Political Posters in Condeton.com Ethiopia and Mozambique

Visual Imagery in a Revolutionary Context "

by

BERIT SAHLSTRÖM



Uppsala 1990 Almqvist & Wiksell International Stockholm, Sweden

Contents

CHAPTER I. INTRODUCTION 1 Prologue 1 Clarifications 2 Politics, culture and mass culture in Mozambique: A short outline 5 Modern urban development 6 Resistance and nationalism 8 National and cultural identity 9 The press 10 Politics, culture and mass culture in Ethiopia: A short outline 10 The Emperor's Ethiopia 11 Ethiopian national identity 12 The Dergue comes to power 13 Ethiopian cultural context and the role of visual images 13 Foreign press in Mozambique and Ethiopia 14 CHAPTER II. STATE OF RESEARCH 17 On political posters 17 The poster as an artistic medium 22 Posters as illustrated history 24 A technical perspective 26 On caricatures as printed imagery's highest form 26 World War I 26 The October Revolution 28 The inter-war period 32 The Spanish Civil War 32 Posters in Nazi Germany 33 Polish poster art 34 Third World posters 36 Cuban posters 36 Chinese posters 38 African posters 38 Paris 1968 40 Posters seen as a form of mass-produced images 40 The language of images 41 CHAPTER III. THEORY, SOURCES, AND METHODS 43 'New' pictures in 'new' countries. Theoretical problems and practical answers 43 The problem of African socialism and socialist iconography 44 Aim and scope 45 Choice of research area and source material 46

The winner's propaganda 49 Mozambique 49 Ethiopia 50 Methods of analysis and presentation of results 51

CHAPTER IV. DRAWINGS AND OTHER MONOCHROME ILLUSTRATIONS 54
Mozambique 54
Early FRELIMO drawings 54
Agostinho Milhafre 60 Xiconhoca 61 Changes and developments in style 63
Ethiopia 66
An image of revolution and warrior culture 67 A blown-up action cartoon sequence 69 Abonesh Kabede's REWA drawings 70
Drawings and monochrome illustrations: The first step. Developments in printing technique, content and style 72

CHAPTER V. PHOTOGRAPHIC IMAGES IN POSTERS 73

Mozambique c. 1969—c. 1980 73 Later developments 80 Photographic motifs in Ethiopian posters 85

CHAPTER VI. TYPOGRAPHICAL POSTERS 92

Mozambique 92 Ethiopia 94 Are typographical posters made because of lack of time? 96

CHAPTER VII. SYMBOLS AND EMBLEMATIC COMPOSITIONS IN POSTERS 99

Mozambique 99

Symbols and emblems in the Freire School 99

Posters for independence day 103

Idealized realism—emblematic compositions 106 Samora Machel depicted as an individual, a symbol and in an emblematic composition 107

Ethiopia 108

Symbol compositions from the Addis Ababa School of Fine Arts 108 Symbol compositions from the Party Headquarters 112 Some posters made for Ethiopian Peace, Solidarity and Friendship Committee, EPSFC 112 Symbols in landscapes and other artistic and traditional scenes 114 Dawit Menghistu 116 Late posters from the Ministry of Information and National Guidance 117 Old symbols in new environments—additional notes on symbols and their use and changes 119

۰.,

CHAPTER VIII. THE NATURE AND THE ROLE OF POLITICAL POST-ERS. CONCLUDING REMARKS 134

Political posters as symbols 134
Political posters as an art form 134
Political posters related to other propaganda pictures 136
Political posters' relationship to monumental art 138
Mozambique 138 Ethiopia 139 North Korean influence 141 Posters beyond revolution 143

NOTES 145

REFERENCES 158

Sources 158

Bibliography 159

ILLUSTRATIONS 166

ABBREVIATIONS 172

INDEX 174