

What is Ailing Africa?

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What is Ailing Africa?

Practical Philosophy in Reinventing Africa

By

Stephen Onyango Ouma



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This book is devoted to my parents; Chrisantus Ouma and Caroline Ouma, for their great sacrifices and unwavering support throughout my life and the encouragement they have given me



No brutality, mistreatment, or torture has ever forced me to ask for grace, for I prefer to die with my head high, my faith steadfast, and my confidence profound in the destiny of my country, rather than to live in submission and scorn of sacred principles [...] Do not weep for me, my dear companion. I know that my country which suffers so much will know how to defend its independence and its liberty. Long live the Congo! Long live Africa!

PATRICE LUMUMBA



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Preface

This book presents a two-pronged analysis of Africa's predicament by looking at the duality of ethics and identity. It tries to trace the problematics of westernization and modernization within the contexts of neo-colonialism and continued exploitation of Africa by external forces, as well as the complicity of Africans themselves. Its subject is the influence of history in the making of modern African identity, nationalism, peace-building and questions of ethics and justice.

Volume One: *What is Ailing Africa?* draws attention to the idea of 'reinvented Africa' through what the author denotes as a 'social identity reconstruction' based African cultural and historical context. The big question is on how Africa can turn things around and enable her to play a significant role in international affairs. The volume is a critique of the loud European claim that Africa had to wait for the coming of Europeans in order for her development to take place. This is the myth and deception that has been subjected to Africa since the introduction of slavery, the subsequent colonialism and finally neo-colonialism. Africans are now newcomers in their world. They are still founded on their strong culture. They are not that much passive victims of westernization. The book highlights the importance of education and social revolution. It attempts to demystify the general Europeans concoction that Africa is a fated, ailing, and underdeveloped. Development is a relative term. The book tries to espouse the weakness within the modern African governance carried out by the home-grown colonialists operating on the foreign political structure which has not been Africanized. Hence, they are the main stumbling blocks against the re-integration, reinvention, and reunification of Africa's development. If Africa has to develop fast, its operation must be rooted in African traditional beliefs, religious systems. The volume in totality then utilizes this construct to investigate the possibilities of re-inventing "invented Africa" through a redefined internalized perception of human rights and an Africanist 'social construct' within practical Philosophy for a reintegrated, reinvented, and reunited Africa. This volume, therefore, is a valuable contribution to the growing literature on African philosophy and development.

Volume Two: *The Gap between the Rich and Poor: The Right to an Ethical Human Minimum: A discourse on H. Odera-Orika Theory* analyzes Orika's concept of Ethical Minimum as the foundation of human rights. It presents human rights as the starting point of solving the problem of inequality, and examines the relationship between Ethical Minimum and Sagacity as the foundation for human rights. Human Minimum, therefore, is the necessity of every person in order to live rationally with dignity as a human being. The objective

of this study is to show that human rights is the starting point of solving human problems of inequality. This is with the intention of releasing Philosophical principles from theory straightjackets into practical living. This volume argues that Oruka's theory of Ethical Minimum is a universal theory that can be sufficiently applied, not only in the understanding of human rights globally but also in upholding the said rights. The human minimum is a primary need and is a universally fundamental principle that forms the basis of equality and human right. As a result, this book argues for the applicability of the Ethical Human Minimum for the inclusivity of the majority and minority rights in the society so that we can have an egalitarian society free from elitism. A carefully researched, academic work that makes a significant addition to our understanding of a dire global issue. This volume will be of great interest and value to academics working in the fields of philosophy, political science and international relations, as well as to undergraduate and graduate students in these disciplines.

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Abbreviations

DRM	Domestic Resource Mobilization
IUCN	International Union for Conservation of Nature
ODL	Open Distance Learning
UNEP	United Nations Environment Programme
AIK	African Indigenous Knowledge
AIKS	African Indigenous Knowledge Systems
ATR	African Traditional Religions
AU	African Union
CIP	Consolata Institute of Philosophy
CUEA	Catholic University of Eastern Africa
EAC	East African Community
FDI	Foreign Direct Investment
GDP	Gross Domestic Product
ICADLA	International Conference on African Digital Libraries and Archives
IK	Indigenous Knowledge
IKS	Indigenous Knowledge Systems
IMF	International Monetary Fund
NEPAD	New Partnership for Africa's Development
SAP	Structural Adjustment Programs
SD	Sustainable development
SSA	Sub-Saharan Africa
UAE	United Arabs Emirates
AfCFTA	African Continental Free Trade Area
OUA	The Organization of African Unity