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**Viera Pawliková-Vilhanová. 2013. The Production of History and Culture in Africa Revisited: Problems, Methods, Sources. Studia Orientalia Monographica, Volume 4. Bratislava: Slovenská akadémia vied, Ústav orientalistiky**

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The book has a number of chapters that are set out to compare the two countries, with contributions on them as emerging donors, nationalist discourse, language policies, and regional strategies drawing together evidence from both case studies. There are then stand-alone chapters on the role of women in the respective countries as well as a commentary on the HIV/AIDS situation in South Africa. A chapter on transitional justice and reconciliation efforts in both countries is particularly interesting, examining how both states have dealt with the traumas of the past.

Overall, the book is an interesting treatment of two countries that though are in very different parts of the world exhibit some similarities as a result of the timing of their transitions to liberalism. As a project that brings together Czech and South African academics it is a success and further evidence of the healthy state of affairs regarding academic engagement with Africa in the Czech Republic. In this sense, the book may also be seen as part of the wider renaissance in Central and Eastern Europe of African Studies as a discipline.

Ian Taylor

**Viera Pawliková-Vilhanová. 2013. *The Production of History and Culture in Africa Revisited: Problems, Methods, Sources*. Studia Orientalia Monographica, Volume 4. Bratislava: Slovenská akadémia vied, Ústav orientalistiky. 119 pages. ISBN 978-80-8095-085-9.**

It is a highly ambitious if not impossible task to make a thorough revision of the hitherto world historiography concerning Africa, primary and secondary sources, to evaluate approaches, production and results achieved within that vast area of academic research and amateur endeavour. The success in outlining and digesting the theme is based on the wide experience and extraordinary skills of the author who has been dealing with African topics for decades.

An ample bibliography (pp. VII-XXXII) commences a little unusual, but adds to the fully adequate composition of the study. The Introduction (pp. 1-4) mentions the essential changes in the conception of African history, which occurred after the WWII. The author also mentions her

previous research in the field of African historical production. Part I, “The Emergence of African Historical Studies: Problems and Methods” (pp. 9-71), is the core of the book. Eurocentric ideas were abandoned in the 1960s to open space for many emerging themes of African history seen from the African point of view, but European and African authors were meeting with innumerable difficulties when looking for sufficient sources and proper methods for elaborating the contemporary topics in books and/or specialised journals. Since the 1970s, the crisis has been overcome thanks to, above all, African authors, be they white or black. The proof for it is not only the *UNESCO General History of Africa*, but also a rich production of individual historians interconnected by means of several global networks.

Part II, called “Production of Historical Knowledge in Africa: Sources, Edition of Sources and Projects” (pp. 77-103), is of extreme value for any Africanist. Various oral, Arabic, Ajami sources, historical texts written by African amateur historians and European sources related to all the important periods are reviewed here with the indication of important titles. Also the most useful projects (e. g. *Fontes Historiae Africanae*, *The Endangered Archives Programme* etc.) are evaluated and characterised as a space for gathering new information, concepts and approaches.

The Appendix offers A List of all *Fontes Historiae Africanae* Publications (pp. 105-111), the closing Index (pp. 113-119) enables the reader a better orientation in names and notions introduced. A short, but useful portrait of the author appears on the last but one page of the book jacket.

The above-mentioned overview of African historiography is firmly rooted in the anglophone and francophone production. Although some Russian, German, Czech and other authors are indicated, the significant contribution by Portuguese-writing authors has almost been omitted. In our opinion, such works as *Guia de fontes portuguesas para a história de África* (I-II, Lisbon: Instituto Português de Arquivos 1991, 1993) or studies explaining the important phases of the African decolonisation (e.g., Portuguese eye-witness Pedro Pezarat Correia. 1991. *Descolonização de Angola, a jóia da coroa do Império Português*. Luanda-Lisbon: Ler&Escrever) or of the specific regional development (Eduardo da Costa Medeiros, for instance, who perfectly connects the

European and African written and oral sources in his *História de Cabo Delgado e do Niassa /c. 1836-1929/*. Maputo: UEM, 1997) would also be indispensable for completing a full- colour picture of the historical production concerning Africa. Some Spanish authors should also be taken into consideration because of their irreplaceable works (e.g., Josep Sánchez Cervelló. 1998. *El último imperio occidental: La descolonización portuguesa /1974-1975/*. Mérida: UNED). Many times only modifications or abbreviations of the Portuguese and Spanish/ Catalan works appear in English. I fully understand, however, that the limited volume of the book on African historiography does not allow the author to mention all works ever created, but the contemporary stabilising position of the PALOPs (*Países Africanos da Língua Oficial Portuguesa*) advocates some key examples, at least, to be added to the historical production in English and French.

Generally speaking, the work of Viera Pawliková-Vilhanová, quoting many significant and noted authors, deserves both attention and admiration by all Africanists and persons interested in African history. It sketches the ways for the contemporary and future approach to the complicated synthesis of methods and views when studying and presenting the development of the African continent.

Jan Klíma

**Léonce Ndikumana and James K. Boyce. 2011. *Africa's Odious Debts: How Foreign Loans and Capital Flight Bled a Continent*. London and New York: Zed Books. 135 pages. ISBN 978-1-84813-459-1.**

The publication under review is authored by two scholars in the field of economics. In the book, the authors deal with revealing the intimate links between foreign loans and capital flight with emphasis on Africa, its future and its uneasy relationship with the West. Basically, the book is a product of collaboration of two authors, who come from developing regions with nearly similar experiences of foreign loan and capital flight in their specific regions, Africa and Asia. On top of this, the fact that both authors were teaching at the University of Massachusetts during the mid-1990s has enhanced their cooperation.