

RASTAFARIONLINE



Special Issue



May 2004

*May 25th
African Liberty Day*



A Tribute to African Unity

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Editor's Note:

Glory be to Qedamawi Haile Sellassie !!!!
Weep not, Ababa Jan Hai is worthy to loose the seven seals!!!

Jan Hoi Almighty, who is crowned King of Kings and Lord of Lords, Conquering Lion of Judah. and Light of this World, Supreme Commander of the Nyabinghi, the First Incient of Days, He is the Father of African Unity, the Wise Counsellor of freedom fighters everywhere, the Defender of the Faith and Field Marshall in battle, Qedamawi Haile Sellassie I and His lion hearted Queen are the keepers of African sovereignty on African Liberation Day and for Ivermore!!!

ONE AFRICA NOW!



North African - Independence

Algeria

Independence from France: 1962

French conquest of Algeria began in 1830 and by the end of the century French settlers had taken most of the best land. War was declared against the colonial administration by the National Liberation Front in 1954. In 1962 a cease-fire was agreed between the two groups and independence declared.

Egypt

Independence from Britain: 1936

With the arrival of Alexander the Great, Egypt began an extended period of foreign domination: Ptolemaic Greeks (330-32 BCE), Romans (32 BCE-395 CE), Byzantines (395-640), Arabs (642-1251), Mamelukes (1260-1571), Ottoman Turks (1517-1798), French (1789-1801). There followed a brief interlude until the British arrived (1882-1922). Independence was achieved in 1936. In 1952 Lieutenant-Colonel Nasser seized power. A year later General Nguib was proclaimed president of the Republic of Egypt, only to be deposed by Nasser in 1954.

Libya

Independence from Italy: 1951

This region was once a Roman province, and had been colonized along the coast by the Vandals in ancient times. It was also invaded by the Byzantines and then absorbed into the Ottoman Empire. In 1911 the Turks were expelled when the country was annexed by Italy. An independent monarchy, under King Idris, was created in 1951, with help from the UN, but the monarchy was abolished when Gaddafi took power in 1969.

Morocco

Independence from France: 1956

The region was conquered by the Almoravids in the second half of the eleventh century and a capital founded at Marrakech. They eventually had an empire which included Algeria, Ghana and much of Spain. In the second part of the twelfth century the region was conquered in turn by the Almohads, also Berber Muslims, who took over the empire, and extended it to the west as far as Tripoli. From the fifteenth century, Portuguese and Spanish attempted to invade coastal areas, taking several ports, including Ceuta -- they met strong resistance. In the sixteenth century, Ahmad Al-Mansur, overthrew the Songhai Empire to the south and retook coastal areas from the Spanish. The region became a major destination for trans-Saharan slave trade despite internal conflict over whether free men could be made slaves under Islamic law. (Slavery of Christians was "abolished" by Sidi Muhammed in 1777.) France incorporated Morocco into its Trans-Saharan empire in the 1890's after a long struggle to remain independent. It finally achieved independence from France in 1956.

Tunisia

Independence from France: 1956

Home of the Zenata Berbers for many centuries, Tunisia is linked to all the North African/Mediterranean empires: Phoenician, Roman, Byzantine, Arab, Ottoman and finally the French. Tunisia became a French protectorate in 1883. It was invaded by the Axis during the Second World War, but was returned to French rule when the Axis was defeated. Independence was achieved in 1956.

West African - Independence

Benin

Independence from France: 1960

In 1625 indigenous slave traders, known as the Fon, founded the kingdom of Dahomey. They subsequently conquered the neighboring kingdoms of Dan and Allada and extended their kingdom to the coast near Porto Novo. A trading post was set up in 1857 by the French at Grand-Popo. The Dahomey King, Behanzin, was defeated by the French when conflict broke out following dispute by the French against continued Dahomey slavery. In 1892 Dahomey became a French protectorate and was absorbed into French West Africa in 1904. Independence from the French was gained in 1960 and the country was renamed Benin in 1975.

Burkina

Independence from France: 1960

From the 16th to the early 19th century this was the kingdom of Ouagadougou, one of the Mossi Empire. In the early 19th century the Mossi Empire broke down and was subject to almost uninterrupted war for 50 years prior to the arrival of the French. At the end of the 19th century the great Dioula warlord, Samori Ture, was expelled by the French and it became part of French West Africa. Independence from the French was achieved in 1960 and the country was named Upper Volta and was renamed Burkina in 1984.

Cape Verde

Independence from Portugal: 1975

The archipelago of Cape Verde became a Portuguese colony in 1462. A joint struggle for the liberation of Cape Verde and the mainland colony of Portuguese Guinea (now Guinea-Bissau) began. Independence was achieved in 1975 with proposed union to the new state of Guinea-Bissau. In 1981 Cape Verde finally split away to form an independent republic.

