

**Rebuilding TransAfrica:
Journal Envisions New Pan-African Agenda**

The TransAfrica Forum is the leading non-profit organization focused on changing U.S. policy toward Africa and Black populations in the Western hemisphere. A special issue of *Souls* entitled “TransAfrica Forum: Justice for the African World” (Volume 6, Number 2) outlines TransAfrica’s evolving role in a post-Apartheid world and explores the ties that bind Africans and the Black Diaspora in the West today.

Leading scholars chart a new TransAfrican agenda, from Afro-Colombian peace communities to the pivotal role of African women’s organizations. The special issue also features an interview with Bill Fletcher, Jr., current President and CEO of TransAfrica Forum.

“Here in the United States, the voice of TransAfrica is going to be increasingly vital as we move forward and once again try to provide moral leadership that can transform U.S. foreign policy toward Africa and the Caribbean,” says Manning Marable, Editor of *Souls* and Professor of Public Affairs, Political Science, History and African-American Studies at Columbia University.

Founded in 1981, the TransAfrica Forum played a central role in dismantling Apartheid in South Africa and has been influential in the fight for Haitian sovereignty, among other issues. The organization is founded on the idea that the success of African Americans is bound up with the emancipation of all African peoples and also other dependent peoples and laboring classes.

“TransAfrica is an organization that’s focused on the African world as we would define it, particularly Africa, the Caribbean, and Latin America,” says Fletcher. “It’s aimed at changing U.S. foreign policy.”

The special issue brings together experts in African-American studies, foreign affairs, race relations, and anthropology. Articles touch on some issues central to Africa

and to Black communities in the Americas, including terrorism, women's rights, civil war, and self-governance:

- Leith Mullings examines how Latin Americans of African descent are increasingly rejecting identification as a mixed race in order to assert an oppositional Black identity
- Joseph Jordan charts the emergence of African-identified communities in Latin America as a step toward overcoming the stagnation of the Pan-African movement of the last twenty years.
- Asale Angel-Ajani tells the remarkable story of the Afro-Colombians who have organized Peace Communities amidst civil strife.
- Gwendolyn Mikell draws on a decade of work in African women's organizations to show how they are emerging as serious actors to promote peace across the African continent and bolster democratic processes.
- Clarence Lusane analyzes the European Union's Race Directive, assessing both the promise efforts to combat persistent racism in Europe and the challenges they face from right-wing parties.
- Lynn Bolles examines the impact of terrorism on Caribbean women, moving beyond jingoistic phrases to expose the terror engendered by natural disasters, HIV, poverty, and domestic violence.

Together these articles provide an incisive analysis of U.S. policy, outlining key features of a TransAfrican politics today and exploring the forces that connect Blacks in the U.S. and the rest of the world.

Published by Taylor & Francis, *Souls* is a quarterly interdisciplinary journal that maps the intellectual contours of the contemporary Black experience. Each issue contains articles, symposia, interviews, and book reviews by scholars, writers, and political leaders in the Black community.

Subscription information for *Souls* or a sample copy of "TransAfrica Forum" (Volume 6, Number 2) can be obtained from the address below. A copy of the journal can be viewed online at <http://www.tandf.co.uk/journals/titles/10999949.asp>.

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