



Journal of Social Sciences of Mus Alparslan University

anemon

Derginin ana sayfası: <http://dergipark.gov.tr/anemon>



Araştırma Makalesi • Research Article

Historical Narratives in African Media: The Case of The Continent

Afrika Medyasında Tarih Anlatısı: The Continent Örneği

Gökhan Kavak¹

Abstract: The Continent is a weekly digital platform that has been published since April 18, 2020. As of June 23, 2023, the 130th issue of the magazine has been released. It is observed that The Continent has an editorial stance rooted in Pan-Africanist ideology, and the articles are presented to the readers within this framework. The Continent focuses on African political, social, economic, and cultural issues, as well as the continent's relationships with other areas. The papers produced not only investigate contemporary events, but also their ties to the past. In this article, the historical writings in The Continent are examined, and the treatment of past events is investigated. Consequently, the aim is to explore how a Pan-Africanist publication in Africa approaches and presents various events and figures in its historical analysis.

Keywords: The Continent, Africa, history, colonialism, Pan-Africanism

Öz: The Continent, 18 Nisan 2020 tarihinden itibaren yayınlanan haftalık bir dijital platformdur. 23 Haziran 2023 itibarıyla derginin 130. sayısı yayınlanmıştır. 30-40 sayfa aralarında yayınlanan The Continent, editöryal olarak Pan-Afrikanist bir düşünceye sahip olduğu görülmekte ve yazılar bu çerçevede okuyucuya sunulmaktadır. The Continent Afrika ve kıta dışında Afrika ile ilgili siyasi, sosyal, ekonomik ve kültürel konuları merkezine almaktadır. Platformda çıkan yazılarda bugünkü hadiseler incelenmekle birlikte bu konuların geçmişle olan bağlantısı da incelenmektedir. Bu makalede, The Continent'deki tarih ile ilgili yazılar incelenmiş ve geçmişteki olayların nasıl ele alındığı araştırılmıştır. Bu vesileyle Afrika'da bir Pan-Afrikanist yayın kuruluşunun tarih okumasında hangi olayları ya da kişileri nasıl ele aldığı araştırılması amaçlanmıştır.

Anahtar Kelimeler: The Continent, Afrika, tarih, sömürgecilik, Pan-Afrikanizm

¹ Dr., Anadolu Ajansı, kvkgokhan@gmail.com, ORCID: 0000-0001-9480-9238.

Cite as/ Atıf: Kavak G. (2023). Historical Narratives in African Media: The Case of The Continent, *Anemon Muş Alparslan Üniversitesi Sosyal Bilimler Dergisi*, 11(Afrika), 18-30, <http://dx.doi.org/10.18506/anemon.1330672>

Introduction

Africa, with its 54 independent countries and a population exceeding 1.3 billion, has been extensively studied by researchers in terms of its historical, cultural, and natural wealth from various perspectives. However, Africa's colonial past, particularly, continues to have an enduring impact even today, with both its consequences and ramifications still evident. One of these developments that emerged in the 19th century is Pan-Africanism. Shaped by the complete abolition of slavery and the quest for individual freedoms and independence of African nations, Pan-Africanism is sometimes used interchangeably with "African nationalism" or "Black nationalism." (Orakçı, 2021: p.2). The ideology of Pan-Africanism, which was developed outside Africa and is rooted in anti-racism discourse, asserts that people of African origin share many commonalities and advocates for the independence of African peoples (Küçükaltan: 2023). The Continent also identifies itself as a Pan-Africanist media organization. Upon examining the platform's publications, it is observed that they highlight the beauty and positive aspects of Africa, criticize past colonial processes, and aim to raise awareness about the significance of Africa among readers.

The historical materials published in The Continent are categorized as News, Article, Sport, Review, Photo, or Report. A considerable amount of historical works has been discovered to focus on individual profiles. The profiles include Ugandan Idi Amin, Zulu King Goodwill Zwelithini, Zambian Kenneth David Kaunda, Burkinabe Thomas Sankara, Angolan José Eduardo dos Santos, Kenyan Raila Odinga, Mali's historical figure Mansa Musa, and Guinean Moussa Dadis Camara. Additionally, information about the past actions of living individuals such as Willem Elhers, who is accused of involvement in the apartheid regime and the Rwandan genocide, or Rwandan President Paul Kagame, is also provided to the readers. The historical figures in the magazine are portrayed through both critical and positive perspectives. Furthermore, individual profiles are also covered in relation to events such as court cases or death anniversaries. Idi Amin, Thomas Sankara, and Mansa Musa can be cited as examples in this regard.

The Continent has prepared special reports on various topics related to African countries, some of which are written in connection with their historical backgrounds. These papers include themes such as African flags, native languages spoken on the continent, and weaponry. Along with this, The Continent includes essential works on African history. One such example is the book "Born in Blackness" by American journalist and scholar Howard Waring French. The Continent conducts historical readings through photographs as well. For instance, criticism of the present-day can be seen in an image from the 1960s depicting Nigeria's independence celebrations.



Happy Birthday, Nigeria!

The Continent, Issue: 23, s.2, October 3 2020

The Continent aims to provide readers with information by narrating the present and past of historical sites. In these writings, the current features of tourist attractions in different parts of Africa are introduced, while also presenting their historical backgrounds to the readers. Examples of this include Benguela in Angola, which was a hub for the slave trade, as well as Benin in Nigeria and the Seychelles.

The Continent has published articles about colonial activity in Africa in a variety of subjects. The United States, United Kingdom, Belgium and Germany have been highlighted as colonial powers on the continent and their actions during the colonial era have been examined. These articles are published in response to current events and give readers with historical context. Examples include Queen Elizabeth's death, subterranean resources in the Democratic Republic of the Congo and attacks against Black people in the United States.