Gambia

Independence from Britain: 1965

The region came under the influence of Islam in the 13th century. During the 18th and 19th century, the region attracted the attention of both the French and the British. It finally became a British colony in 1888. Independence was achieved in 1965.

Ghana

Independence from Britain: 1957

The two year war between the British and the Ashanti was brought to an end in 1874 when the defeated King, Asantehene, signed a treaty with the British. The Gold Coast colony was created. Independence was achieved in 1957.

Guinea

Independence from France: 1959

Despite opposition by the resident Muslim empire, France made Guinea a colony in 1890 -- part of the trade-off between France and Britain over African territories. Independence was achieved in 1959. (A Portuguese backed coup failed in 1970.)

Ivory Coast

Independence from France: 1960

Originally one of the great trading empires of West Africa, the region was made the French colony of Côte d'Ivoire in 1893. The Malinke Empire of the interior resisted the French until 1918. Towards the end of the 1940's French rule became excessively oppressive. In 1958 it became a French Republic and in 1960 it achieved independence.

West African- Independence (Cont'd)**Liberia****Never a colonial territory**

The residence of over 22,000 slaves liberated (hence the name) from the USA during the 19th century, Liberia was established as an independent republic in 1847.

Mali**Independence from France: 1960**

Once the home of a major trans-Saharan empire based on the trade of salt and gold, this area was colonized by the French in the 1880's. Independence was achieved in 1960.

Mauritania**Independence from France: 1960**

At the end of the first millennium this region was the western extreme of the trade routes across the Sahara and was populated by the Adrar, famous for their date plantations. By the time the empire of Mali was prospering, the coastal regions were home to nomadic Berber and eventually became part of the Islamic Almoravid state. Portuguese explorers visited and documented the area but decided to travel on. Portuguese raiders however obtained slaves from the area from the fifteenth century. Mauritania became a French colony in 1814. Independence was achieved in 1960.

Niger**Independence from France: 1960**

Part of the once powerful Islamic Sokoto Empire it was annexed by France at the end of the nineteenth century. It was created an autonomous republic within a greater French community in 1958, and independence followed in 1960.

Nigeria**Independence from Britain: 1960**

Originally a collection of African states whose wealth came from trans-Saharan (and trans-Atlantic) trade. It became a British colony in

1861 and was handed over to the Royal Niger Company (RNC). The RNC's charter was revoked in 1898 and the area was divided into two British Protectorates. These were merged in 1914 to form the colony of Nigeria. A federal system of government was created in 1954 and independence achieved in 1960.

Senegal**Independence from France: 1960**

The region of Senegambia (formed by the combined basins of the Senegal and Gambia rivers) was a dependency of the states of the Sudan (the historical state not the modern republic) and Sahara. The arrival of Portuguese traders diverted the traditional trade commodities of gold, ivory, and slaves to the coast rather than inland -- which contributed to the collapse of existing kingdoms. European influence resulted in a proliferation of *ceddo* or warlord regimes, which were brought to a peak when the local Islamic groups took up arms in the *Marabout War*. Senegal was colonized by the French in 1890, with the Gambia split off as a British enclave. Independence was achieved in 1960 under the socialist president Leopold Senghor (he declared one-party state in 1966, which lasted for another 10 years before a return to partial multi-partyism).

Sierra Leone**Independence from Britain: 1961**

First colonized in 1787 when the British founded Freetown (now the capital) as a settlement for Africans freed from slavery. The coastal region became a British colony in 1808, with the interior annexed in 1896. Independence was achieved in 1961.

Togo**Independence from France: 1960**

After initially being colonized by Germany in 1894, the larger region of Togoland was divided between the French and British in 1914. At independence, the eastern half of French Togoland became Togo while western British Togoland became part of Ghana.

Central African - Independence

Cameroon

Independence from France and Britain: 1960/61

The region was inhabited by north-western Bantu societies and was typified by the Dioula who had established themselves as a centralized state in the 18th century. It was under the nominal influence of the British until it was annexed by Germany in 1884. In 1919, following the First World War, Cameroon was divided between the French and the British. In 1955 the French killed 10,000 locals during a revolt, and the continued disturbances resulted in the French sector declaring independence in 1960. The British southern sector joined Cameroon in 1961 whilst the northern sector voted to join Nigeria.

Central African Republic

Independence from France: 1960

As part of French Equatorial Africa the colony of Ubangi-Shari was established in 1905. It gained autonomy as the Central African Republic in 1958, and full independence in 1960.

Chad

Independence from France: 1960

Chad came under Arab domination during the expansion of Islam through the Northern Africa. French colonial interests resulted in the deposition of the last Arab ruler in 1900. Independence from France was achieved in 1960.

