



ISSN 2336-3274 (Print) ISSN 2570-7558 (Online)

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Vlastimil Fiala. 2015. Politické stranictví v západní Africe (Senegal a Gambie). Political Partisanship in Western Africa (Senegal and Gambia). Hradec Králové: University of Hradec Králové, Philosophical Faculty. ISBN 978-80-7405-380-1, 200 pages, Czech

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Recommended citation:

Klíma, J. (2016). Vlastimil Fiala. 2015. Politické stranictví v západní Africe (Senegal a Gambie). Political Partisanship in Western Africa (Senegal and Gambia). Hradec Králové: University of Hradec Králové, Philosophical Faculty. ISBN 978-80-7405-380-1, 200 pages, Czech. *Modern Africa: Politics, History and Society*, 4(1), 143–145. Retrieved from <https://edu.uhk.cz/africa/index.php/ModAfr/article/view/89>



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tremendous progress in explaining the African context of agency in the contemporary study of International Relations.

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Vlastimil Fiala. 2015. *Politické stranictví v západní Africe (Senegal a Gambie). Political Partisanship in Western Africa (Senegal and Gambia)*. Hradec Králové: University of Hradec Králové, Philosophical Faculty. ISBN 978-80-7405-380-1, 200 pages, Czech language

Within the series of Vlastimil Fiala's studies analysing African politics the skilled author has done a good deal of work when describing in detail political parties and election results in several African, mainly Lusophone countries. This time he has dedicated his attention to two neighbouring West African countries with different official languages, but a similar geopolitical orientation. As both Senegal and Gambia have gone through complicated and turbulent times recently, it is extremely useful to research their political organisms in order to look for conclusions and solutions concerning the broader West African drift to democracy depending on the demographic, economic and international situation. The monograph is a part of the grant research project No. 407/09/0387 "Political Parties of Africa, Asia, Latin America and Oceania."

The Introduction (pp. 5–9) presents the research scheme referring particularly to recent and contemporary political development in both countries. The first part, titled *The Political Partisanship of Senegal* (pp. 13–116), covers the reasonable majority of the space. This part is divided into two steps. Firstly, the author gives an account of the political evolution of Senegal before independence, in the period of 1960–1966, in the one party state period of 1966–1974, in the multiparty system with one dominant party period of 1974–2000, and in the last multiparty system period after 2000 (pp. 21–66). Secondly, he analyses the evolution of the Senegalese political partisanship in four historical periods from the period before independence to the present times (pp. 70–83). The following Overview of Senegalese Political Parties (pp. 84–114) characterises all features, ideological

orientations, intentions and roles of individual parties within the Senegalese political system and its evolution in detail.

A similar composition can be found in the second part, titled *The Political Partisanship of Gambia* (pp. 118–190). The Political Evolution of Gambia (pp. 122–147) is divided into four sections: before independence, during the First Republic (1965–1994), during the military regime (1994–1996) and during the Second Republic (from 1996 on). This is followed by the chapter called The Evolution of the Gambian Political Partisanship (pp. 148–163). The Overview of the Gambian Political Parties (pp. 164–188) is purposefully divided into two sections dealing with the extinct political parties and the political parties of the Second Republic, respectively.

The main contribution of this work consists in answering fundamental questions concerning the social, age, gender, ethnic and other substance of individual political parties, the programming, organisational structure and financing thereof as well as some cleavages influencing the political parties development and practices. The facts expressed in the Conclusion (pp. 189–190) are substantially enriching our knowledge of Senegalese and Gambian political life that thus far have been insufficiently researched.

The clear expression in this well-thought out work is slightly disturbed by small errors in some names (Sierra-Leona instead of Sierra Leone, p. 6) and in the French orthography (e.g., Goreé on p. 21, 23 instead of the correct Gorée). The spelling for the Senegalese president cannot be both Senghor and Sénghor as indicated on p. 26; “aittour” on p. 56 should be “autour.” The terrorist group which assassinated Babacar Sèye (not Babcar Seye) had certainly a French name, not the “People’s Army” mentioned in English on p. 47. “La via politique” (p. 195) should be “La vie politique”, and so on. “Pular” (p. 12) is the language of the Fula people, not the ethnic synonym. Such problems are probably due to the prevalence of English and the lack of French sources. Some of them would have been welcome to support both the history (e.g., Baila Wane, *Le Conseil colonial du Sénégal, 1920–1946*, Paris, 1978) and the personalities (Babacar Ndiaye and Waly Ndiaye, *Présidents et ministres de la République du Sénégal*, 2nd edition, Dakar, 2006) of Senegalese politics. Also the English spelling and orthography has not been perfect all the time, see e.g., “Wahington” (p. 194) or “The End of en

Era” instead of the correct “an Era” on p. 195. Perhaps, the roots of the separatist Casamance movement which affects Senegalese politics would have deserved a more profound explanation. In general, such trifles cannot change the firm opinion that Vlastimil Fiala’s annotated work is a valuable enlargement of our knowledge of African politics.

Jan Klíma

Viera Pawliková-Vilhanová and Seyni Moumouni (eds.).
2014. *Voices of Africa’s Pasts*. Bratislava: Slovak Academic Press, 164 pages.

There are many reasons to read and discuss this book offering eight contributions presented to the International Conference on *Sources for African history in African languages written in Arabic (Ajami), African and Latin scripts in Eastern and Southern Africa* that was held in Maputo in April 2012. The conference represented a step forward of the “Fontes Historiae Africanae Project” of the *Union Académique Internationale* based in Brussels. The project, started in 1960s, evolved through several shifts of emphasis and patronage to the current situation, in which the responsibility has been taken over by the Slovak Academy of Sciences and the directorship by the first editor of the book under review, Viera Pawliková-Vilhanová. She tells the essentials of the story in the amply informative Introduction. Information on the project can be also retrieved from the website.

The book presents a great deal of fresh items of knowledge regarding Africa’s written patrimony from pre-colonial and colonial times. A considerable part of the papers deal with manuscripts in Arabic or Ajami, i.e., in African languages transcribed in Arabic script. In this respect, rich information on the available but still unexplored documents in West African languages (Hausa, Fulfulde, Songhay-Zarma, Gonja, Mampurle and Wolof) is provided by the co-editor of the volume, Seyni Moumouni. In addition to his general presentation of the importance of this wide but little known corpus of texts for historians, he pays special attention to the manuscripts preserved in his motherland Niger at the University of Niamey.

The respective chapter suggests a typology and chronological evolution of dated manuscripts (Islamic, Arab and African) and gives a detailed