

The Political Report to the Sixth Congress of the African People's Socialist Party

Study Guide



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Chapter I — Overview: Challenging the Time Warp

- What is *the* fundamental task of the African Revolution in this period?
- Define the era of the Final Offensive and its significance.
- What is the “uneasy equilibrium between the past and the future”?
- What does it mean that the Party summed up the defeat of the Black Revolution of the 1960s?
- What was the African petty bourgeoisie’s understanding of African liberation?
- What is the “time warp” that Chairman Omali is talking about and what does it mean?
- What are some of the key questions left unresolved from the defeat of the African Revolution of the 1960s that the Party has solved?
- How has the Party led around critical questions? Give some examples.

Chapter II — The Crisis of Imperialism

- What is the Party’s analysis of the main cause of the current crisis of imperialism? Is this a new concept for the Party? What was the occasion of one of the Party’s first quotes on the crisis of imperialism?
- Briefly sum up the Chairman’s analysis of the situation in Egypt.
- Briefly sum up the situation in Syria.
- What is China’s current role in Africa?
- What is Brzezinski’s Global Political Awakening?
- What is Patrick Buchanan’s quote lamenting?
- What is the quote from Marx that the Chairman cites repeatedly in this report and why is it important?
- List some of the dire conditions faced by African people in the U.S. and what is the conclusion by the Party that these statistics support?

- What does the Chairman mean when he says Obama did not create the crisis of imperialism—he is a response to the crisis?

Chapter III — Political Theory of African Internationalism

- What were the conditions faced by the Party as it developed the theory of African Internationalism?
- What does the Chairman mean when he says African Internationalism is scientific and “can understand the material forces at work in the movement of history”?
- Why does the Chairman say that the struggle against racism “is a waste of time”?
- Why is it critical to understand that the struggle against colonialism is key?
- What is primitive accumulation of capital and is it a theory?
- What was it that “Marx didn’t get” and why didn’t he get it?
- What is the dialectic between Western or white success and African impoverishment?
- Define parasitism and why is it equivalent to the “original sin”?
- Is African Internationalism a Marxist theory and why is there the responsibility and necessity of the African working class to understand parasitic capitalism?
- What does the Chairman mean when he says that African Internationalism requires action?
- What is materialism?
- Are white leftists philosophical materialists?
- What is a dialectical approach?
- Where do all ideas and aspirations of white people come from?
- Why does the Chairman say that the foundation of capitalism has been “shrouded in mystery and superstition”? How does the Party bring science to this reality?

- What is the key difference between Lenin's definition of imperialism and the understanding of African Internationalism?
- Does capitalism represent "progress" in history?
- Why does the Chairman say that the road to socialism is painted black?
- What does the Chairman mean by the "class question" being located in the colonial contradiction?
- How are some organizations lost in the last period of struggle?
- How does the Chairman define racism?
- What do genuinely progressive white people have to do?
- What is the opportunism of the white left?

Chapter IV — The Question of the Nation

- Why is the question of the nation—and identity—so important today?
- Have Pan-Africans or any other groups successfully defined the African nation? What are some of the contradictions in their definitions?
- Does the definition of the African nation satisfy Stalin's qualifications for a nation?
- What does the quote by Cannadine reveal about the question of the European nation?
- Does the white nation simply include the white ruling class? If not, what is the significance of this fact?
- What was it that bonded Europe into a single nation?
- What are the three key attributes of the European nation?
- Why does the Chairman say the European nation was born of "historical necessity"?
- Was Marx correct in saying that the expulsion of the European peasants from their historic lands was part of primitive accumulation?
- How did Marx view the "development" of Europe?

- Why did European workers need to be “emancipated” from feudalism?
- Is the emerging African nation a response to historical necessity? Why?
- What did the consolidation of the European nation mean for the African nation?
- What is the only class force capable of uniting and consolidating the African nation?
- What does the Chairman say about socialism in one country?
- What does the Chairman say about the Black Belt South nation put forth by the CPUSA?
- Why is an attack on Marcus Garvey an attack on the African nation?
- What is the Chairman’s response to Padmore’s “superprofits”?
- What does the Chairman say about Padmore’s claims of Garvey’s “imperialist aims”?
- What is the significance of the Garvey Movement?
- What is the “sense of sameness” experienced by African people everywhere?
- What is the Chairman’s response to the question of many languages in Africa that is often raised by others?
- How was false national consciousness imposed on African people?
- What is the one, defining characteristic of the African nation experienced by African people everywhere?
- Why is the consolidation of the African nation key to overturning the genocidal, brutal conditions faced by African people everywhere?
- What groupings of people constitute the African nation?
- Can Arabs become African?
- Can white people become African?
- Why are the nation building struggles of Africans and others the beginning of the process of the withering away of nations?