Congo

Independence from France: 1960

The region was first inhabited by Bantu speaking peoples in the 15th century. When the French annexed the area in the 1880's, the two kingdoms of Teke and Loango were incorporated into the Middle Congo which formed part of French Equatorial Africa. Independence was achieved in 1960.

Democratic Republic of the Congo

Independence from Belgium: 1960

Once the home of the powerful Kongo kingdom, Belgium's King Leopold II claimed most of the Congo basin from 1876. Rather than a Belgium colony, it became King Leopold's private resource under the name Congo Free State. (This is considered to be the most brutal and shocking of all European colonial experiments.) After international outcry, Belgium officially took over in 1908 and renamed it the Belgian Congo. Independence was achieved in 1960 through the help of Patrice Lumumba and the country was renamed Congo-Kinshasa. In 1965 General Mobuto betrayed Lumumba and seized power, he formed a one-party state (Popular Revolutionary Movement (MPR) and was elected President. In 1971 the country was renamed Zaire. In 1997, after an attempt to introduce multiparty rule, the country was renamed the Democratic Republic of the Congo (or DRC).

Equatorial Guinea

Independence from Spain: 1968

A colony of Spain for 190 years, the country achieved independence in 1968.

Gabon

Independence from France: 1960

Annexed as part of French Equatorial Africa in 1886, Gabon finally achieved independence in 1960.

Sao Tome & Principe

Independence from Portugal: 1975

The islands were claimed to be uninhabited when Portuguese colonists arrived. The very fertile soil was used for cocoa plantations. In 1972 a liberation movement was recognized by the UN, and independence was reached in 1975.

East African – Independence

Burundi

Independence in 1962

From the 16th century Burundi was ruled by the minority Tutsi with the majority Hutu as their serfs. It was merged with Rwanda and controlled by Germany from 1884 and then transferred to Belgium in 1919. In 1946 it became a UN trust territory, split from Rwanda in 1959 and gained full independence in 1962.

Djibouti

Independence from French: 1977

What was once the Islamic State of Adal was made the capital of French Somaliland in 1896. In 1946 the French gave it Overseas Territorial status and in 1967 it was renamed the French Territory of the Afars and Issas. Independence was achieved in 1977.

Eritrea

Independence from Ethiopia: 1991/93

Italian rule was replaced by British following the Second World War in 1944. In 1952 it was incorporated into Ethiopia. An armed struggle started in the 60's and after 30 years of war, independence was achieved in 1991.

Ethiopia

Sovereignty Reigns!!

Brief Italian occupation 1936-1941. Yet the Conquering Lion Prevails!

Kenya

Independence from Britain: 1963

The coastal areas were colonized by Arab coastal traders from the 10th century. The British created the British East African Protectorate along the coast in 1895 in order to gain access to Uganda. The interior became a British colony in 1920. From 1952-56 the Mau Mau waged a violent campaign against the British resulting in a State of Emergency. This was dropped in 1960 and full independence achieved in 1963.

Rwanda

Independence from Germany/Belgium: 1962

The region was first colonized by the Hutu in the fourteenth century and arrival of the Tutsi in the fifteenth century resulted in a Tutsi lord/Hutu serf society. This Tutsi domination was reinforced by German/Belgian colonization from 1890. Independence obtained in 1962

Somalia

Independence from Italy and Britain: 1960

Somaliland became British/Italian colonies in the 1880's; it was ruled solely by the British from 1941 to 1950. In 1960, Italian Somaliland and British Somaliland were united to form an independent Somalia.

Sudan

Independence from Britain and Egypt: 1956

Northern Sudan was taken by Egypt in 1821 and Southern Sudan by the British in 1877. In 1883 a revolt was started by the Muslim leader Muhammad Ahmed. Conflict continued for fifteen years until the Mahdists were defeated in 1898. An Anglo-Egyptian condominium was created. Since independence from British/Egyptian rule in 1956 the country has experienced little relief from civil war between the Arab, Islamic north and African south.

Tanzania

Independence from Germany/Britain: 1961/1963

The mainland of Tanzania became a German colony called Tanganyika in 1884 whilst the Sultanate of Zanzibar became a British Protectorate in 1890. Tanganyika became a British mandated territory in 1918 and achieved independence in 1961. In 1963 Zanzibar achieved independence, and a year later formed a union with Tanganyika under the new name of Tanzania.

Uganda

Independence from Britain: 1962

Various ancient kingdoms were combined to form a British protectorate in 1893. Independence was achieved in 1962.

South African – Independence

Angola

Independence from Portugal: 1975

Forts were established by the Portuguese along the Angolan coast in 1482. The Marxist MPLA, founded in 1956, began its guerrilla-based liberation struggle in 1961. Independence from Portugal was achieved in 1975.