Purpose and Methodology of the Research

Africa is a continent with a storied history. Due to changing global dynamics and the delayed completion of independence by African countries, research on the history of the continent has been relatively insufficient compared to other continents. However, the establishment of universities, the emergence of media organizations and the initiatives taken by state-supported or non-state actors in various African countries have led to an increase in studies focused on African history. Specifically, the study examines the historical content and the editorial policies employed in presenting this content in The Continent as an example of African media. History is significant for all societies and therefore, this research focuses on The Continent, which embrace a Pan-Africanist ideology advocating for Africa's independence and unity.

This study focused on analyzing The Continent newspaper, which was launched in South Africa in 2020 and is published weekly. The 130 issues of the newspaper were individually examined, and the content related to history was collected and analyzed. The research findings revealed that there were historical content in 51 separate issues of the newspaper. These contents were analyzed under sections such as culture and arts, personality profiles, news, analysis, or books. They were categorized and evaluated under headings such as “Historical Profiles”, “Special Reports”, “Culture, Arts, and Sports”, and “Colonial History”.

The Continent is a weekly online news platform. It was first published on April 18, 2020, and plans are underway to publish it in Swahili and Hausa languages as well as in French (Global Affairs: 2023). The platform delivers its news bulletins, which are prepared as PDFs, to subscribers for free via WhatsApp. During a period when life was restricted due to the COVID-19 pandemic, The Continent was launched to provide accessible publications. To obtain the publications, readers need to request them via WhatsApp through messaging. Subsequently, the weekly publications are delivered to the readers. In addition to The Continent, other news platforms such as 263Chat, based in Zimbabwe and published by Nigel Magamu and The Sunday Times, based in South Africa also utilize WhatsApp for news dissemination (263chat: 2023). The magazine is published by Siphos Kings and Simon Allison (Neiman Lab: 2021).

Media outlet The Continent defines itself as pan-Africanist (Reuters Institute: 2021). Based in the Republic of South Africa, the platform operates under the umbrella of The Mail & Guardian, which started its weekly publication in 1985 and became South Africa's first online news site in 1994 (Adamela: 2023). The editor of The Continent, Simon Allison, previously served as the Africa editor at The Mail & Guardian (IPI: 2023).

The Continent introduces a new approach to journalism, aiming to deliver fast, “free,” and “accessible” news to readers via WhatsApp. In fact, the editor of the magazine, Simon Allison, has emphasized that while governments can restrict print or online news platforms, they cannot limit WhatsApp messages because they are personal. Additionally, this approach aims to create a shield against censorship. In this regard, the platform defines itself not as a “website” but as an “online newspaper” (Taipei Times: 2022).

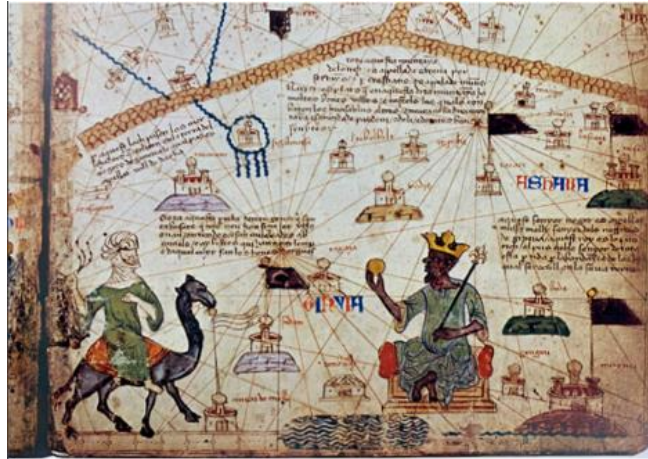
The Continent focuses on shorter news articles in its publication policy, as it is primarily read on mobile phones. Initially, The Continent was supported by donors but later started generating revenue through advertising (IPI: 2023). The platform provides content to readers through sections such as news, analysis, exclusive reports, personal narratives, film, music, location and book introductions, as well as sports and arts sections. Additionally, The Continent aims to increase readers' knowledge about the continent by posing questions, conducting tests, sharing data through numbers, and engaging in interactive content (IPI: 2023).

Historical Narratives in The Continent

The Continent, a platform with a Pan-Africanist ideology, frequently features publications related to history. As part of the platform, narratives about the past are presented through individual profiles and through the lens of films and musical groups. Historical narratives are often presented as retrospective readings of current news events, such as exhibitions, commemorations, or anniversaries. In addition, specialized reports are compiled on particular subjects to furnish readers with information regarding historical sites in Africa.

