The Demise of the Organization of African Unity (OAU) and the Rise of African Union (AU): A Study on the transformation of a Regional Organization

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Declaration

I hereby declare that the work in this thesis is my own except for quotations and summaries which have been duly acknowledged.

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Pengakuan

Saya akui karya ini adalah hasil kerja saya sendiri kecuali nukilan dan ringkasan yang tiap-tiap satunya telah saya jelaskan sumbernya.

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Abstract

The objective of the study is to see whether African Union (AU) and its economic integration plan can bring Africa into the developed world.

The attainment of independence by an increasing number of African states in the early 1960s was accompanied by calls for unity among African leaders. These leaders saw unity as necessary for the rapid eradication of colonialism and for the continent's economic and political development. And two groups (Casablanca and Morovia movements) supported the need for a pan-African body. On 25 May 1963, they signed the charter creating the Organization of African Unity (OAU). During the first thirty years of the OAU's existence, Africa experienced numerous challenges to its peace and security, including struggles for independence, civil wars, and inter-state conflicts. Many of these conflicts were fueled by the Cold War, as the United States and the Soviet Union fought for ideological dominance and strategic position in Africa.

The record of the OAU in attempting to be the custodian of continental peace and security during the first three decades of its existence is well documented, as are the factors that prohibited the OAU from playing a more central role in the management of conflicts in Africa. Several factors account for this record including the limitations of the OAU's mandate and conflict management institutions; the lack of political will among its members; the lack of capacity, experience and financial resources; and the impact of external intervention on the OAU's capacity to manage conflicts. During the 1990s, Africa has witnessed numerous conflicts. The OAU has been involved both directly and indirectly in many initiatives aimed at managing these conflicts. OAU's efforts have resulted in transforming the organization into one that has had more impact, increased visibility, and an elevated profile in the conflict management arena.

The African leaders are aware of these limitations and have been working to improve the capacity of the organization to challenge the globalization and promote economic integration of the continent. This transformation took into account the vagueness of the consolidation of democratization during the 1990s, and has also accelerated the process of regional integration and symbolizes the passage of the OAU to the African Union. The other aspect of the transformation is the implementation of a new partnership between Africa and the international community, on the initiative of the African leaders. This was the translation of a clear awakening of the need to go towards more democratic, and efficient management of the public affairs, integration of the African people and peaceful resolutions of the intra-African conflicts.
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