Botswana

Independence from Britain: 1966

From around 1600 the indigenous San peoples were displaced by the migrating Tswana. The Bechuanaland Protectorate was set up by the British in 1885 with the urging of Cecil Rhodes, to protect it from incursions by the Boers and the Germans. Independence from the British was achieved in 1966.

Comoros

Independence from France: 1975 (except for the island of Mayotte)

Under Arab control until it became a French Protectorate in 1880. Proclaimed as a French colony in 1912. Achieved self-government in 1961 and independence in 1975.

Lesotho

Independence from Britain: 1966

After defeat by the Boers in 1843, King Moshoeshoe I looked to the British for aid. In 1884 a British Crown colony was formed. Independence was achieved in 1966.

Madagascar

Independence from France: 1960

After increasing contact with Europeans from the 15th century, Madagascar became a French colony in 1895. Following the Second World War there was increasing tension in the country, with civil uprisings resulting in French troops killing thousands. Independence was achieved in 1960.

Malawi

Independence from Britain: 1964

Livingstone's former "hunting ground" was under threat from the Portuguese and Arab slavers in the late 1880's when the resident Scottish missionaries and the African Lakes Company called on Rhodes for support. The region became the British colony of Nyasaland after aggressive diplomatic conflict with Germany in 1890. In 1964, as part of the program to dilute the power of white racists in Rhodesia, Britain released the colony and it became Malawi.

Mozambique

Independence from Portugal: 1976

From the sixteenth century the Portuguese traded along the coast for gold, ivory, and slaves. Mozambique was made a Portuguese colony in 1752, with large tracts of land run by private companies. A war for liberation was started by FRELIMO in 1964 which ultimately led to independence in 1975. The civil war, however, continued into the 1990's.

Namibia

Independence from South Africa: 1990

The German mandated territory of South West Africa was given to South Africa in 1915 by the League of Nations. In 1950 South Africa refused a UN request to give up the territory. It was renamed Namibia in 1968 (although South Africa continued to call it South West Africa). In 1990 Namibia became the forty-seventh African colony to gain independence. Walvis Bay was given up in 1993.

South African- Independence (Cont'd)**South Africa**

Independence from Britain: 1934

Independence from white minority rule: 1994

In 1652 Dutch settlers arrived at the Cape and set up a refreshment post for the journey to the Dutch East Indies. The Dutch started to move inland and colonize the Bantu speaking groups and Bushmen. The arrival of the British in the eighteenth century accelerated the process. The Cape colony was ceded to the British in 1814. In 1816, Shaka kaSenzangakhona became Zulu ruler, to be assassinated by Dingane in 1828. The Great Trek of the Boers moving away from the British in the Cape started in 1836 -- leading to the founding of the Republic of Natal in 1838 and the Orange Free State in 1854. Britain took Natal from the Boers in 1843. The Transvaal was recognized as an independent state by the British in 1852 and the Cape Colony was granted self-government in 1872. A Zulu War and two Anglo-Boer wars followed, and the country was unified under British dominion in 1910. Independence for white minority rule came in 1934. In 1958 Dr. Hendrik Verwoerd, the Prime Minister, introduced the "Grand Apartheid" policy. The African National Congress, formed in 1912, finally came into power in 1994 when the first multiracial, multiparty elections were held.

Swaziland

Independence from Britain: 1968

This little state was made a protectorate of the Transvaal in 1894 and a British protectorate in 1903. It achieved independence in 1968 after four years of limited self-government under King Sobhuza.

Zambia

Independence from Britain: 1964

Formally the British colony of Northern Rhodesia, the country was developed purely for its vast copper resources. It was grouped with Southern Rhodesia (Zimbabwe) and Nyasaland (Malawi) as part of a federation in 1953. Independence from Britain was achieved in 1964 as part of the program to dilute the power of white racists in Southern Rhodesia.

Zimbabwe

Independence from Britain: 1965

Independence from minority white rule: 1980

The British colony of Southern Rhodesia became part of the Federation of Rhodesia and Nyasaland in 1953. The Zimbabwe African People's Union, ZAPU, was banned in 1962. The racially segregationist Rhodesian Front (RF) was elected into power that same year. In 1963 Northern Rhodesia and Nyasaland pulled out of the Federation, citing the extreme conditions in the Southern Rhodesia, whilst Robert Mugabe and the Reverend Sithole formed the Zimbabwe African National Union, ZANU, as an offshoot of ZAPU. In 1964, Ian Smith the new Prime Minister, banned ZANU and rejected the British conditions for independence of multiparty, multiracial rule. (Northern Rhodesia and Nyasaland were successful in achieving independence.) In 1965 Smith made a Unilateral Declaration of Independence and declared a state of emergency (which was renewed every year until 1990). Negotiations between Britain and the RF started in 1975 in the hope of reaching a satisfactory, non-racist constitution. In 1976 ZANU and ZAPU merged to form the Patriotic Front (PF). A new constitution was finally agreed by all parties in 1979 and independence achieved in 1980.

