

VOL. XVIII NO. 3

**THE  
AFRICAN  
STUDIES**

**REVIEW**

*Published By*

**THE AFRICAN STUDIES ASSOCIATION**

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The Journal of the African Studies Association

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# THE AFRICAN STUDIES REVIEW

Volume XVIII, Number 3  
December 1975

**SPECIAL ISSUE:  
WOMEN IN AFRICA  
EDITED BY  
EDNA BAY  
NANCY HAFKIN  
A.S.A. COMMITTEE ON WOMEN**

**AFRICAN STUDIES ASSOCIATION  
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## CONTENTS

<b>The Rise of a Female Professional Elite: The Case of Senegal</b> <i>Diane Barthel</i>	1
<b>Making the Invisible Visible: African Women in Politics and Policy</b> <i>Jean O'Barr</i>	19
<b>Fighting Two Colonialisms: The Women's Struggle in Guinea-Bissau</b> <i>Stephanie Urdang</i>	29
<b>Women's Wedding Celebrations in Mombasa, Kenya</b> <i>Margaret Strobel</i>	35
<b>Women and National Development in African Countries: Some Profound Contradictions</b> <i>Women's Research and Training Centre, United Nations Economic Commission for Africa</i>	47
<b>Woman Power: Retrograde Steps in Ghana</b> <i>Christine Oppong, Christine Okali, and Beverley Houghton</i>	71
<b>Women and Work in Two Southern Ethiopian Communities</b> <i>Judith Olmstead</i>	85
<b>The Maendeleo Ya Wanawake Movement: Some Paradoxes and Contradictions</b> <i>Audrey Wipper</i>	99
<b>BOOK REVIEWS</b>	
<i>Bonnie Keller</i>	121
<i>Stella Silverstein</i>	125
<i>Dorothy Dodge</i>	129
<i>Jocelyn Murray</i>	131

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## EDITORS' NOTE

During the course of its six-year existence, the Women's Committee of the African Studies Association has concerned itself with two major issues: the professional promotion of women scholars in the disciplines associated with the study of Africa, and the encouragement of research and publication on subjects related to the understanding of women in Africa. Issues directly related to professional standing and performance were uppermost in the activities of the Committee during the early years. A second direction was added at the annual meeting in 1973, when the Board of Directors announced its willingness to support the publication of articles by women. Members agreed that the proposed monograph should concern women in Africa, and should include articles from a variety of disciplinary viewpoints.

Articles were accepted for consideration over a twelve-month period. The relatively large number of papers of high quality enabled us to expand the original conception into two separate publications: this special issue of the *African Studies Review* and a volume to be published by Stanford University Press in 1976 entitled *Women in Africa: Studies in Social and Economic Change*. Our contributors include both members and non-members of the Association. Although no particular thematic approach was projected, the majority of the articles selected focus on development-related issues.

The Women's Committee wishes to express its appreciation for the continued support of the Association during the period of preparation of this issue.

Nancy J. Hafkin  
Edna G. Bay

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