

The United States' Foreign Policy
in Africa in the 21st Century
Issues and Perspectives

Edited by

Adebayo Oyeade

TENNESSEE STATE UNIVERSITY



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Series Editor's Foreword

The *Carolina Academic Press African World Series*, inaugurated in 2010, offers significant new works in the field of African and Black World studies. The series provides scholarly and educational texts that can serve both as reference works and as readers in college classes.

Studies in the series are anchored in the existing humanistic and the social scientific traditions. Their goal, however, is the identification and elaboration of the strategic place of Africa and its Diaspora in a shifting global world. More specifically, the studies will address gaps and larger needs in the developing scholarship on Africa and the Black World.

The series intends to fill gaps in areas such as African politics, history, law, religion, culture, sociology, literature, philosophy, visual arts, art history, geography, language, health, and social welfare. Given the complex nature of Africa and its Diaspora, and the constantly shifting perspectives prompted by globalization, the series also meets a vital need for scholarship connecting knowledge with events and practices. Reflecting the fact that life in Africa continues to change, especially in the political arena, the series explores issues emanating from racial and ethnic identities, particularly those connected with the ongoing mobilization of ethnic minorities for inclusion and representation.

Toyin Falola

University of Texas at Austin

Preface

The 21st century will be shaped by what happens not just in Rome or Moscow or Washington, but by what happens in Accra, as well.

—President Barack Obama, Remarks to the Ghanaian Parliament, July 11, 2009.

If Obama is re-elected in 2012, he should advocate for more American investments in Africa ... He should be the president who is willing to halt the decline of American influence in Africa. This is one area where Obama can leave a legacy.

—Mwangi S. Kimenyi, Director, Africa Growth Initiative, The Brookings Institution, Jan. 5, 2012.

Before World War II, the United States did not pursue an active policy toward Africa as it did toward Europe, Latin America, and Asia. In the postwar period, Africa continued to remain rather inconsequential in America's foreign relations, despite wartime economic and strategic needs that compelled a more dynamic interest in the continent. The close of the Cold War, an era in which the United States viewed Africa primarily from the lenses of superpower ideological rivalry, provided Washington more opportunity to engage with Africa. Although it has been over two decades since the demise of the Cold War, questions regarding the direction of U.S. policy in Africa persist. Since the dawn of the 21st century, transnational terrorism has introduced a new dimension into U.S.-Africa relations, somewhat enhancing Washington's strategic engagement with the continent.

The importance of Africa, at least in an economic and strategic sense, is underscored by President Barack Obama's address to the Ghanaian Parliament

during his first official visit in July 2009. When Obama was elected president, Africa had a tall expectation that a drastic new course in the United States' African policy would emerge—one that would be more favorably disposed to the continent than in the past. This expectation was mainly based on the fact that the president partly has an African heritage; he is, after all, the son of a Kenyan father. Because of that fact, it was assumed that Obama would do for Africa what previous American presidents had been unable or unwilling to do. Needless to say, many Africans have been disappointed by the lack of what they hoped would be the beginning of a more robust U.S. engagement with Africa.

On April 13, 2012, a group of academics, independent scholars, policy-makers, graduate students, and interested observers from around the world gathered at the campus of Tennessee State University in Nashville, Tennessee, to attend an international conference on the theme of U.S. foreign policy in Africa in the twenty-first century. Hosted by the Department of History, Geography, Political Science, and Africana Studies, the conference provided a platform to deliberate on critical issues defining contemporary American foreign policy toward Africa.

This book is a product of the U.S.-Africa conference, and presents a broad-based analysis of some of the key issues in contemporary American relations with Africa. Revised selected papers from the conference constitute the chapters of the book. They focus on subjects such as health, sustainable development, counterterrorism, military and strategic partnership, conflict resolution, and democratization and good governance, within the context of U.S. policy toward the continent.

The contributors represent a diverse group both geographically and discipline-wise; they come from both sides of the Atlantic, and are representative of varied disciplines—history, international relations, political science, and governmental institution. Although the authors' methodological perspective and framework of analysis reflect their various areas of specialization, the book represents a coherent study of contemporary U.S. policy in Africa. It is hoped that this book would contribute, if in a small way, to the historiography of U.S. foreign relations with Africa.

A number of people rendered various forms of assistance in the course of organizing the conference and in the preparation of this volume. I would like to thank Dr. Toyin Falola, the Higginbotham Nalle Centennial Professor of History at the University of Texas, Austin, who delivered the keynote address at the conference. I would also like to thank Ambassador Neneh MacDouall-Gaye, former Gambian Ambassador to the United States, who gave the guest lecture. For their support and active participation during the conference, my

sincere appreciation goes to my colleagues in the department, Dr. Erik Schmeller (chair), Dr. Wosene Yefru (conference co-convener), Dr. Sheri Browne, Dr. Michael Bertrand, Dr. Gashawbeza Bekele, Dr. John Miglietta, Dr. Learotha Williams, Dr. Jyotsna Paruchuri, and Dr. Hoyt King. Gratitude also goes to the Dean of the College of Liberal Arts, Dr. Gloria Johnson; the Associate Dean, Dr. Joel Dark; and the Associate Vice-President for Academic Affairs, Dr. Peter Nwosu, for their invaluable support during the conference. Finally, many thanks go to Ms. Cordia McCutheon, the department's secretary, for working tirelessly to ensure the success of the conference. Without the presenters, especially the contributors to this volume, there would be no book; thus I would like to express appreciation to them for their response to the invitation to be part of this enterprise.

Adebayo Oyebade
Tennessee State University
Nashville, Tennessee