First Conference of Independent African States - 1958

His Imperial Majesty Speaks
Ghana - April 15, 1958

The convening of the *Conference of Independent African States* in Ghana, where responsible statesmen representing a free government are gathering to consider common problems, is a great and momentous event. As an integral part of the African Continent, Ethiopia looks back with pride to the role which she has played in the history of the development of Africa, and looks forward with confidence to the future of this great continent.



HIM with leaders of East and Central Africa

In her long and glorious history, Ethiopia, has time and again, had to struggle against overwhelming odds to preserve intact her traditional freedom and independence and to guarantee from generation to generation the right of freemen to work out their own destiny without interference or hindrance. The world is only now coming to realize what Ethiopia and Africa have long recognized, that *peace, independence and the prosperity of mankind can be achieved and assured only by the collective and united efforts of free men who are prepared to maintain eternal vigilance and labor unceasingly to protect these most precious of God's gifts.* The sympathy and support which Ethiopia received from other African peoples when she was invaded twenty-three years ago is ample testimony of the strong sentiments which unite all free African countries.

In our own lifetime the world has undergone changes more sweeping and striking than those seen during any similar period in history.

Technical and scientific advances have combined to raise mankind to a level of material achievement never before realized. It is the duty and responsibility of the Independent African States to further this development and to bring the benefits of modern civilization to increasingly large numbers of people in Africa.

However, as man's capacity to improve his own lot has grown, so has his power to spread havoc and destruction correspondingly increased. The Independent African States must assure that the growing weight of Africa is enlisted on the side of peace and justice to the end of avoiding a third holocaust which could well engulf the entire world and result in the total destruction of mankind.

But dwarfing even man's material achievements in the twentieth century has been the emergence of peoples all over the world into freedom and independence. Today, for the first time, men everywhere to whom freedom and independence were, but a short time ago, only words, and for whom economic and political self-determination were no more than far-distant goals, have achieved the status of free men and are directing their efforts and energies to their own advancement. We are particularly gratified and proud that this development has been so marked and widespread on the great continent of Africa. Africa will no longer be the "unknown continent", for its human and material resources are beyond measure, and this great continent now stands on the verge of an economic, political and cultural development which, when realized, will be without parallel in history.



1958 Conference Speech (Cont'd)

Ethiopia's Part

In this development, Ethiopia will have its own particular, and we feel, important role to play. It is for this reason that we have charged Our beloved Son Prince Sahle Selassie with the high mission to be Our personal representative and the head of the Ethiopian Delegation to the Conference of Independent African States. *Ethiopia knows how hard-won is independence and how vital it is that men be jealous of their freedom and be ever prepared to defend it.*



HIM during Italian Invasion

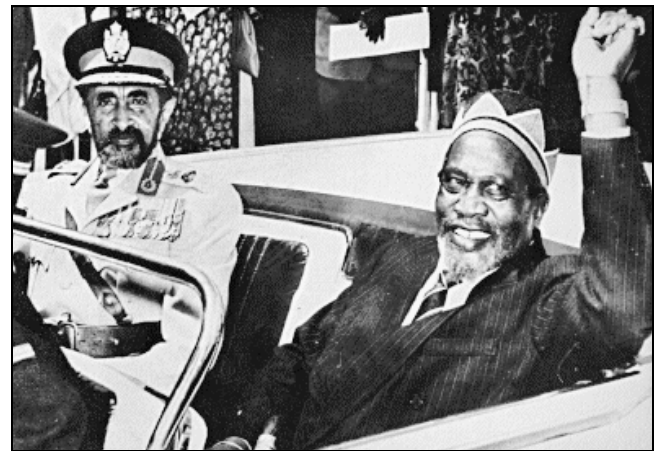
Ethiopia knows, as her history has taught her, that the world is small, and that cooperation among all nations of the world, East and West alike, is not only possible and desirable, but indispensable for the welfare of mankind. Ethiopia knows that the willingness of the Independent States of Africa to cooperate and work together in solving their common problems and achieving their common goals is essential to the continued progress of the African peoples.

It is a propitious omen for the future that at this very moment the free nations of Africa are giving tangible evidence of their determination to work together not only for their own good but for the good of Africa and the entire world. The task is great. It demands *wise judgment* and statesmanship of the highest order. It requires *unceasing labor*, a *dedication* to fundamental

principles and objectives and a determination to overcome all obstacles, however large. He who suffers conquers, and in the final resort, wins the crown of victory. We pray that Almighty God will bless the Conference with strength and wisdom and crown its efforts with success.

- HIM Haile Selassie I

HIM Discusses the O.A.U.



