VOL.XXIV, NO. 1

# THE **AFRICAN** STUDIES

**Published By** THE AFRICAN STUDIES ASSOCIATION

### **AFRICAN STUDIES REVIEW**

# The Journal of the African Studies Association

EDITOR
R. Hunt Davis, Jr.

## ASA REVIEW OF BOOKS EDITOR Melvin E. Page

Review Secretary: Carol W. Lauriault Assistant to the Editor: Faye Benedict

### EDITORIAL BOARD

Margaret L. Bates (Political Science, New College of South Florida)

Marion Doro (Political Science, Connecticut College)

Bennetta Jules-Rosette (Sociology, University of California, San Diego)

Pat Manning (History, Cañada College)

Maxwell K. Owusu (Anthropology, University of Michigan)

Alan K. Smith (History, Syracuse University)

Robert J. Walter (Geography, Ohio University)

The African Studies Review is edited by the Center for African Studies, University of Florida. All editorial correspondence and manuscripts should be sent to: R. Hunt Davis, Jr., Editor, African Studies Review, Center for African Studies, 470 GRI, University of Florida, Gainesville, Florida 32611, U.S.A.

The ASA Review of Books appears as the fourth quarterly (December) number of the African Studies Review. All editorial correspondence and manuscripts should be sent to: Melvin Page, Editor, ASA Review of Books, Dept. of History, Murray State University, Murray, Kentucky 42071, U.S.A.

All manuscripts should be submitted in duplicate. Manuscripts should be typed double-spaced (notes, excerpts, and references should also be double-spaced) and should be clear and dark. Please do not use erasable or onionskin paper. Maps, tables, charts, graphs, and other illustrations must be camera-ready. Manuscripts should conform to the recommendations of the latest edition of A Manual of Style (University of Chicago Press); a Review style sheet may be secured from the editors. Footnotes and references should appear at the end of the manuscript. Manuscripts will be submitted without the name of the author to outside readers; please include a removable cover page giving title, authorship, affiliation, and address; the article itself should carry only the title. The Review will only consider manuscripts that have not been published elsewhere and are not being considered by other journals.

# THE AFRICAN STUDIES REVIEW

Volume XXIV, Number 1 March 1981

AFRICAN STUDIES ASSOCIATION
255 Kinsey Hall
University of California-Los Angeles
405 Hilgard Avenue
Los Angeles, California 90024

NOTICE TO MEMBERS: The United States Postal System does not forward periodicals. We must receive written notification from you at least five weeks in advance of any change of mailing address. Failure to notify us of your correct mailing address will result in suspension of your membership until we receive such notification. We can make address changes only when current dues are paid. Domestic claims for non-receipt of issues must be made to the association's office within six months of the month of publication (overseas claims, one year). Copies of the Review damaged in the mail will be replaced without charge.

The African Studies Review is published four times a year (March, June, September, and December) by the African Studies Association, 255 Kinsey Hall, University of California-Los Angeles, 405 Hilgard Avenue, Los Angeles, California 90024, U.S.A. Articles in the Review represent neither the views of the African Studies Association nor those of its officers; responsibility for opinions expressed and for the accuracy of facts published rests solely with the individual authors. The publishers of the African Studies Review assume that contributors to the journal are literate in the English language, coherent in thought, and conversant with the principles of scholarship. The publisher has not copyedited this material; responsibility for copyediting is entirely the author's.

### © 1981 African Studies Association All rights reserved

No part of this publication may be reproduced or transmitted in any form or by any means, including photocopy, recording, or any information storage and retrieval system, without permission in writing from the publisher. Any author has the right to republish his article in whole or in part without requesting permission from the association; others desiring permission should apply to the association. Printed by Edwards Brothers, Inc., Ann Arbor, Michigan.

# **CONTENTS**

The Human Price of Development: The Brazzaville Railroad and the Sara of Chad  Mario Azevedo	
	Underdevelopment, Modes of Production,
and the State in Colonial Ghana	
Beverly Grier	21
New Directions in Understanding	
Military and Civilian Regimes in Ghana	
Eleanor E. Zeff	49
Pledging Oil Palms:	
A Case Study on Obtaining Rural Credit in Nigeria	
Edet M. Abasiekong	73
Dissidence and the African Writer:	
Commitment or Dependency?	
Oyekan Owomoyela	83
A New Look at Foreign News Coverage:	
External Dependence or National Interests?	
W. A. E. Skurnik	99
Preconditions and Limits in the Formation of Associations:	
The Self-Help and Cooperative Movement in Subsaharan Africa	
John H. Hamer	113

### CONTRIBUTORS

EDET M. ABASIEKONG is a Senior Lecturer in Sociology at the University of Calabar, Nigeria. He recently completed a visiting professorship at the University of Florida. He has published widely both in American and Nigerian journals.

MARIO AZEVEDO is an Associate Professor of History at Jackson State University, Jackson, Mississippi. He is a specialist in African history. A recent article appeared in the *Journal of African Studies*.

**BEVERLY GRIER** is an Assistant Professor of Political Science at the University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill. She is currently at work on a book-length manuscript, "The State, Rural Social Classes, and Under-development in Ghana."

JOHN H. HAMER is Professor of Anthropology at the University of Alabama in Birmingham. His main areas of research are East Africa and Ethiopia.

OYEKAN OWOMOYELA, Associate Professor of English at the University of Nebraska, Lincoln, is a specialist in traditional and modern African literature. His book, African Literatures: An Introduction, was published by Crossroads Press in 1979.

W. A. E. SKURNIK, professor of Political Science at the University of Colorado, Boulder, is a student of international relations. His most recent articles have appeared in the Journal of Modern African Studies and Gazette: International Journal for Mass Communication Studies.

ELEANOR ELWELL ZEFF is currently a Visiting Professor of Political Science at Central College in Pella, Iowa. Her area of interest is West African politics. A recent publication appeared in the *Journal of Strategic Studies* (September 1979).