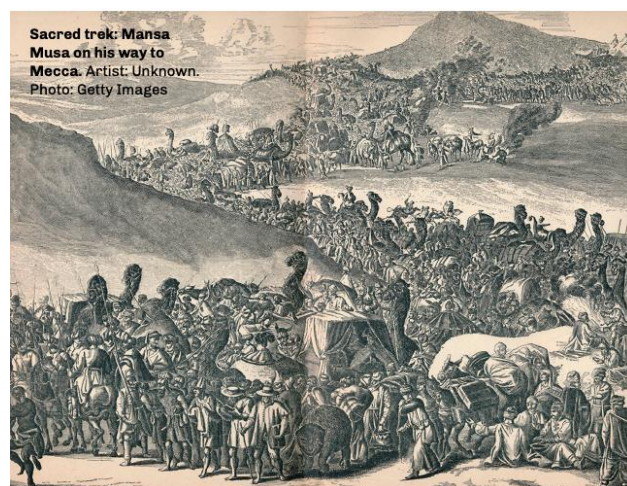
Historical Profiles

It has been observed that a significant proportion of the historical texts published in The Continent are focused on the profiles of individuals. These profiles include Ugandan Idi Amin, Zulu King Goodwill Zwelithini, Zambian Kenneth David Kaunda, Burkinabe Thomas Sankara, Angolan José Eduardo dos Santos, Kenyan Raila Odinga, Mali's historical figure Mansa Musa, and Guinean Moussa Dadis Camara. Furthermore, information about the past actions of living individuals, such as Willem Elhers, who is accused of involvement in the apartheid regime and the Rwandan genocide, or Rwandan President Paul Kagame, is also presented to the readers. The historical figures in the magazine are portrayed through both critical and positive perspectives from the standpoint of African history. In addition, individual profiles are covered in relation to events such as trials or death anniversaries. Examples include Idi Amin, Thomas Sankara and Mansa Musa.



Golden rule: Mansa Musa, King of Mali, holding a sceptre and a piece of gold as represented in the Catalan Atlas, by the Jewish illustrator Cresques Abraham, 1375.

The Continent Issue: 96, s.22-25, August 20 2022



Sacred trek: Mansa Musa on his way to Mecca. Artist: Unknown. Photo: Getty Images

The Continent Issue: 96, s.22-25, August 20 2022

The Continent has published both critical and positive articles on historical figures, and Mansa Musa is one of them. An important historical figure in The Continent is Mansa Musa, who was the ruler of Mali from 1312 to 1337. It is emphasized that Mansa Musa's reign, including his control over

Timbuktu, made the region an important center for the Islamic world. During this period, prestigious Islamic schools were established and Islamic studies were in full bloom. The exhibition held in the UK dedicated to Mansa Musa highlights the significance of the manuscripts from West Africa for world history, but also underscores how this wealth has been largely overlooked by Western historians. Mansa Musa's pilgrimage to Mecca in 1324 and the subsequent spread of his wealth are highlighted as well as his focus on making Mali an educational center upon his return. It is noted that European knowledge of the wealth in Mali led them to turn their attention to Africa and eventually expand to Asia and the Americas, ultimately resulting in the exploitation and plundering of Africa's resources (Feltham, 2022: 22-25).

The article on Idi Amin, who also served as president of Uganda from 1971 to 1979, describes Amin as "Amin the self-styled conqueror of the British Empire and Ugandan dictator". The article points out that it was a mistake for the British to view Amin as a "puppet" by supporting him in overthrowing socialist Milton Obote. Amin is described as "eccentric," "unpredictable," and "uncompromising." The article highlights that Amin was seen as a negative character by Westerners, but was regarded positively by the Arab world for allowing a hijacked plane by Palestinians to land at Entebbe Airport, and even liked by Hollywood (Mwine-Mugaju, 2020: 26).

The Continent discuss the trial surrounding the assassination of former Burkina Faso President Thomas Sankara, Sankara is portrayed as an anti-imperialist leader who fought against corruption, prioritized healthcare and education, and championed environmental protection. However, it is noted that despite these positive attributes, Sankara faced opposition due to economic problems and his social policies. It was alleged that the US backed Compaore after Sankara's close friend, former president Blaise Compaore, seized power. At the same time, it is emphasized that Compaore not only killed Sankara but also killed the revolution. (Rupiah, 2022: 15-16).

An article published after his death described Zambia's first president and founding leader, Kenneth David Kaunda, as a "philosopher leader". It was mentioned that Kaunda supported freedom movements in South Africa and opposed the rule of the white minority. Attention was drawn to the fact that instead of seeking treatment in hospitals in the United States or India, Kaunda passed away in a hospital in Zambia. Furthermore, the article emphasized that with Kaunda's death, Zimbabweans not only lost Kaunda but also their hope, unity, and national pride (Cheeseman and Sishuwa, 2021: 9-11).

The Continent has covered the transatlantic slave trade in various issues, including the well-known British family, The Drax. James Drax began the family's involvement in the slave trade in the 17th century. The Continent writes about the Drax family's transportation of African slaves to the plantations in Barbados centuries ago and their harsh working conditions. It is mentioned that due to the abolition of slavery, the family suffered financial losses, and the British government paid them compensation. The slaves brought by the Drax family died shortly after arriving in Barbados due to the harsh working conditions, with an average life expectancy of five years upon arrival. It is estimated that some 30,000 slaves died on the family's agricultural estates, which were noted for human rights abuses. Richard Drax, a member of the family, is currently a Conservative Party member in the British Parliament and a landowner. When asked about the past events, he responded, "I can't be held responsible for something 300 or 400 years ago" (French, 2023: 12-17).

The Continent has published an article about Willem Elhers, who was involved in the apartheid regime and the Rwandan genocide. Elhers served as the private secretary of President Pieter Willem Botha and a former navy officer in South Africa from 1984 to 1989. The article states that Elhers worked for the apartheid regime and then supported the 1994 Rwandan genocide after the downfall of apartheid. Some of the weapons used in the Rwandan genocide were obtained from South Africa, considered the world's 10th largest arms manufacturer from 1990 to 1993. When the United Nations Security Council imposed an arms embargo on Rwanda in May 1994, Elhers was accused of continuing to illegally supply weapons to Rwanda. In June 1994, Elhers traveled to Seychelles with Colonel Théoneste Bagosora, one of the key actors in the Rwandan genocide, and collected weapons that were later seized by Seychelles and transported them to Goma, one of the centers of the genocide. According to United Nations investigations, Elhers facilitated a \$1.3 million arms deal. Bagosora was sentenced to life imprisonment by the International Criminal Court for crimes against humanity and remained in prison until his death

in 2021. The article also includes Ehlers' statements in response to the allegations, stating, “He said that he never knew that the guns on the Malo would end up in Rwanda; that he believed they were going to stay in Zaire. Besides, he said, in his estimation the weapons would have only reached Rwanda 'when the fight was already over’” (Tolsi, 2023: 16).