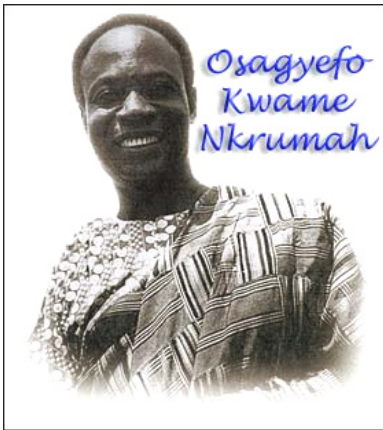
HIM with Jomo Kenyatta

“The **Organization of African Unity** is an organization which the people of our vast continent have established with a view of performing certain specific tasks. Briefly speaking, the organization is established for the purpose of protecting, in a better fashion, the independence of African States.

It is also meant to expedite the economic and social progress through cooperation of African peoples. It also has the important task of assisting in the maintenance of international peace and security. And in accordance with the Charter of O.A.U., we eradicate colonialism and apartheid.”

Pictorial Essay of the Birth of the Organization of African Unity

In order to strengthen the continent of Africa and to make it less vulnerable to outside influence, President Kwame Nkrumah of Ghana strongly believed that the continent should be united. Thus, in the late 1950s, Dr. Kwame Nkrumah started a movement, which stressed the immediate unity of the African continent.



The introduction and reception of this concept of African Unity created an immediate division amongst African Leaders into two groups. One group, the *Casablanca Group*, preferred immediate unity and consisted of;

Ghana, Guinea, Mali and was later joined by Egypt, the Transitional Government of Algeria, and Morocco.



Presidents Modibo Keita of Mali, Kwame Nkrumah of Ghana, and Sekou Toure of Guinea (1960)

The *Monrovia Group*, consisted of twenty-four members, and was known as the Conservatives; and included Nigeria, Liberia, Senegal, Ivory Coast, Cameroon, and Togo. Their philosophy was one of a more gradual approach to African Unity.

In 1962, Ethiopia received invitations from both groups to attend their upcoming conferences. After careful discussion and consideration, HIM Haile Selassie sent Foreign Minister Ketema Yifru to the Monrovia Group's conference in Lagos, Nigeria. While in attendance, Mr. Yifru successfully lobbied the delegates to agree upon Addis Ababa as the location for the following year's conference. The Emperor, who had been unable to attend the commencement due to Empress Menen being ill, arrived at the conference on the last day and gave a stirring speech which stressed the necessity for the unification of the two groups, as well as, Ethiopia's neutrality.

Mr. Yifru invited the Guinean President Sekou Toure, a vocal advocate for the Casablanca Group, to Ethiopia for a state visit. Talks between delegates from the two governments ensued which brought the Guinean government into agreement that the two groups should at least come together on common grounds for the good of Africa.



Guinean (Toure) and Ethiopian (HIM) 1962 meeting

The Guinean and Ethiopian government decided that the upcoming Monrovia conference, set for 1963 in Addis Ababa, should be a Summit Conference with members of both groups in attendance.

Pictorial Essay (Cont'd)*Diallo Telli and Ketema Yifru*

Foreign Minister Yifru traveled throughout Africa visiting and coaxing the heads of governments of both groups into agreeing to participate in the upcoming conference. Mr. Diallo Telli of Guinea also visited the member states of the Casablanca Group with the same mission.

It was agreed that the conference would begin with a meeting of the Foreign Ministers of each state whose mission it was to iron out various issues and create a charter for the OAU. This took place on May 15, 1963 and Mr. Yifru was elected Chairman and Dr. Tesfaye Gebre-Ezgy, the Ethiopian Permanent Representative to the United Nations, was elected as Provisionary Secretary General.

*Dr. Tesfaye Gebre-Ezgy and Ketema Yifru*

Among the suggested drafts of the charter, Ethiopia, Ghana and Nigeria's drafts were most prominent. Ghana's charter represented the viewpoint of the Casablanca Group and Nigeria's represented that of the Monrovia Group. Since Ethiopia's draft charter represented an agreeable

embodiment of both sides, it was adopted as the basis for the charter's discussion.

Prior to reaching a consensus on the drafted charter, on May 22, 1963, the meeting of the Heads of States convened.

*1963 OAU*

During the meeting, Mr. Yifru was summoned and charged with the mission to reconvene a meeting of the Foreign Ministers and draft an acceptable charter which the heads of states could sign prior to leaving the conference. The Foreign Ministers worked from 11 pm to 3 am and, on May 25, 1963, were able to present a charter which the Heads of States could agree upon and attach their signature. It is said that the atmosphere was charged and filled with euphoric energy of blessed hope of enduring Pan-Africanism.

