

THE THEORY AND PRACTICE OF AFRICAN POLITICS

SECOND EDITION

CHRISTIAN P. POTHOLM
Bowdoin College

UNIVERSITY
PRESS OF
AMERICA



Lanham • New York • London

CONTENTS

PREFACE TO THE SECOND EDITION, ix

PREFACE, xi

Part ONE THE CONTEXT OF AFRICAN POLITICS

1 THEMES IN TRADITIONAL AFRICAN POLITICAL SYSTEMS, 3

Pluralism, 6

Centralization and Diffusion of Political Power, 11

Limitations on the Use of Political Power, 24

Religion and Political Philosophy, 28

The Importance of Gerontocracy in African Political Thought, 31

Conclusion, 32

2 THE COLONIAL OVERLAY AND THE AFRICAN RESPONSE—

Morton Schoolman, 34

The Scope of Colonialism, 36

Intellectual Responses to Colonialism, 41

Frantz Fanon, 42

Kwame Nkrumah, 50

3 AFRICAN POLITICAL THOUGHT—*Morton Schoolman, 67*

Julius Nyerere, 68

Leopold Senghor, 86

Amilcar Cabral, 90

Kenneth Kaunda, 99

4 POLITICAL THEMES IN RECENT AFRICAN LITERATURE, 108

- Traditional Society. 111
- The Sacred and the Profane. 113
- Colonialism. 117
- Social Change. 123
- The European Shadow: Continued Racism. 127
- Contemporary Political Patterns. 131
- The Missing Themes. 135

Part TWO
THE PROCESS OF AFRICAN POLITICS

5 THE POLYARCHAL SPECTRUM, 139

- The Onset of Independence. 139
- The Colonial Legacy. 142
- Political Decay and the Erosion of Democracy. 143
- The Remnants of Polyarchal Politics. 152
- Electoral Competition: The Multiparty States. 152
- Electoral Competition: The Single-Party States. 159

6 THE AUTHORITARIAN SPECTRUM, 176

- The Authoritarian Criteria. 177
- Basic Typologies. 182
- The Civilian Oligarchies. 182
- The Praetorian Impulse: The Military Takes Power. 196

7 THE MARXIST MODERNIZERS AND THE FUTURE, 212

- Somalia. 215
- Ethiopia. 230
- Guinea-Bissau. 235
- Mozambique. 239
- Summary and Conclusions. 243

8 AFRICAN POLITICS IN PERSPECTIVE, 245**INDEX, 251**