

1963

## Lumumba's Congo: Roots of Conflict

Washington Okumu

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There was, then, no collective security organization to meet and turn back the challenge of Japan, Italy, and Germany, and the world marched on to Munich and world war. America entered the war only after realizing that there was a direct threat to her own security; the theory of collective security was not the issue. As the war drew to a close, the idea of another try at collective security (with the United States taking its proper place in a world organization) took hold and became a guide for American foreign policy. Soon after the organization of the United Nations, the United States discovered a new aggressor—the U.S.S.R. The result was the creation of NATO, a new collective security organization for the protection of our national interests. Then came Korea. The result of Korea was a return to unilateral action and big-power meetings. The author sees as a major flaw of collective security the unwillingness of major states to make binding commitments for future action, as the theory demands. The United Nations today, he says, is not a collective security arrangement, but a court of world opinion. To the author, collective security is a myth; and a myth, to survive, must be applicable to reality.

Okumu, Washington. *Lumumba's Congo: Roots of Conflict*. New York: Obolensky, 1963. 250 p.

The author of this book, a native of Kenya, Africa, is 26 years old and is described by Professor Rupert Emerson of Harvard as 'an angry young African.' If the reader keeps the identity of the author in mind, as he reads the book, an important insight can be gained into the 'way in which Africans look back upon the colonial experience from which they are now emerging.' This easy-to-read volume gives a brief, but adequate, background of the earliest colonization of the Congo, dating from 1885. However, the writer does more than give a chronological account of events. He attempts to analyze the train of events in the Congo as he understands those events. His analysis is based on personal study and experience in the Congo. The chapter entitled 'The Sudden Revolt Against Paternalism' would be most helpful to anyone attempting to gain an understanding of the background of events that transpired in the hectic days following the granting of Congo independence on 30 June 1960. The full value of this book will be realized by researchers if it is used in connection with United Nations' reports, newspaper reports of events in the Congo (30 June 1960, and forward) and other books written on the same subject.