

The Ethnic Problem In Africa

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KEYWORDS

ABSTRACT The emergence of ethnic consciousness and nationalism is a volatile and increasingly powerful force in the contemporary world. It has pulled down empires, created new nations and generated a rising tide of expectations. Minorities are becoming more militant and more self-aware in all nations, whatever their stage of industrial and political development.

This paper in a fruitful way takes a new, critical and in-depth look at the origins manifestations and consequences of the thorny problem of ethnicity in Africa. This is done with a view to provide solutions to the ethnic problem so as to alleviate its overwhelming negative impact on the African continent vis a vis socio-political and economic development.

The paper concludes that each plural polity in the African continent has its own unique configuration of diversity and this inevitably makes generalizations a difficult task. However nations of Africa can move forward by

1. Identifying common grounds in their polities;
2. Reduce discrepancies of power and opportunity;
3. Accommodate divergent interests;
4. Reduce the extent of ethnic differentiation and
5. Embrace institutionalized indignation.

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