Special Reports

The Continent has produced special reports on various topics related to African countries, and some of these files have been written in relation to their historical background. Among these are reports on African country flags, local languages spoken on the continent and firearms.

The Continent has featured an article on the flags that use the colors yellow, green, and red, which are used by 23 countries on the continent. The article emphasizes that the use of these colors by multiple countries is not a “coincidence” or the work of a “lazy” designer. It is mentioned that these colors were initially used by Ghana but were inspired by the colors of the Ethiopian Empire and are also associated with Rastafarianism. The Ghanaian leader Kwame Nkrumah advised the designer Theodosiah Okoh to create the Ghanaian flag. It is emphasized that the newly designed flag became a symbol of freedom not only for Ghana but also for the newly independent states. Subsequently, countries such as Guinea, Cameroon, Senegal, Togo, and Mali, which gained independence one after another, drew inspiration from Ghana and used the same colors in their flags. As these colors were adopted by independent states, they became the colors of Pan-Africanism as well. According to Okoh's design that inspired the flags, red, green, and gold are not just a beautiful color scheme. In Okoh's design, red symbolizes the bloodshed for independence, yellow represents Ghana's gold and mineral reserves, and green represents the rich agricultural lands (Lawal, 2020: 17-21).

The Continent has featured articles on various local languages in Africa in different issues, highlighting their historical significance and their importance today. One of these articles is about the Njuu language. It is one of the local languages in South Africa. It is mentioned that the Njuu language began to disappear when the Dutch invaded the Cape of Good Hope region in 1662 and banned the local languages. In an article published about Afrikaans, an important language in South African history, information is provided about the other languages that have influenced it. The influence of Dutch and English languages is emphasized. It is highlighted that as a result of these events, local languages marginalized, and Afrikaans became mandatory in education, work, trade, and official languages. With the end of the apartheid regime in 1994, 11 local languages became official languages in South Africa. Katrina Esau, a South African known for her fight for the preservation of local languages, is highlighted as an example (Allison and Seiboko, 2020: 11-15).

The Continent has prepared articles on Africa's stolen heritage, with a notable example being the Nok Valley in the capital Abuja, Nigeria. The article shares information that the Nok Valley region was first excavated and researched by British archaeologists and German professors in 1928, leading to the discovery of the terracotta monkey figurine. It is believed that this region is one of the oldest settlements in West Africa. It is dated to the 1500s BC. It is highlighted that many excavations have been conducted in the Nok Valley since then, but the discovered artifacts have been taken without proper documentation or without involving Nigerian experts. The emphasis here is on the ongoing theft of Nigeria's historical artifacts even today. It is noted that British archaeologist Bernhard Fagg excavated in the Nok Valley from 1940 to 1960 and is mistakenly regarded as a leading figure in Nok culture due to his discovery of many terracotta artifacts. However, The Continent presents the memories of the region's chief, Beno Adamu, suggesting that the local people were actually using the terracotta artifacts, while Fagg was accused of coming to the region to collect the artifacts from the hands of the people and take them out of the country (Mükke& Offiong, 2020: 14-21).

Firearms have been used both by Europeans in the colonization of Africa and by African communities in their internal conflicts. An article in The Continent provides information about the history of firearms in Africa, stating that firearms were first used in Egypt during the Mamluk period. The article also mentions significant events such as the Portuguese occupation of Morocco in 1419, the fall of the Songhai Empire to Morocco in 1591, and the rise of the Benin Kingdom in the 16th century, all of which involved the use of firearms. With the increasing dominance of firearms in West Africa, the trade of firearms also became more widespread. The Continent notes that the prevalence of war and

violence, the expansion of the slave trade, and the weakening of regional powers against European forces were consequences of firearms becoming prevalent in Africa (Edward-Ekpu, 2022: 24-25).

In some African countries the elite, the wealthy, emirs, presidents or local kings have long used Rolls-Royce cars as a status symbol. The Continent addresses this topic in Uganda, sharing information about the four Rolls-Royces and one Bentley owned by Uganda's first president, Edward Mutesa II. The article highlights the popularity of nostalgic cars among kings and leaders, emphasizing that this trend continues today (Arinaitwe, 2020: 10).

The Continent has brought attention to the presidential election held in Ivory Coast on October 31, 2020, and introduced the women who fought for the country's independence to readers. The article highlights the leadership role of women in the struggle for independence and their support for political movements, using Marie Kore as an example. However, it emphasizes that women are not adequately represented in Ivory Coast after independence. According to The Continent, Jeanne Gervais became the first woman to hold a ministerial position in Ivory Coast in 1976 and served as the Minister of Women's Affairs (Bassompierre, 2020: 22).

In an article published in The Continent following the killing of George Floyd by the police in the United States, the country's bloody history in this regard is presented to readers. Amadou Diallo, born in Liberia in 1975 and killed in the United States in 1999, is mentioned. The Continent highlights that about 21 years before Floyd's death, there was police violence against Black people in the United States, and Diallo was known as a beloved, hardworking, and devout Muslim according to his neighbors. It is mentioned that Diallo has not been forgotten in the United States, with murals depicting him on walls. The article also notes that Diallo's death contributed to police reform in the United States, but has not put an end to such killings (The Continent, 2020: 21).

