threats to their control of the waters of the Nile and Leopold could not rest until his African territories were recognized as extending from the Nile to the Congo. There was little substance to either ambition or fear: the Congo's financial problems would not be solved by gaining access to the Nile, nor would the British position in Egypt be undermined by a few thousand Congolese troops in the Lado enclave. Both sides proved singularly reluctant to reach such a conclusion and their disparity of strength and interests served only to prolong the controversy. The British Empire was scarcely endangered by the activities of the King of the Belgians, but its guardians could not be expected to devote their entire attention to the affairs of a forbidding, even objectionable, and inaccessible fragment of Africa. Leopold, on the contrary, pursued his Nilotic ambitions distracted only by financial stringency, unsatisfactory ministers, and vacations at Villefranche. His representatives in the Sudan, though more tenacious, could not elicit a response comparable to that incurred by Marchand's presence at Fashoda: the Foreign Office was capable of distinguishing between a threat and an irritant. Although the British handling of the situation was far from constituting a diplomatic masterpiece, the problem would remain of secondary importance as long as other powers were not involved. Since Leopold either could not, or would not, seek outside support, the Liberal government was able to establish its authority over the Sudan in conclusive fashion. Leopold's resources were exhausted and his fascination with the Nile was not shared by his subjects.

The excellence of this account springs not only from the author's mastery of the twists and turns of contending policies but from his understanding of the basic incongruity, perhaps absurdity, involved in their implementation. The laborious struggles of rival officers making their way to encounters at which, with due formality, protests were exchanged and problems remitted to ungrateful ministers in Europe, are vividly described. If, on occasion, generalizations are offered on British politicians and policies which would not have escaped qualification when the subject under discussion was the Bahr al-Ghazel, there is no doubt that this account provides a valuable continuation of the recent studies by Robinson and Gallagher, and G. N. Sanderson. Even the bibliographical note is most readable.

McGill University
Montreal, Canada


The post-World War II rise of African nationalism and independence has belatedly reverberated on American campuses. Although many must still be jogged, colleges and universities have begun to devote attention to Africa, an area which the historian considered only an appendage to European imperialism. The introduction of African history poses the customary problem of what materials to use. For a survey course this reviewer, on the basis of several years of teaching one, believes that a textbook is essential. Oliver and Fage's *A Short History of Africa* is the most widely used text, but the soon to be published text
version of Basil Davidson's *Africa: History of a Continent* should become the leader.

Since it is obviously incumbent upon every teacher to remind his students that the textbook is only a skeleton, there looms the question of filling the frame. An immediate answer is something posing clashing theories regarding penetrating issues. This, a leading Africanist, Dr. Collins of the University of California at Santa Barbara, singularly accomplishes. He presents topics which should fulfill his wish of invoking discussion and inquiry. Moreover, he provides a cogent introduction to each "Problem".

Problem I considers the Egypt-Black Africa relationship. C. A. Diop's view that Egyptians were Blacks is opposed by R. Mauny. R. W. Westcott attacks the views of J. O. Lucas and E. L. R. Meyerowitz that certain West African peoples are Egyptian descendants. G. P. Murdock theorizes about agriculture being independently developed by West Africans and M. Posnansky about independent development of Interlacustrine institutions.

Problem II grapples with Bantu origins and migrations. H. H. Johnston argues for the East African cradleland; J. H. Greenberg favors the Nigerian-Cameroon border while M. Guthrie pinpoints Central Africa. G. P. Murdock attributes the Bantu explosion to the introduction of Malaysian crops; C. Wrigley suggests the knowledge of iron-working; M. Posnansky postulates both Malaysian food crops and iron technology.

Problem III, Nilotic Origins and Migrations, includes G. W. B. Huntingford's distinguishing between Nilotes and Nilo-Hamites whereas J. H. Greenberg holds to a common origin and G. P. Murdock differentiates between Nilotes and Cushitized Nilotes. J. P. Crazzolara and A. C. A. Wright disagree on the relationship between Lwoo-speaking Nilotic and Cushitic aristocracy, the Chwezi. B. A. Ogot denies A. C. A. Wright's stress on a superior race, the Cushites.

In Problem IV anthropologists seek to explain stateless societies. P. Bohannan approaches them through political organization, J. J. Middleton and D. Tait through social organization and L. Mair through the locus of political authority, no matter how minimal. P. P. Howell regards Nuer society as an example of synthesizing European administrative organization with a stateless people.

In Problem V there are descriptions of political institutions of representative state systems in East, West and Central Africa – Kilwa by G. S. P. Freeman-Grenville, Buganda by A. Richards, West Sudan states by J. S. Trimingham, Mossi Kingdom by E. P. Skinner, Dahomey by M. J. Herskovits, Zimbabwe by G. Caton-Thompson, Mwanamutapa by D. P. Abraham, and Lunda by J. Vansina.

Problem VI analyzes trade in precolonial Africa. R. Mauny examines the West African gold trade; A. A. Boahen and E. W. Bovill the trans-Saharan trade; I. Wilks the West African coast commerce; J. Vansina long-distance trade routes in Central Africa; G. S. P. Freeman-Grenville the medieval trade on Tanganyika's coast; and J. Strandes the Portuguese period in East Africa.

Finally there is treatment of the slave trade. R. Davidson describes the role of African middlemen, R. Kuczynski the numbers of slaves, P. Curtin and J. Vansina the sources of the trade, and J. D. Fage the impact on West Africa.