

RUSSIA AND BLACK AFRICA before World War II, by Edward Thomas Wilson  
(New York: Holmes & Meier, 1974)/)

This is a most unusual book, very very scholarly and comprehensive, as it begins back in the 19th century as imperialism carved up Africa, on the Tsarist experience in sub-Saharan Africa, and goes through at length on the Lenin period and is very dumb or deliberately anti-anti by mixing up before and after Stalin on the NO.

On p. 94, Chapter 3, begins the "Basis for Soviet Interest in Black Africa" but actually it's on the Crimean War (see especially fn. on p. 95, about the Crimean War and ~~1854~~ France throwing Senegalese troops into the battle against Russia. What is exciting is that evidently some of the Africans then deserted their troops during the 1920s and joined the Communists! So important was he that Boris Kornilov describes the incongruous figure of this African cavalry officer who fought the enemies of the revolution during the winter of 1918 in order to deal a blow to the African capitalists and bourgeoisie'. The name of the poem is 'My Africa'." It seems to have been written in 1935 but the reference just quoted is from a 1964 edition. It's evidently in that year that Radio Moscow, in a review of the 2nd edition of Kornilov's book speaks about the actual battles and adds that the Black officer was buried with Red Army honors. This officer and 7 others and the Moscow broadcast about it Feb. 2, 1964, was summarized in the BBC, Summary of World Broadcasts and Monitoring Report, Part I, SU/1480/A/65/4.)

p. 97, footnote: In a speech at the Third Comintern Congress (July 5, 1921) Lenin had declared: "It is evident that in the decisive battles of the world revolution the movements of the colonial peoples will play a greater revolutionary role than we dare hope." (Cited in Inprecor International Press Correspondence of the Comintern, VII, no. 17 (February 5, 1927): 232.)

Chapter 4 is an exciting chapter on ~~the impact of the Bolshevik literature~~ and the very scholar Pavlovich that I quoted on the impact of 1905 on the Middle-East and Orient is the spets also on Africa. On p. 118 begins an important part on the relationship of Garvey to Russia. (fn. 72) on that page, in which the reference to Garvey as "president of Africa" to conduct armed hostilities against the whites in alliance with the Bolsheviks

p. 118: This authorization was probably given at a Garveyite congress held in the US in 1921.  
(See Inprecor & R. J. 1921)

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p. 323 Chapter Four, fn. 3:

Pavlovich was a Menshevik well before 1917 and it is likely that he became acquainted with Lenin as early as 1904-05 in Geneva, where the Russian Social Democratic working Party's press "Iskra" published his book on the Russo-Japanese War (Russko-Iapenskaia Voina). Pavlovich also contributed a series of articles to Iskra under the pseudonym Volunter. It is known that Pavlovich's writings were read by Lenin himself and there is good reason to believe that they contributed to Lenin's thinking on the subject of imperialism. (Louis Fisher, Life of Lenin (New York, 1964): ~~661~~ 661.)

Chapter 5 deals with the Comintern policy on Africa, March 4, 1919, 2nd Congress July 1920, which is, of course, the Lenin Thesis on the Colonial Question, ~~3rd Congress~~ 3rd Congress where Reed spoke; and 4th Congress is where McKay spoke.

Let us remember also that between the 2nd and 3rd, there was First Congress of the Peoples of the East, held in Baku in ~~1920~~ 1920, and that is also where Africa and the Black Q. figured. By that time Black Q. was also the CP of South Africa which David Jones founded. The 3rd Congress did formulate a resolution on the Negro Q. and did have American Blacks and the 4th Congress was December 1922, which was the most important because it was followed by concrete work.

p. 122 ¶ The impassioned arguments of McKay, Jones, and others might have carried less weight in Comintern circles had not Leon Trotsky, then Soviet Commissar of War, been himself party to similar beliefs. In a letter to McKay, Trotsky made clear his agreement that "the use of colonial reserves for imperialist armies is closely related to the question of European revolution."

\*p. 122 Although Trotsky, in his manifesto prepared for the First Comintern Congress, had proclaimed to the "colonial slaves of Africa and Asia" that "the hour of proletarian dictatorship in Europe will strike for you as the hour of your own emancipation," he tended to regard colonial emancipation as a by-product of European revolution rather than as an essential condition for its success. (Leon Trotsky, The First Five Years of the Communist International, I (New York, 1945): 25.)

The 5th Congress was likewise most important for work on the colonial question but the 6th is, as as everything else, the Stalinist Congress.

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Stalinist Congress, so that, though much is devoted to the Negro Q it composites such opposites as socialism in one country and the ultra-3rd period spelling out the Negro Q as the independent 13 states, which it seems everybody without exception (I'm including Cedric Robinson and other spets on Black Marxism) acts as if it is the same thing as Lenin's 2nd CI thesis.

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The Healeyites have brought out the full minutes for the first time in English of the 2nd CI Congress. It's in 2 volumes but one cover, and was published 1977 by the New Park Publications. The American distributor is Labor Publications, 540 W. 29th St., NYC 10001.

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