*Heads of State congratulating one another after signing of OAU Charter*

-Sis Leah

(Give Thanks www.oau-creation.com for photos)

Organization of African Unity

Charter of African Unity 1963

We, the Heads of African States and Governments assembled in the City of Addis Ababa, Ethiopia

Convinced that it is the inalienable right of all people to control their own destiny,

Conscious of the fact that freedom, equality, justice and dignity are essential objectives for the achievement of the legitimate aspirations of the African peoples,

Conscious of our responsibility to harness the natural and human resources of our continent for the total advancement of our peoples in all spheres of human endeavour,

Inspired by a common determination to promote understanding among our peoples and cooperation among our states in response to the aspirations of our peoples for brother-hood and solidarity, in a larger unity transcending ethnic and national differences,

Convinced that, in order to translate this determination into a dynamic force in the cause of human progress, conditions for peace and security must be established and maintained,

Determined to safeguard and consolidate the hard-won independence as well as the sovereignty and territorial integrity of our states, and to fight against neo-colonialism in all its forms,

Dedicated to the general progress of Africa,

Persuaded that the Charter of the United Nations and the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, to the Principles of which we reaffirm our adherence, provide a solid foundation for peaceful and positive cooperation among States,

Desirous that all African States should henceforth unite so that the welfare and well-being of their peoples can be assured,

Resolved to reinforce the links between our states by establishing and strengthening common institutions,

Have agreed to the present Charter.

1963 O.A.U. Charter (Cont'd)

*Establishment**Article 9*

1. The High Contracting Parties do by the present Charter establish an Organization to be known as the ORGANIZATION OF AFRICAN UNITY.

*Purpose**Article 99*

1. The Organization shall have the following purposes:

- (a) To promote the unity and solidarity of the African States;
 - (b) To coordinate and intensify their cooperation and efforts to achieve a better life for the peoples of Africa;
 - (c) To defend their sovereignty, their territorial integrity and independence;
 - (d) To eradicate all forms of colonialism from Africa; and
 - (e) To promote international cooperation, having due regard to the Charter of the United Nations and the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.
2. To these ends, the Member States shall coordinate and harmonize

their general policies, especially in the following fields:

- a) Political and diplomatic cooperation;
- b) Economic cooperation, including transport and communications;
- (c) Educational and cultural cooperation;
- (d) Health, sanitation and nutritional cooperation;
- (e) Scientific and technical cooperation; and
- (f) Cooperation for defense and security.

*Principles**Article 999*

The Member States, in pursuit of the purposes stated in Article II solemnly affirm and declare their adherence to the following principles:

- 1. The sovereign equality of all Member States.
- 2. Non-interference in the internal affairs of States.
- 3. Respect for the sovereignty and territorial integrity of each State and for its inalienable right to independent existence.
- 4. Peaceful settlement of disputes by negotiation,

meditation, conciliation or arbitration.

5. Unreserved condemnation, in all its forms, of political assassination as well as of subversive activities on the part of neighboring States or any other States.

6. Absolute dedication to the total emancipation of the African territories which are still dependent.

7. Affirmation of a policy of non-alignment with regard to all blocs.

*Membership**Article 99*

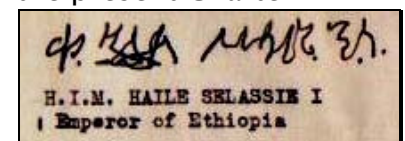
Each independent sovereign African State shall be entitled to become Member of the Organization.

*Rights and Duties of Member States**Article 9*

All Member States shall enjoy equal rights and have equal duties.

Article 99

The Member States pledge themselves to observe scrupulously the principles enumerated in Article III of the present Charter.

