



“CONFLICT IN AFRICA”

February 5 and 6, 1999
Friday Center, Chapel Hill, NC

Goals:

On February 5-6, 1999 the Triangle Institute for Security Studies (T.I.S.S.) will hold a conference in Chapel Hill on conflict in Africa. Our purpose is to gather a distinguished group of scholars from the United States and overseas to investigate the roots of internal and inter-state group violence, describe its recent history, and explore a variety of ideas for ameliorating or avoiding such conflict in the near and long term future. Our goal is not only to understand the violence, but to gain further insights into how best to deal with it. We have three objectives. First, we think that participants will benefit from the chance to exchange ideas with persons of very diverse backgrounds and with wide-ranging interests. Second, we think that the interest of our local community in Africa may be stimulated by this conference and that some typical myths may be dispelled. Third, we hope that, as a result of the creative interplay of ideas, we will be able to offer some suggestions and recommendations that may prove useful to those seeking to forge a more peaceful future for Africa. We think that the issues discussed at the conference are of sufficient import to justify making it available to persons unable to attend. We therefore plan to compile a collection of papers and regional reports and publish them.

Audience:

The conference will be open not only to our own members (composed of academics, professionals, and graduate students with an interest in national and international security) but also to the military, foreign-policy, and Africa-interested policy communities in Washington D.C.. We also plan to offer some seats (at a reduced rate) to interested undergraduate students sponsored by faculty members, particularly to students from the Historic Black Colleges and Universities in North Carolina.

Format:

The format of this conference was designed in order to try and overcome the analytical problems that arise both when overly broad generalizations are made about conflict in Africa and when the focus is too narrowly placed on a specific area. Our aim is to suggest some of general theories of conflict in Africa and then divide into smaller groups and look at a series of conflicts in different regions. The study of these conflicts will make clearer how universally applicable these theories are and will also provide a forum for the discussion of other causes of war and violence. They will also serve as a point of entry into the discussion of conflict resolution.

The conference will begin with an address by our plenary speaker, who will provide a general but sophisticated introduction to Africa, stressing its diversity, and outlining broadly the history of recent and current conflicts. This talk should put the more specialized discussions that follow into meaningful perspective. Friday afternoon will be devoted to a thematic examination of the roots of conflict. Four speakers will discuss what they see to be a major source of contemporary conflict in Africa (and engage in a question and answer session with one another and the audience).

On Saturday morning, the conference attendees will divide up into smaller groups of approximately twenty-five people. Each of these groups will devote its attention for ninety minutes to the current conflict(s) in one particular region of Africa, looking at the nature and the roots of the conflict, and (albeit to a lesser degree) the prospects for peace. Three panelists will together run these groups. They will give brief talks (reflecting their own interests and areas of expertise), answer questions, and seek to stimulate discussion. The group members will be sent some readings (three short articles and a select bibliography) in their registration packet. While considerable latitude will be given to the separate discussion leaders to organize their discussion as they think best, some common ground will be needed. The various groups will be asked, therefore, to debate a few questions in common. Which of the theories advanced on Friday afternoon proved useful in understanding the particular conflict under discussion? What important causes of conflict were neglected by the Friday morning panelists? Has the role played by the international community served to aggravate or reduce tensions in the region? And, what are the prospects for peace in the region? At the end of the morning the conference will reconvene as a whole. The rapporteurs from each group will give a brief report of the findings of their group and then the floor will be opened to general discussion.

On Saturday afternoon three scholars and practitioners will present for half an hour each on some aspect of conflict resolution in Africa. The speakers will be engaged in question and answer session with their fellow panelists and then with the audience. The conference will conclude with a general discussion.

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 5

SESSION I:

INTRODUCTION TO A CONTINENT

9:00 - 10:00 AM

Registration and Continental Breakfast

10:00 - 10:15 AM

Richard H. Kohn, UNC-Chapel Hill
Opening Remarks

10:15 - 11:30 AM

Ali A. Mazrui, NY SUNY Binghamton [Plenary Speaker]
"An Introduction to Conflict in Africa."

