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L'Afrique et les défis du XXIème siècle
Africa and the Challenges of the Twenty First Century
A África e os desafios do Século XXI
إفريقيا وتحديات القرن الواحد والعشرين

The Myth of Independence and the Cleavage of Africa

Jahlani Niaah
University of the West Indies

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Abstract

In 1961 the colonial Jamaican administration took a decision to deploy a fact finding Mission to five African states to explore the prospects of repatriating Jamaicans to Africa. The Mission was unprecedented as an official exploration of returning of the historical African diaspora to the continent and created major social debates not only in Jamaica but also in the United State of America, the United Kingdom and within the five African states visited. Between 1960 and 1962 Jamaica produced four reports addressing and variously engaging the matter of Back-to-Africa, however all of these were shelved as the new wave of national independence overtook the vision and conversations aimed at repatriation. Using Marcus Garvey as well as Rastafari philosophical outlook as a point of departure this paper explores the idea of the independence movements as a major handicap especially within the Caribbean state of Jamaica towards the emergence of a genuine Pan African identity as well as developmental theory for Africa.