As well as addressing anti-immigrant sentiment in the United States and European countries, The Continent also draws attention to events in African countries. For example, the publication highlighted the measures taken by the Tunisian government against migrants from sub-Saharan Africa. Discussing the events in Tunisia, The Continent also published a postage stamp issued in Tunisia on Africa Day in 1961. The stamp depicts the shape of the African continent formed by the joining of white and black hands.



Lost in the mail: A 1961 stamp celebrating Africa Day

The Continent, Issue:118, s.14, March 4 2023

Culture, Arts and Sports News

The Continent has provided its readers with narratives of history in the form of films, music and book reviews. Examples include the documentary “Sun of the Soil: Story of Mansa Musa” about Mali's King Mansa Musa (Penney, 2021: 11-12), the film “Tug of War” depicting the struggle for

independence during British occupation in Zanzibar (Onyango, 2021: 21), and “Silverton Siege”, a film based on true events in South Africa, portraying three freedom fighters taking hostages in a bank during the apartheid era (Okiche, 2022: 25-27).

In terms of books, there is “Shadow King” by Ethiopian author Maaza Mengiste, which narrates the Second Italo-Ethiopian War and the Ethiopian resistance against Italian occupation (Mallinson, 2020: 25-26), and “Black Girl From Pyongyang”, a biographical book written by Mónica Macías, the daughter of Francisco Macías Nguema, the first president of Equatorial Guinea, who was sent to North Korea at a young age (Nyathi, 2023: 28).

The Continent has also featured important books from an African historical perspective. One of them is “Born in Blackness” by American journalist and scholar Howard Waring French. The book is promoted with the statement, “This book will change the way you think about world history”. The commentary on the book emphasizes the neglect of African history, highlighting the forgotten figures such as Mansa Musa, the Elmina Castle in Ghana at the heart of the slave trade, and the Haitian Revolution. It is stated that the book provides insights into African history and is a must-read (Allison, 2022: 20-21).

The Continent aims to provide readers with information about the present and past of historic sites. In these reports or news, the current features of tourist attractions in different parts of Africa are presented along with their historical background. Examples include Benguela in Angola, known as a central hub of the slave trade since 1617 and described as one of the darkest places of the slave trade. While numerous slaves were transported from this region to South America, it is now recognized for its seafood, coastline, and museums, attracting tourists (Silva, 2021: 23-25).

In an article about the Benin region of Nigeria, The Continent highlights the historical significance of Benin, particularly emphasizing that the Benin Museum is comparatively empty compared to museums in other countries. It is stated that The King's Square and the Palace of the Benin Monarchy are among the oldest and most respected cultural heritages in the world (Etemiku, 2022: 20-21). Another region of focus is the Seychelles, known for its natural beauty. Due to its strategic location, the Seychelles has historically been a center of attraction for many traders from Asia to Europe, and it is noted that it has been influenced by various cultures from within and outside of Africa (Donkor, 2023: 22-25).

The Continent aims to inform and educate about historical sites in Africa. One example is the royal tombs of the Buganda Kingdom, located within the borders of Uganda and possessing autonomous structures. It is shared that these royal tombs, which were damaged in a fire in 2010, have been restored. The Buganda Kingdom has a historical background dating back to the 13th century, and it is estimated to have around 30 royal tombs (The Continent, 2021: 21-23).

Reading the past through photographs, The Continent critiques the present through a 1960s photograph of Nigeria's Independence Day celebrations. Underneath the shared photograph, it is stated that 60 years after independence, Nigeria is in a bad state, with socio-economic crises and security issues prevailing. The photograph is used as a historical reference to criticize the current situation (The Continent, 2020: 2).

Another series of photographs features the renowned South African photographer Peter Magubane, known for his fight against apartheid. The Continent showcases photographs taken by Magubane during the protests against apartheid in 1976. In addition to being a talented photographer and a chronicler of history through his works, Magubane also actively fought against the apartheid regime. In an interview with The Continent, Magubane expressed his hope that his photographs would inspire South Africans, Africans, and future generations worldwide to continue fighting for justice and equality (Nkosi, 2023: 13-17).



The Continent, Issue:129, s.15, June 17 2023

The Continent chronicles the first overseas tour of the Nigerian national team in 1949, also known as the Super Eagles, and provides information on the journey and its results. It is mentioned that the team traveled to England for 17 days by ship and conducted daily training sessions on the ship's deck during their journey. For the first time ever, Nigerian players were transferred to European clubs after the matches in England. After Nigeria gained independence in 1960, the team changed its name to "Green Eagles" and later adopted the name "Super Eagles," which is still used today (Olasoji, 2020: 19).

Colonial History

In a number of articles, The Continent has looked at colonial activities in Africa. The United States, United Kingdom, Belgium, and Germany are highlighted as colonial powers on the continent, and their actions during the colonial period have been examined. These articles have been written in relation to current developments, providing historical background information to the readers. The death of Queen Elizabeth, underground wealth in the DRC and attacks on black people in the United States are among the topics covered.

The continent points out that Africa's sub-surface wealth has in the past been exploited by foreign countries for their own interests. The use of uranium deposits in the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) by the United States for nuclear research in the 1940s is cited as an example. With the support of the United Kingdom and Canada, the United States sourced uranium from the DRC for the Manhattan Project, which aimed to produce the first nuclear weapons during World War II. The Continent points out that uranium in the Katanga region of the DRC was already exploited by Belgium in the 1920s before the United States, and highlights how the United States and Belgium tried to prevent Lumumba supporters from gaining control over the mining areas, leading to the overthrow of Lumumba's government (Peet, 2023: 21-22).

