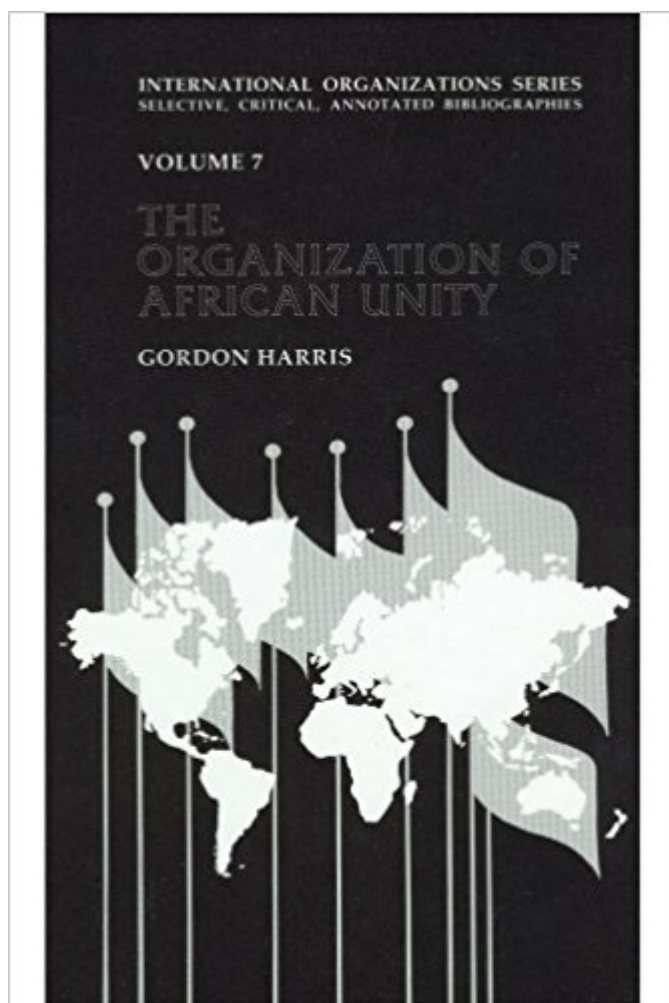


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Organization Of African Unity (Comparative Policy Analysis Series)



Synopsis

The political and spiritual affinity felt by black peoples may date back centuries, but it was first formalized in Africa by a series of conferences at the beginning of the twentieth century. In the postwar struggle for independence, Africanness became a potent force. Later, in the early 1960s, the flood of newly independent African states adopted a Pan-African ideal in their common struggle against the remaining colonial and white-dominated territories on the continent. The launch of the Organization of African Unity (OAU) in 1963 was an impressive achievement by any standards, and many commentators cited in this bibliography recognize this, adding that the OAU's survival for thirty years is even more astonishing. Overall, however, assessments of the OAU's activities have not been positive. Lack of unanimity among member-states has weakened the OAU's ability to deal with disputes. While critical of OAU's ineffectiveness, most writers marvel at the organization's resilience over three decades. While Central and Eastern Europe fragment, Africa is still represented by one organization, with annual meetings continuing to be held and attended by foreign ministers, prime ministers, and presidents. Chapters in this original and comprehensive bibliography include "Literature on the OAU," "General Assessments," "The OAU in African Politics," and "The OAU in World Politics." There are also extensive indexes of authors, titles, and subjects regarding the OAU. Organization of African Unity is a critical resource for political scientists, historians, and Africa area specialists seeking to understand a changing continent.

Book Information

Series: Comparative Policy Analysis Series (Book 7)

Hardcover: 139 pages

Publisher: Routledge; 1 edition (December 31, 1994)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 1560001534

ISBN-13: 978-1560001539

Product Dimensions: 5.8 x 9 inches

Shipping Weight: 1 pounds (View shipping rates and policies)

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Best Sellers Rank: #859,354 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #5 in [Books > Reference > Writing, Research & Publishing Guides > Publishing & Books > Bibliographies & Indexes > Politics](#) #39 in [Books > Reference > Writing, Research & Publishing Guides > Publishing & Books > Bibliographies & Indexes > Religion](#) #61 in [Books > Reference > Writing, Research &](#)

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“Outstanding Title! The Organization of African Unity (OAU) was founded in 1963 just as the nations of Africa were becoming independent of colonial powers. Based on the ideal of pan-Africanism, the OAU has managed to survive the end of colonialism, wars of independence, civil wars, ethnic clashes, drought, famine, hopeful periods of economic development, dispiriting years of structural adjustment, apartheid, aggression, military coups, and dictators. The OAU is not well known or understood outside of Africa, and Harris’s useful and well-constructed book provides considerable enlightenment. Highly recommended.”
—G. Walsh, Choice

Gordon Harris is head of library services, Newman and Westhill Colleges, Birmingham, UK, and Chair of the International Group of the UK Library Association.

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