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# UFAHAMU JOURNAL OF THE AFRICAN ACTIVIST ASSOCIATION

#### JAMES S. COLEMAN AFRICAN STUDIES CENTER UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA 90024-1130

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UFAHAMU accepts contributions from anyone interested in Africa and related subject areas. Contributions may include scholarly articles, political-economic analysis, commentaries, review articles, film and book reviews and poetry. Manuscripts must be between 20-30 pages, clearly typed, double spaced, with footnotes on separate page(s). Contributors should keep copies of their manuscripts. The Editorial Board reserves the right to edit any manuscript to meet the objectives of the journal. Authors must submit two copies of their manuscripts and a brief biographical note, including position, academic affiliation and recent significant publications, etc. All correspondence - manuscripts, subscriptions, books for review, inquiries, etc. - should be addressed to the Editor - in- Chief at the above address.

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#### UFAHAMU

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#### **EDITORIAL**

This issue, while interdisciplinary in nature and therefore including contributions on a number of different topics, is nevertheless bound together by *UFAHAMU*'s ongoing and committed inquiry into all facets of the struggle for African liberation. Asamenew G. W. Gebeyehu's "Background to the Crisis in Ethiopia, Part Two: The Post-Monarchy Predicament" is the follow-up to "Part One: The Imperial Heritage" in the last issue (Volume XVIII, No. 1). Gebeyehu's questioning of the results of the 1974 "revolution" (the quotation marks are his) forces us to seriously confront and perhaps rethink what is connoted by the term "revolution," both in this specific instance and more generally, in regard to what true progressive political and social change needs to entail.

The scope of "Structural Changes and Strategic Priorities in African Economic Development" by Tang Yuhua is literally sweeping; whether such a large-scale consideration can be effective in regard to specific local contingencies, Yuhua's observations shed light on some recent developments in the field of economics which take on an even greater urgency in light of the U. S.-instigated and -led Gulf War and its aftermath. Some of the implications of this crisis—militarily over but still largely unresolved—are examined by Angaluki Muaka in his article

"The Gulf Crisis and Its Implications for Africa."

The interconnectedness between such "real-life politics" and artistic expression is exemplified in the life and work of Ngugi wa Thiong'o. In this issue we are fortunate to have an interview with Ngugi, conducted in November 1990 by William Acworth, in which he discusses his involvement with the Kenyan political organization Mwakenya, accompanied by two analyses of Ngugi's political engagement as expressed in his literature: "The Historical Imperative in African Activist Literature" by Alamin Mazrui and Lupenga Mphande, and "National and Revolutionary Consciousness: Two Phases of Ngugi's Artistic Praxis" by P. A. Aborisade.

Finally, a number of thanks are in order. First to Ahmed Nassef, who unfortunately had to leave *UFAHAMU* much too early, our heartfelt gratitude for the time and energy he gave during his tenure as editor, and best wishes for his continued success in his many endeavors. And secondly, many thanks to all the current members of the editorial board, without whose blood and sweat (fortunately tears were not called for) this issue would have been even more delayed than it already is. The one name designated as "editor" belies the fact that

this issue was truly a collective endeavor. Asanteni sana nyote.