The Continent has also covered British colonialism in various articles. Following the death of Queen Elizabeth, The Continent highlights British colonial actions, sharing that between 1880 and 1920, 50 million people died due to the steps taken by British colonial administration in India and the exploitation of its wealth (The Continent, 2022: 3). It is emphasized that Britain, one of the wealthiest countries in the world, has yet to come to terms with its colonial past, and a quote from the Economic Freedom Fighters, an opposition party in South Africa, is included: "The British royal family stands on the shoulders of millions of slaves" (The Continent, 2022: 7).

The Benin bronzes looted by Britain from the Benin Kingdom in southern Nigeria in 1897 are displayed in various museums, universities, and churches in the United States and European countries. Nigeria, on the 125th anniversary of the invasion of the Benin Kingdom by Britain on February 18, 1897, has demanded the repatriation of the looted Benin bronzes to their "homeland". Germany, France and Britain announced in 2022, 125 years after the bronzes were looted from Nigeria, that they would return the bronze sculptures to Nigeria. The Continent brings attention to the fact that Benin was looted

by the British and at least 2,500 artifacts were stolen. The article on the Benin bronzes concludes with the following statement: “Few have been returned. This month marks 125 years since the items were last where they belong” (The Continent, 2022: 8).

The Continent, which brought up Germany's acknowledgment of the crimes committed against the Herero and Nama peoples in Namibia between 1904 and 1908, under the command of General Lothar von Trotha, as “genocide” has also highlighted the preservation of wealth by the white minority landowners even after Namibia gained independence in 1990. The publication also highlights that even after gaining independence in 1990, Namibia has failed to address the wealth of the white minority landowners. The focus here is on how the compensation paid by Germany will be utilized. Among the points of discussion are that Namibians in the diaspora will not benefit from it, the descendants of the victims are not represented in the Namibian parliament, which has accepted Germany's apology and opposition parties are not in favor of accepting the apology (Melber, 2021: 21-22).

The Continent has covered King Philippe of Belgium's visit to the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) in June 2022, shedding light on Belgium's colonial history in the country. During his first-ever visit to Belgium, Philippe used the term “deep regret” instead of “apology” for Belgium's crimes against humanity in the DRC. Previously, on June 30, 2020, King Philippe had sent a letter to DRC President Tshisekedi expressing deep sorrow for the “acts of violence” and the suffering caused during the colonial period.

The DRC was allocated as “private property” to King Leopold II of Belgium in violation of international law in 1885. The Continent highlights the past of Belgium in the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), emphasizing the role of King Leopold II, also known as the “Butcher of Congo”, in condemning people to hunger and destitution, resulting in the death of 10 million individuals. Furthermore, it is mentioned that through an agreement among European countries, the DRC was given to Belgium and Leopold named this territory the “Congo Free State”, although its inhabitants were not truly free. The documentary emphasizes that 10 million Congolese were forced to work as rubber laborers under harsh conditions, leading to illness and loss of life. Additionally, it underlines Belgium's significant role in the death of the DRC's first Prime Minister, Patrice Lumumba, when the country gained independence in 1960. It is emphasized that 10 million Congolese were forced to work as rubber laborers under harsh conditions, leading to illness and death. Additionally, it is underlined that Belgium played a significant role in the death of Patrice Lumumba, the DRC's first prime minister, when the country gained independence in 1960 (The Continent, 2022: 9).

Conclusion

The Continent is a weekly digital platform that has been published in the Republic of South Africa since April 18, 2020. As of June 23, 2023, the 130th issue of the magazine has been published and the texts related to history in these issues have been examined. The Continent adheres to a Pan-Africanist ideology, and the articles have been prepared accordingly. The Continent is a weekly online news outlet that delivers news bulletins in PDF format to its subscribers for free via WhatsApp. It aims to provide readers with fast, “free” and “accessible” news through WhatsApp, introducing a new approach to journalism. The Continent provides content to readers through news, analysis, exclusive reports, personal narratives, film, music and book introductions, sports and arts sections as well as creating awareness about Africa by asking questions, conducting tests, and sharing aggregated data.

While examining political, social, economic and cultural issues related to Africa and its connections to the outside world, The Continent presents current events in relation to the past. It has been found that there are 51 separate issues on historical topics in The Continent. The publications on the platform are categorized under different headings such as News, Articles, Sports, Reviews, Photos, and Reports. Upon examination, it is observed that The Continent highlights the beautiful and positive aspects of Africa, criticizes the colonial processes and raises awareness about the importance of Africa. With its Pan-African ideology, The Continent frequently features publications related to history. The narratives about the past in the platform are presented either through individual profiles or through films or music groups. Historical narratives are often presented to readers as a retrospective analysis of current news such as exhibitions, deaths or anniversaries. In addition to presenting historical information about heritage, The Continent also strives to showcase the cultural, social, and etymological wealth of Africa

in its publications. It aims to offer readers comprehensive knowledge in these areas, going beyond a mere historical narrative.

It has been observed that a significant portion of the historical writings focus on individual profiles. When discussing individuals, their connection to current events is explored and criticisms of the past is made. The Continent has prepared special files on various topics such as African flags, local languages spoken on the continent and the history of firearms. Additionally, the platform incorporates alternative perspectives on Africa's history through books like *Born in Blackness* and readings that involve historical photographs. These articles were written about current developments and provided the reader with the historical background. These included the death of Queen Elizabeth, the underground wealth of the KDC and attacks on black people in the USA.

