

# African Nations Carry Numerous Unsolved 1960 Problems Into 1961

London—Optimists who hailed 1960 in its early months as the year of African independence were only partly justified. Africa still has its most stubborn problems left to settle in 1961 and probably in a good many years to come.

But 1960 saw the tide of independence sweep down the west coast of the vast continent from the borders of Morocco to the frontier of Portuguese Angola; down the center to the border of the Federation of Rhodesia and Nyasaland; and down the east coast to the frontier of Kenya.

In the east and center, the tide was still held back by the strongholds of white settlement, although even there began to rock before it. And African nationalists suffered one of their biggest disappointments to date when independence in the Belgian Congo disintegrated into chaos, internal conflict and foreign intervention.

Yet 1960 closed with 24 independent states on the continent of Africa and the big island of Madagascar—now the Republic of Madagascar—off the southeast coast. This figure includes the Union of South Africa as well as the United Arab Republic, whose biggest part, Egypt, is in Africa.

It also includes the Belgian Congo—nominally independent since July 1, but with its battle for real independence still to be won.

The beginning of 1961 saw four more territories on the verge of independence—the British colony of Sierra Leone, with independence promised on April 27; the two French territories of Upper Volta and Gabon, whose full independence appears to have been delayed by decision of their own governments; and the British trust territory of Tanganyika, which achieved internal self-government last year.

When 1960 dawned, Africa had only 10 independent states.

It was a year of great political advance for Africa, although it left struggles for independence of different kinds and intensity still raging in Algeria and the Congo, throughout British East Africa and against white settler domination in the Federation of Rhodesia and Nyasaland, the Union of South Africa and Southwest Africa, mandated to the Union after it was seized from Germany at the end of World War I.

These political conflicts are enough to ensure that Africa will continue to be one of the world's storm centers in 1961. But a still more difficult future problem for Africa and for the outside world—particularly the West in its relations with Africa—was foreshadowed in February of last year at the Pan-African People's Conference in Tunis.

The emphasis at that conference was on "neo-colonialism." By that term the delegates meant the retention by European powers of economic control of African territories even after those territories achieved political independence.

"Neo-colonialism" is the wrong term for this phenomenon, since it actually is the oldest form of colonialism. European powers exploited African territories and their peoples economically before

they annexed them politically. Despite criticisms, the problem of economic colonialism is at least as vital to Africa as the problem of political imperialism. The experience of Liberia and Ethiopia has shown that political independence is of little or no benefit to the mass of the African people as long as a country's main resources are channeled

out into foreign markets instead of being used for that country's own economic development.

Liberia and Ethiopia have been independent longer than any other African territories yet the poverty and illiteracy of their people is remarkable even for Africa.

Experts say that one of the causes of the increasing rural

poverty and deterioration of African land is that the soil is starved of phosphates. But, African nationalists point out, Africa produces nearly one-third of the world's phosphates, nearly 90 per cent of which is exported to enrich the soil of Europe and America.

The nationalists add that Africa has by far the biggest

deposits of iron ore in the world—more than twice those of the U.S. and Canada—four times those of all Asia and six times those of all Europe excluding the Soviet Union.

Yet, the nationalists point out, Africa has virtually no heavy industry or engineering outside the Union of South Africa.

Among endless other "examples of economic colonialism," the nationalists point out that Northern Rhodesia is the world's third largest producer of copper, yet she has no industry for the processing of copper. And, they add, American and European firms are prepared to invest huge sums for the extraction of aluminum from Africa, but Africa has had a hard fight

to persuade private enterprise to take any interest in Ghana's plan to develop a big aluminum industry on the Volta river.

So the West must expect demands in 1961 that firms which extract minerals or other raw materials in Africa must help to develop industries to process those materials in Africa, and must help

to develop the heavy industry and engineering base for real African industrialization and economic independence.

African nationalists still are almost unanimous in their hope of this type of investment from the West. And they are now making it clear that if the West does not provide it, they will do it themselves.

## Children Who Eat Breakfast do Better

East Lansing, Mich. (AP) — Breakfast-eating children are likely to do better in school than those who skip the early morning meal before going to school.

Home economists at Michigan State University say children who do not eat breakfast often are less interested in their studies and learn less readily than when they eat a hearty breakfast.

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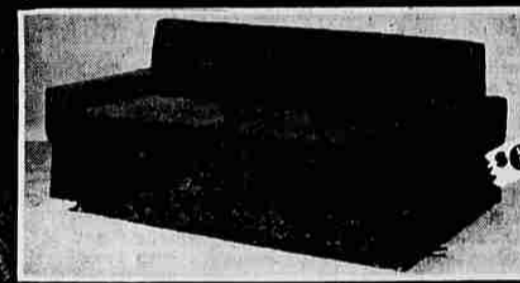
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## Russian Schooner Used for Survey

Sydney, Australia (Science Service) — Russian scientists aboard the three-masted wooden survey schooner Zarya have recharted magnetic maps of the Indian and Atlantic oceans.

Information obtained from the ship is now being written into new charts now being prepared in Moscow and Leningrad. The work is expected to affect ships' navigation on all the oceans of the world. Another discovery was that of a new pattern in the earth's magnetic forces which change each year.

The vessel has sailed 98,000 miles since it began survey work eight years ago. It is now engaged in a survey of the South Pacific Ocean.

## Keeping Weight at Normal Level Urged

New York (Science Service) — A resolution important to make and keep is one concerning overweight, which overworks the heart.

The American Heart association here suggests adopting the following New Year's resolution: "Resolved, that during 1961 I will do everything within my power to keep my weight at a reasonably normal level as a means of safeguarding my heart and my health."

Insurance companies statistics show a significantly higher death rate for men who are overweight than for men of average or less than average weight. Overweight women are also affected but less seriously.