11:30 - 12:30PM

Luncheon

SESSION II:

ROOTS OF CONFLICT: A THEMATIC EXAMINATION.

12:30 - 1:30PM

Anthony Clayton, Royal Military Academy, Sandhurst, U.K.
"The Roots of Violence in Africa Since 1945: Frontiersmen."

1:30 - 2:30 PM

Julius Nyang'oro, UNC-Chapel Hill
"The Economic Context of Conflict in Contemporary Africa."

2:30 - 2:45 PM

Afternoon Break

2:45 - 3:45 PM

René Lemarchand, University of Florida, Gainesville
"Ethnic/Genocidal Violence in the Great Lakes: Ethnicity and Myth."

3:45 - 4:45 PM

Pearl Robinson, Tufts
"Democratization and Violence: War, Peace Movements, and State-Building."

5:00 - 6:00 PM

Reception

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 6

SESSION III

CASE STUDIES OF CONFLICT IN AFRICA

8:00 - 8:30 AM Continental Breakfast

8:30 AM - 10:00 AM: Break-out Sessions

Angola

Group Leader, **John Cann** (USMC Command and Staff College)
Second Panelist, **Jeffrey Elliot** (North Carolina Central University)
Rapporteur, **Kenneth Vickery**, (NC State University)

Great Lakes [Congo, Rwanda, and Burundi]

Group Leader, **Catharine Newbury** (UNC-Chapel Hill)
Second Panelist, **Alphonse Mutima** (UNC-Chapel Hill)
Rapporteur, **David Newbury** (UNC-Chapel Hill)

Horn of Africa [Sudan, Ethiopia, Eritrea, and Somalia]

Group Leader, **Bereket Selassie** (UNC-Chapel Hill)
Second Panelist, **Frank Crigler** (American Diplomacy)
Rapporteur, **Joseph P. Smaldone** (Arms Control & Disarmament Agency)

Nigeria

Group Leader, **Roberta Ann Dunbar** (UNC-Chapel Hill)
Second Panelist, **Simeon Ilesanmi** (Wake Forest University)
Rapporteur, **Yomi Durotoye** (Wake Forest University)

Coastal West Africa [including Sierra Leone and Liberia]

Group Leader, **Michael Lambert** (UNC-Chapel Hill)
Second Panelist, **Kenneth Brown** (Dean Rusk Center, Davidson College)
Rapporteur, **Charles Piot** (Duke University)

Guinea-Bissau/Senegal

Group Leader, **Andrew Clark** (UNC-Wilmington)
Second Panelist, **Eunice Charles** (Department of the Army, Fort Bragg, NC)
Rapporteur, **Mustafah Dhada** (Clark Atlanta University)

10:00 - 10:30 Break

10:30 - noon. **SUMMARY SESSION**
Reports by Case-Study Group Rapporteurs.
Gerald Horne, UNC-Chapel Hill (Moderator).

Noon - 1: 00 PM LUNCH

SESSION IV: CONFLICT RESOLUTION

- 1:00 - 2:00 PM **Claude Welch**, SUNY-Buffalo
"Non-Governmental Organizations and their Potential for Conflict Reduction in Africa."
- 2:00 - 3:00 PM **Pauline Baker**, U.S. Fund for Peace, & Georgetown University
"Early Warning and Policy Assessment for Failing States."
- 3:00 - 3:15 PM Afternoon Break
- 3:15 - 4:15 PM **Bona Malwal**, St. Antony's College, Oxford, U. K.
"Negotiations in the Sudan."
- 4:15 - 4:55 PM **Richard Joseph**, Emory (Moderator)
General Discussion and Summation.
- 4:55 - 5:00 PM **Richard H. Kohn**, UNC-Chapel Hill
Closing Remarks.

This conference is kindly cosponsored
by the **University Center for International Studies**
(University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill),
by the electronic journal, ***American Diplomacy***,
and by the **Institute for African-American Research**, UNC-Chapel Hill