalist views was to have consequences in the subsequent history of the country. Matthew Hetrick reveals how various people appropriated the black emigrationist Paul Cuffe after his death in 1817 to champion both colonization and black integration. Likewise, Phillip Magness explores how historians have variously cast Abraham Lincoln’s relationship to emigration: some saw his support of colonization as a way to rid the country of blacks, and others argue that Lincoln viewed colonization as a way to garner support for emancipation.

Nicholas Guyatt concludes the volume with an examination of sentiments and ideas about colonization that predated the founding of the ACS, which enables him to fully consider the meaning and impact of this organization and its emergence. This question is a central one, and a steadier focus on what the ACS represented for individual emigrants might have strengthened the volume. In 1830 George Erskine declared: ‘I am going to a new country to settle myself and family as agriculturalists; to a country where we shall at least be on a level with any of our fellow citizens; where the complexion will be no barrier to our filling the most exalted station.’<sup>1</sup> More consideration of voices like Erskine’s would provide new insight on the importance and significance of the colonization project for its many participants.

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## HUMAN AND CIVIL RIGHTS IN AFRICA AND THE DIASPORA

*The Long Struggle: Discourses on Human and Civil Rights in Africa and the African Diaspora.*

Edited by Adebayo Oyeboade and Gashawbeza Bekele.

Austin, TX: Pan-African University Press, 2017. Pp. xxvii + 225. \$35.00, paperback (ISBN: 978-1-943533-23-7).

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**Key Words:** human rights, comparative, identity, diaspora, transnational.

This edited volume joins a growing list of books that examine contemporary human rights struggles and discourses in Africa from multidisciplinary perspectives. The book

1 *The African Repository and Colonial Journal*, vol. 6. (Washington DC, 1825–1850), 142. Available online through Hathi Trust Digital Library, <https://catalog.hathitrust.org/Record/004565311>.

furthermore explores links between human rights issues in Africa and the African diaspora. The editors' stated goal is to interrogate the dynamics of human rights within a global context by addressing diverse issues such as state repression in Africa, women's rights, the right to education, and questions of minority rights and racial injustices in Black America. The book includes contributions from scholars in various disciplines in the humanities and social sciences. The thirteen chapters of the book focus on a wide range of human rights-related topics that converge around themes of race, state building, diasporic identities, and literary culture.

Bessie House-Soremekun's chapter provides a conceptual framework for the book by laying out a distinction between human rights and civil rights. It traces the development of the modern universal human rights regime within its political context, as well as with human rights movements in Africa. The chapter also attempts to connect those processes with the rights struggles of people of African descent in the United States. Other chapters in the book follow with similar comparative discussions of human rights movements in Africa and the African diaspora. Martha Alibah's chapter, for example, offers a comparative analysis of repression in colonial Ghana and the United States.

The social exclusion and economic marginalization of people of African descent in the black Atlantic is a dominant theme of the book. This theme is evident in Sarah Iriogbe-Efionayi's chapter, which examines the inequities in the United States education system and their impact on African Americans. Focusing on access to education, she demonstrates the continued failure by the state to uphold the fundamental rights of African-Americans. Similarly, Cynthia Gadsden examines the social and historical constructions of racial identities among African Americans, while Rebecca Dixon draws on fiction writing to capture the representation of black oppression in popular culture and its relationship to the struggle for civil rights in Black America. Going beyond the United States, Bernard Ifekwe examines the links between Rastafarianism in Jamaican reggae music and human rights. Ifekwe frames reggae as an instrument of black resistance developed by Rastafarians in response to human rights violations. He also explores how the music has addressed issues of human rights such as slavery, racism, colonialism, imperialism, and exploitation.

The other chapters center on human rights issues on the continent. Abolade Adeniji's chapter explores the role of the Nigerian press in dismantling the apartheid system in South Africa. That discussion focuses specifically on press coverage of the Soweto massacre. Writing from a linguistic perspective, Ngozi Emeka-Nwobia and Chinwe Obianika address representations of women's rights and gender inequality in language in Nigeria. They emphasize that language serves as an instrument of power that suppresses and marginalizes women. Chapters by Leslie Stubbs and Biale Zua discuss human rights, state repression, and the challenges of good governance in Nigeria. Felix Okokhere addresses similar questions but takes a broader approach in his examination of the undemocratic characteristics and repressive tendencies of state regimes in Africa.

The main appeal of this book lies in its effort to link human rights struggles in Africa with contemporaneous rights movements in the African diaspora. However, as with most edited collections, the chapters are of varying quality in terms of writing, analytical rigor, and cogency. While some chapters, such as Stubbs's chapter on internally displaced persons and good governance in Nigeria, are thorough and meticulous in their analysis,

several chapters in the book lack depth, coherence, or evidence of detailed research. Another major limitation of this book is that it is inadequately grounded in human rights scholarship. Although most of the chapters deal with issues of inclusion and social justice, few explicitly link these issues to current human rights debates, or frame them as human rights questions; the connections with human rights are implied, rather than clearly articulated. For example, none of the chapters dealing with human rights in African states engage with the rich academic and policy debates on cultural relativism and cultural legitimacy, which are central to discourses on and discussions of human rights on the continent. For a book centered on human rights, the volume could have been better anchored on key conceptual and theoretical debates in the field of human rights.

Nonetheless, this book is a welcome addition to the literature. The subject of human rights is a broad one, and no single book can comprehensively cover its many dimensions and permutations. By drawing attention to the links between human rights struggles in Africa and its diaspora, this volume contributes to the growing scholarship on human rights in Africa.

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## GLOBAL AFRICA

*Global Africa: Into the Twenty-First Century.*

Edited by Dorothy L. Hodgson and Judith A. Byfield.

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**Key Words:** transnational, global, political, cultural, social, economic, technology.

Dorothy L. Hodgson and Judith A. Byfield's edited volume, *Global Africa: Into the Twenty-First Century*, is a valuable addition to the burgeoning literature on Africa's global interfaces. Indeed, few surveys of African engagements with transnational currents offer the breadth, depth, and nuance of *Global Africa*. This innovative volume is the second in the University of California Press' Global Square series. Building on the concept of the series, *Global Africa* illuminates diverse, trans-regional linkages through reflections by artists, policy makers, journalists, and curators, as well as scholars. As an introduction to Africa's historical and contemporary global exchanges, the volume offers unusual geographical and temporal scope while emphasizing the great dynamism in Africa's global linkages. Thus, *Global Africa* is at once a conceptual triumph and an essential compendium for educators, students, and other interested readers.

*Global Africa* achieves its impressive breadth and depth through short and accessible essays, each of which condenses an important theme in African studies. More precisely, its nearly forty interdisciplinary and remarkably wide-ranging chapters include original research, syntheses of large bodies of scholarship, interviews with important thinkers, and photographic essays. In this way, *Global Africa* works across multiple scales,