The Continent introduces readers to the present and past of Africa's major historical sites, highlighting that many of today's tourist attractions were once colonial centers. The Continent has featured the colonial activities of the United States, the United Kingdom, Belgium, and Germany in Africa to varying degrees and has adopted a critical perspective.

It is evident that The Continent primarily aims to inform and raise awareness among its readers through historical texts and visuals. It is observed that The Continent does not exhibit any religious bias or inclination. Instead, it adopts a Pan-Africanist perspective, which holds significant importance in African history. With its bulletin publications on WhatsApp, The Continent brings a fresh perspective to African media and continues its publications as an important exemplary organization, providing content related to historical pasts.

References

- Arinaitwe, A. (2020). The return of Buganda's luxurious royal Phantom, *The Continent* ISSUE 24. October 10 2020 Page 10, https://www.thecontinent.org/files/ugd/287178_d55dc1f6f1914d7fab15079fd9df7e46.pdf, Access Date: June 7, 2023.
- Allison S. and Seiboko, R. (2020). Saving southern Africa's oldest languages, *The Continent* ISSUE 14. July 18 2020, s.11-15. https://www.thecontinent.org/files/ugd/287178_b242b1e9ecca4bbb9d4c39ef4fd3a2dc.pdf, Access Date: June 7, 2023.
- Allison, S. (2022). This book will change the way you think about world history, *The Continent* issue 100. september 17 2022, s.20-21, https://www.thecontinent.org/files/ugd/287178_8bc0b30722ae466cadbb78eb50536976.pdf, Access Date: June 8, 2023.
- Bassompierre, L. (2020). When will a woman be president of Côte d'Ivoire?, *The Continent* ISSUE 23. October 3 2020, s.22., https://www.thecontinent.org/files/ugd/287178_99e72a1ba6d748e6a239b08bdf1c32ac.pdf, Access Date: June 8, 2023.
- Cheeseman, N. and Sishuwa, S. (2021). The last of Africa's philosopher kings, *The Continent*, Issue 50, June 19 2021, s.9-11. https://www.thecontinent.org/files/ugd/287178_378746015e44481d9d796fe46f517381.pdf, Access Date: June 8, 2023.
- Donkor, A. (2023). Journey to the Seychelles Islands, *The Continent* issue 113. January 28 2023, s.22-25. https://www.thecontinent.org/files/ugd/287178_cdd131e2483e474697097840d75fe865.pdf, Access Date: June 8, 2023.
- Edward-Ekpu, U. (2022). How Africa got guns. *The Continent* | issue 97. August 27 2022 25, s.24-25 https://www.thecontinent.org/files/ugd/287178_81fc608f78f342a98fe71ea5592a74ba.pdf, Access Date: June 6, 2023.

- French, H. W. (2023). Chasing slavery's ghosts, *The Continent*, Issue 111. January 14 2023, s.12-17
https://www.thecontinent.org/files/ugd/287178_cdb4fd6bad4c480c8e9a0dbaf4a0eeba.pdf,
Access Date: June 8, 2023.
- Feltham, L. (2022). A glimpse into the life of the richest human of all time, *The Continent* | issue 96.
August 20 2022, 22-25,
https://www.thecontinent.org/files/ugd/287178_f75b144f1f834538b1e2ae649b842dda.pdf,
Access Date: June 6, 2023.
- Global Affairs, (2023). *The Continent: Changing the Game in African Media*, May 4, 2023,
<https://globalaffairs.org/commentary-and-analysis/podcasts/africans-africans-rise-innovative-news-media-africa>, Access Date: June 7, 2023.
- International Press Institute. (2023). How Africa's *The Continent* is filling a market gap of 1.2 billion people, Jan 27, 2023, <https://ipi.media/africas-the-continent-fills-market-gap-of-1-2-billion-people/>, Access Date: June 8, 2023.
- Küçükaltan, E. (2023). Birleşik Afrika Mücadelesi, Nobel Akademi.
- Lawal, S. (2020). Red, green and gold, *The Continent* ISSUE 9. June 13 2020, s.17-21.
https://www.thecontinent.org/files/ugd/287178_9bb2fb24f84b465da1a5e8934b142444.pdf,
Access Date: June 6, 2023.
- Mallinson, T. (2020). Maaza Mengiste on writing, war and manipulating history, *The Continent* ISSUE 29. November 14 2020, s. 25-26
https://www.thecontinent.org/files/ugd/287178_3a6c84bc86f848df8c31d9e68e389f64.pdf,
Access Date: June 5, 2023.
- Majiri, B. & Etemiku, O. (2022). Benin City, *The Continent* issue 73. January 29 2022, s.20-21
https://www.thecontinent.org/files/ugd/287178_15db6a660468480d820e505b620ff1a7.pdf,
Access Date: June 7, 2023.
- Melber, H. (2021). How (not) to come to terms with genocide, *The Continent* |issue 51. June 26 2021 s.21-22,
https://www.thecontinent.org/files/ugd/287178_f48424d49e234b6b972fd714175b334b.pdf,
Access Date: June 5, 2023.
- Mükke, L. Offiong, A. V. (2020). The archaeology thieves, *The Continent* ISSUE 26. October 24 2020, s.14-21,
https://www.thecontinent.org/files/ugd/287178_dc4eb732ca6b467182dbc2600b0477e7.pdf,
Access Date: June 5, 2023.
- Mwine-Mugaju, M. (2020). The many faces of Idi Amin, October 24 2020 Issue No. 26
<https://mg.co.za/africa/2021-02-27-the-many-faces-of-idi-amin/>, Access Date: June 12, 2023.
- Naiman Lab, (2021). <https://www.niemanlab.org/2021/08/we-are-just-focused-on-being-where-readers-are-pan-african-weekly-the-continent-publishes-directly-and-only-on-whatsapp-and-signal/>, Access Date: June 7, 2023.
- Nyathi, H. (2023). The dictator's daughter who grew up in North Korea, *The Continent* issue 122. April 29 2023, s.28.,
https://www.thecontinent.org/files/ugd/287178_e0e4bf6797f8463590d4da43a488615b.pdf,
Access Date: June 13, 2023.
- Olasoji, T. (2020). Remembering the original Super Eagles, *The Continent* ISSUE 8. June 6 2020, s.19,
https://www.thecontinent.org/files/ugd/287178_991d3d6755244360998b2b0bbc20bb5c.pdf,
Access Date: June 13, 2023.
- Onyango, S. (2021). A forbidden romance in 1950s Zanzibar, *The Continent* issue 62. October 2 2021, s.21.
https://www.thecontinent.org/files/ugd/287178_73b30412bbfc4a5e938369171e961027.pdf,
Access Date: June 15, 2023.
- Okiche, W. (2022). Silverton Siege – a glossy but glossed-over apartheid flick, *The Continent* issue 83. May 7 2022 s.25-27
https://www.thecontinent.org/files/ugd/287178_e326d8a32d65453b93a501a38b92cb86.pdf,
Access Date: June 15, 2023.