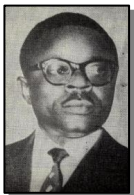


The O.A.U. Participating Heads of State-1963

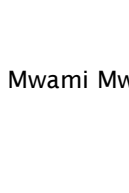


Algeria
President
Ahmed Ben Bella

Benin
Foreign Minister
Hubert Maga



Burkina Faso
President
H.E. Maurice
Yameogo



Burundi
President
Mwami Mwambusta



Cameroon
President
Ahamadou Ahidjo

Central African
Repub.
President
David Dacko

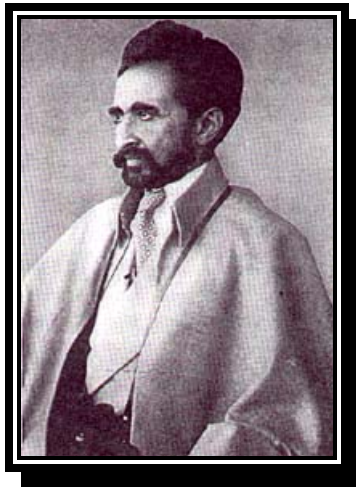


Chad
President
Francois Tombalbaye



Republic of the
Congo
President
Fulbert Youlou

Egypt
President
Gamal Abdel
Nasser



Ethiopia
His Imperial Majesty
Haile Selassie



Gabon
President
Leon M'Ba

Ghana
President
Kwame Nkrumah



Guinea
President
Sekou Toure

Cote D'Ivoire
President
Houphouet-Boigny



Liberia



President
William Tubman

Libya
His Majesty
King Idris I



Malagasy



Republic
President
Philibert Tsiranana

Mali
President
Modibo Keita



Mauritania
First Premier
Mokhtar Daddah

The O.A.U. Participating Heads of States-1963



Morocco
King Hassan II



Sudan
President
Marshal Abboud

Meeting of the Minds



HIM giving speech at OAU

Niger
President
Hamani Diori



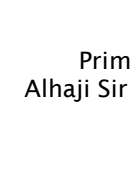
Tanzania
President
Julius Nyerere



Nigeria
Governor-General
Nnamdi Azikiwe



Tunisia
President
Habib Bourguiba



Nigeria
Prime Minister
Alhaji Sir A. Balewa



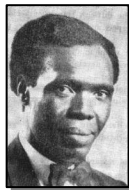
Togo
President
Sylvanus Olympio



Uganda
Prime Minister
Obote



Rwanda
President
Groire Kayibanda



Senegal
President
Leopold Senghor



Sierra Leone
President
Milton Margai



Somalia
President
Abdella Osman



Africa Hall, Addis Ababa



HIM with Sekou Toure of Guinea



*HIM meeting with Foreign Minister
Ketema Yifru who was very
instrumental in the organization
process of the first OAU meeting.*

African Liberty Day- May 25th

H. I. M. Haile Selassie

**African Liberty Day Speech
- May 25 1965**

The first conference of the independent African states was held in Accra, Ghana, on April 15, 1958. It was decided then to celebrate this historic day as African Freedom Day. Until recently, April 15 was celebrated throughout our continent as African Freedom Day. However, two years ago today in May the Summit Conference of the Independent African States, which was convened in Our Capital City of Addis Ababa, decreed that May 25, the day on which the historic Charter of the Organization of African Unity was signed, be celebrated every year as African Liberation Day. Accordingly today is celebrated as African Liberation Day.

The *African Unity Charter* was signed two years ago today. Within this brief period much has been accomplished that augurs well for African Unity. In accordance with the resolution of the first Assembly of African Heads of State and Government held in Cairo last year, the headquarters of the Organization of African Unity has been established here in Addis Ababa. Under its Secretary-General, His Excellency Mr. Diallo Telli, of Guinea, the Organization is successfully discharging its responsibilities and commitments.

The Ethiopian people, who have struggled and made untold sacrifices for their independence and freedom for thousands of years, an independence that has been a beacon for all of Africa today, celebrate this day together with all Africans by consolidating their freedom and independence with the freedom and independence of their African brothers in the spirit of *Modern Ethiopianism*.

This year, two sister African states Zambia and Gambia have won independence and they have joined the family of independent African states. We share their joy and we extend again, as we did on the occasion when they won their independence, Our sincere felicitations. We are anxiously awaiting the day when those Africans in the dependent territories break the shackles

of foreign tutelage, and become masters of their own fate.

On this solemn day, all of us must pause and remember the plight of our African brothers who are under foreign rule and who are desperately struggling to win their freedom, their basic fundamental human rights. Instead of granting their rightful freedom and independence to the indigenous Africans in Angola, Mozambique and Portuguese Guinea, the Portuguese Government has intensified even more its campaign of ruthless suppression of African freedom fighters in these territories, under the outmoded, illogical pretext that these territories are part of Portugal. In concert with the other African members of the United Nations Organization, Ethiopia has never ceased advocating at United Nations and other international conferences that the Portuguese Government should grant independence to each and every territory under its rule.

The United Nations Anti-Colonial Committee, of which Ethiopia is a member, is presently visiting Africa to follow closely the dangerous situation in Southern Rhodesia. In South Africa and in South-West Africa, the policies of apartheid and oppression are becoming increasingly unbearable. The South African Government is accelerating its ruthless campaign: a methodical campaign of arresting daily, detaining without trial and torturing the Africans and their leaders who are struggling for their fundamental human rights and freedom. All the peace-loving countries of the world must act together to force the colonial governments of South Africa and Portugal to desist from these policies.

The establishment of the OAU, the concerted action of the member-states and the pooling of the aid to our brethren African freedom fighters, have helped to revive and strengthen as well as intensify the liberation movements throughout Africa. For this we are grateful to the Liberation Committee of the nine African States, of which Ethiopia is a member. On this day, we should all recollect with gratitude the support of all those friendly nations in our endeavor in the United Nations and other international conferences to free Africa of all the colonial vestiges...

May Almighty God assist us in these endeavors.