

CITATION OF PROFESSOR CLAUDE AKA

Professor Claude Ake was born on February 18, 1939 at Omoku.Ogba-Egbema, Ndoni Local Government area of Rivers State. He attended King's College, Lagos, the University College, Ibadan and the Columbia University, New York, United States of America, where he obtained a Phd in 1966. Since then, Professor Claude Ake has pursued an outstanding career in University teaching both at home and abroad. He has taught Political Economy in the university of port Harcourt, Nigeria; Columbia university, New York, USA; Carleton University, Ottawa Canada; the University of Dar-es-salam, Tanzania and the University Of Nairoid, Kenya.

2. But it is the scope and impact of his research in this field that have been his most impressive contributions. Professor Ake's theory of Political Integration exposed many of the difficulties confronting the new nations of the world as they emerge from their colonial status and helped to show some of the directions that must be pursued, if these nations must exhibit a higher degree of social and political unity in their- development. This insight in this regard was unique and original especially as it applies to Africa.

3. One of the problems which he identified and on which he later applied his critical. And probing mind was the role of western social science writings on third world countries. He was able to show how the concepts and theoretical pre-dispositions in many of these writings have been manipulative and highly instrumental in perpetuating and reinforcing the dependence syndrome in many developing countries. It is various Publican ions in the field have provoked new and more rigorous examination of the orientation of these writings.

4. It is however, when he applied all of this to the situation on the African continent that Professor Claude Ake made his greatest intellectual contribution to the social science. In his book, A Political Economy of Africa, Professor Claude provided the salient features of contemporary Africa, their emergence and their potential in shaping the future pattern of development on the continent. This analysis of Africa's problem led him to attempt the design of the correct strategies to transform the continent, that book, declared as the best social science book in the United States of America in 1985 has been translated into Russian language by the Russia Academy of Science and serves as a major reference work in man other countries of the world.

5. Professor Ake's scholarship has continued unparallel and stimulating. One of his more recent works titled: Revolutionary Pressures in Africa, has been adjudged the most controversial book written by an African in the nineteen seventies and commended for its original and breath-taking scholarship. In his latest publican ion, The New World Order: A View from the South, Claude Ake argues the need for third world countries and in the particular Africa to rely increasingly less on other people's social construction of reality and work towards a universal. Acceptance of their own construction. Already, the postulates of this research promise to have a dynamic impact on the international political relations in the 21st century.

6. Professor Ake's intellectual influence On the Africa continent has been tremendous. He has served for man years as the President of the Council for the Development of Economic and Social Research in Africa (CODESRIA) based in Dakar, Senegal. He has served as n Consultant to the United Nations Organization, as well as the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development. In order to build up a strong Nigerian school that can promote a rigorous exposition and critical examination of the dynamic potential of social science ideas and concepts, he spearheaded the establishment of a Centre for Advance Social Science which is presently - based in Port Harcourt , and for which he serves as Director.

7. Mr. President Sir, it is for this outstanding scholarly contribution to the evolution of Political Thought in Third World Countries, for impressive and visionary struggle for intellectual Self-reliance of Nigeria and indeed the whole of Africa that the Board of Trustees of the Nigerian National merit Award Endowment Fund presents to you Professor Claude Ake for the conferment of the 1992 Nigerian National merit Award.