- Oliver, L. (2021). How publishers are engaging new audiences on messaging apps in the Global South, 2nd March 2021, <https://reutersinstitute.politics.ox.ac.uk/news/how-publishers-are-engaging-new-audiences-messaging-apps-global-south>, Access Date: June 7, 2023.
- Orakçı, S. (2021). “Ütopya ve Gerçeklik Arasında Afrika’da Birlik Arayışları: Pan-Afrikanizm”, Araştırma 138 İNSAMER Rapor 138.
- Penney, J. (2021). Rewriting the myth of Mansa Musa, The Continent ISSUE 38. February 20 2021, s. 11-12
https://www.thecontinent.org/files/ugd/287178_fb19dbd2455c485a9876c6e86a7e4fa1.pdf,
Access Date: June 6, 2023.
- Peet, R. (2023). The secret Congolese mine that ended the second world war – and inspired Wakanda, The Continent | issue 120. march 18 2023, s.21-22.
https://www.thecontinent.org/files/ugd/287178_015e5f71ce4342da9339f760fd9e9a67.pdf,
Access Date: June 11, 2023.
- Rupiah, K. (2022). A certain amount of madness, The Continent issue 82. april 9 2022, s.15-16,
https://www.thecontinent.org/files/ugd/287178_99edd25a3eb0474aa23887687c4c543e.pdf,
Access Date: June 11, 2023.
- Silva, C. (2021). Welcome to Benguela, The Continent 23 issue 59. september 11 2021, s.23-25.,
https://www.thecontinent.org/files/ugd/287178_d4037acbefbc43aebb3983b703bf581d.pdf,
Access Date: June 11, 2023.
- Taipei Times, (2022). S Africans put out WhatsApp newspaper, Sat, Jan 15, 2022 page6
<https://www.taipetimes.com/News/world/archives/2022/01/15/2003771433>, Access Date: June 11, 2023.
- The Adamela Trust. (2023). <https://www.adamela.org>, Access Date: June 11, 2023.
- The Continent, (2020). Amadou Diallo’s legacy lives, The Continent ISSUE 12. July 4 2020, s.21,
https://www.thecontinent.org/files/ugd/287178_3895ddf3750142198ea47a3a87965093.pdf,
Access Date: June 12, 2023.
- The Continent, (2020). Happy Birthday, Nigeria!, The Continent ISSUE 23. October 3 2020,
https://www.thecontinent.org/files/ugd/287178_99e72a1ba6d748e6a239b08bdf1c32ac.pdf,
Access Date: June 12, 2023.
- The Continent, (2021). Andrew Arinaitwe in Buganda, The Restoration: Buganda’s royal tombs return, The Continent | issue 66. november 27 2021, s.21-23.
https://www.thecontinent.org/files/ugd/287178_162e6588b00e40538717bf2388a8b7a6.pdf,
Access Date: June 12, 2023.
- The Continent, (2022). British colonialism killed 50-million Indians in 40 years The Continent | issue 109. december 10 2022 s.3
https://www.thecontinent.org/files/ugd/287178_ce06d5d0b69b4c639cda22ae1ba4478e.pdf,
Access Date: June 12, 2023.
- The Continent, (2022). The Benin Bronzes were stolen 125 years ago, The Continent 8 issue 76. february 26 2022, s.8,
https://www.thecontinent.org/files/ugd/287178_672b1c5b9d3d4c75a27f301b60c3cc6c.pdf,
Access Date: June 13, 2023.
- The Continent, (2022). The sun sets on the queen’s long, long reign, The Continent | issue 99. september 10 2022, s.7.
https://www.thecontinent.org/files/ugd/287178_491e0966de334083a183c0a0334a46c2.pdf,
Access Date: June 12, 2023.
- The Continent, (2022). Sorry seems to be the hardest word, The Continent | issue 88. june 11 2022 s.9
https://www.thecontinent.org/files/ugd/287178_223c57b37de04b63a221bfe7aff52821.pdf,
Access Date: June 12, 2023.
- Tolsi, N. (2023). One man, two crimes against humanity, The Continent | issue 124. may 13 2023 s.16.
https://www.thecontinent.org/files/ugd/287178_9c2874de6c184463b8c39f19f0914d53.pdf,
Access Date: June 7, 2023.