

more general context of the growing sense of identity of Arctic peoples that has been manifest for a number of years. This sense of identity has been shown, for instance, by closer East-West contacts between the different groups in the area. Furthermore, a permanent association uniting all these populations – the “Inuit Circumpolar Association” – has been set up with a permanent secretariat. The Greenlanders themselves, in particular, want closer relations with the Canadian Eskimos.

Denmark and Canada are in favour of these contacts and have even contributed to their financing. However, the situation obviously forces them increasingly to align their policies on the problems of social, economic and political development of the Arctic peoples. Models that will be used in

one country are likely to influence the other, especially as regards its political organization. Denmark hopes, moreover, to benefit from Canada's experience, which is more advanced than its own in this field – for instance, in all questions relating to the housing and social-security problems of the Eskimos.

In addition to the problem of managing the Arctic's natural resources, the human – and therefore political – problem that faces Canada and Denmark simultaneously, in the sense of the identity of the local populations, will lead the two countries into even closer co-operation, which will give other aspects of their bilateral relations – particularly their respective European policies – an entirely new dimension.

Inequalities and conflicts in contemporary Africa

By Timothy M. Shaw

Africa has always been characterized by great diversity; it is now also characterized by growing inequality. It has always included a rich variety of religions; it now includes a growing group of ideologies. And it has always experienced conflict as well as co-operation in its international relations; as the prospects of unity continue to recede, the level of interstate violence has increased. The elusiveness of equality, cohesion and peace on the continent has produced new paradoxes in African affairs; these have now reached contradictory proportions.

The disarray and misgiving apparent as Africa approaches the end of its second decade of recaptured “independence” do not inspire optimism about the future of the

continent as a whole. The fictions of equality and unity seem increasingly hollow as Africa moves towards its third decade of dependence and uneven growth. The current realities of pan-Africanism stand in sharp contrast to the rhetoric of independence and development characteristic of earlier, more hopeful years. Initially, tensions on the continent were related to frequent *coups d'état* and border tensions, which were essentially struggles for power and prestige. Current and future conflicts, however, are likely to be more structural and persistent, rooted in emerging contradictions. To this extent they will be more difficult either to resolve or to eliminate.

Inequality and conflict tend to be related in Africa as elsewhere. Because of uneven development, African states are becoming more unequal both among and within themselves; the gap between rich and poor is growing both internationally and domestically. And because of the new characteristics of conflict on the continent, the opposition between “radical” and “conservative” states is leading to common coalitions, whether the issue is Angola or Shaba, the Horn of Africa or the Western Sahara. Moreover, inequality and conflict cannot be separated in Africa from the structure and nature of broader world poli-

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