

Wabgou, M., Kabunda, M. and Tshibambe, N. (2018). *Modern State, Regional Integration and Development in Africa*. Bogotá: National University of Colombia.

Critically analyze the multidimensional phenomenon of regional integration in Africa, based on the experiences of the authors, in their capacity as academics, researchers and natives of the African continent, and the review and documentary analysis, in order to contribute to resignify the integration processes and strategies in this continent.

It includes local dimensions of regional integration and development in Africa; regional integration experiences in Africa; strategies and proposals for a new neo-pan-African political and economic agenda.

Africa's problems stem from poor governance and the erroneous cultural, political and environmental strategies adopted and based on immediacy and short-term solutions, that is, on poor internal and international development.

Regional integration strategies are permanently associated with the problems of social and economic development in Africa, which is why these strategies often fail to take into account the specific realities of the continent and its peoples. Therefore, the complexity of the problems involved in the processes of political and economic integration associated with development have contributed to keeping African populations in a state of subalternity, poverty and stagnation.

This leads to inquiring into the mechanisms of operation of powers, traditional and modern, in African societies and implies taking into account the social, cultural, economic and political transformations that occurred after colonization and decolonization. With the colonial legacy of power, the management of African politics is hampered by internal quarrels, inherent in the injustices and exclusions that block social and economic progress.

Following Kwame Nkrumah's ideas for African unity, regional integration is based on dividing Africa into five regions, namely: North, West, Center, East and South. Each region is in charge of carrying out the integration, in such a way that, due to the sliding effect, the integration of the entire continent is carried out from the merger of the mentioned regions. As an African development strategy, the Lagos-PAL Action Plan introduced the concept of regional integration on the horizon and on the agenda of development politicians on the continent.

However, the adoption of the PAL provoked discouragement reactions from external partners and the moment African States agreed to their independence they launched into the creation of regional economic organizations based on their previous colonial relations. Faced with the failure of exclusively national strategies for solving the problems of underdevelopment or the creation of nation states post-colonial African governments attempted to solve these problems within much broader spaces, through regional groupings with continental political and economic groups.