Chapter V — The History of the Party

- How does the Party and the Uhuru Movement differ from the Civil Rights Movement?
- Why did the Chairman found the Party in 1972 in the face of the growing U.S. government attack on the movement of that time?
- The African People's Socialist Party is the party of what class? Why was a party necessary to achieve the aims of this class?
- In what way did the Party solve problems left unresolved due to the defeat of the Black Liberation Movement of the 1960s?
- How can we describe the period of the 1960s when the African People's Socialist Party was born? What was the main trend in the world at that time?
- Sum up the Chairman's analysis of historical forces that created and drove the Civil Rights Movement. What class forces were at play? Why was it a "revolution from above"?
- What are some of the pressing problems solved by the Chairman's theory of African Internationalism?
- In what year did Chairman Omali tear down the mural at St Petersburg city hall? What organization was the Chairman a member of at that time?
- Describe the character of JOMO. What year was JOMO formed?
- What year was *The Burning Spear* newspaper formed?
- What are the three groups that joined together to form the African People's Socialist Party?
- What was one of the most important political pamphlets of the Party? What "colonial invention" did this pamphlet challenge? Why was (and is) this question so critical?
- How does the Chairman define "racism"? How is colonialism defined?
- What is the "relationship of class to race"?

- What year did the Party pass a resolution to build the African Socialist International?
- What is central in the Party? How does the Party represent the unity of theory and practice?
- Who was Katura Carey and what was her significance in the early years of the Party?
- When did the Party begin working with revolutionary forces in Zimbabwe and Azania?
- Who was Dessie Woods and what did she do? What year?
- What was one of the main political questions fought for by the Party in the Free Dessie Woods campaign? What was the slogan of the campaign?
- What opportunist political forces did the Party take on with this campaign?
- What was the significance of the Party's mobilization around the Dessie Woods case in Atlanta in 1977?
- What was ANPO? Why was (is) the prison question so important?
- What was COINTELPRO?
- What does the Party mean by a colonial prison system and how does that differ from other organization's understanding of the U.S. prison system?
- What did the book "Black Power Since the Sixties" take on?
- What was the action that the Party took on in Gainesville, Florida in 1979? How did the Party defeat the encirclement of white nationalists? What does this action say about the internationalism of the Party?
- What was the year of the First International Tribunal on Reparations for African People? Where was it located? What were the findings of the tribunal in terms of what the U.S. government owed African people?
- How was ASI Secretary General Luwezi Kinshasa recruited into the Party?
- What are the long term effects and influences of the Party's work on reparations?

- How did ANRO and ANPO promote revolutionary demands and understandings among the masses?
- Where is the theoretical basis of the Party's theory found?
- What are the main points of the Party's Tactics and Strategy? Where and when was this first presented to the broader movement?
- What was the significance of the founding of the African People's Socialist Party? What ideological questions did this solve?
- How is the question of race applied to African people as opposed to others struggling for national liberation?
- What year was the African People's Solidarity Committee formed?
- How did struggles with APSC and the white left help to deepen the Party's line of African Internationalism?
- How does the articulation of "white skin privilege" by white groups keep white people in the center and maintain the status quo?
- What is a key quote from the book "The New Beginning" that explains the opportunism of the white left and white population?
- How did APSC begin to embrace African Internationalism as its own and embrace the work of reparations as our key work?
- What is APSC's slogan that testifies to this?
- What is the significance of the "Oakland Years"? What was the time period of this work?
- When was the Party's First Congress and where was it held?
- Why was the Party's First Congress delayed nine years?
- Why was the First Congress a "new beginning" for the Party?
- What characterized the struggle led by the Party in Oakland?
- What was the Tent City for the Homeless and what year?
- What was the Summer Project of 1984?

- What was Measure O? What are the “drops” and how many fliers did the Party-led Measure O work distribute in Oakland prior to the election?
- What political forces opposed Measure O?
- Why did a local newspaper state that if Measure O passed in the election the governor would order airstrikes?
- How many votes did Measure O win?
- What is the counterinsurgency against our movement and how did the Party define it? Why is it significant that the Party defined this attack?
- How did the Party sum up the drugs flowing into the African community in this period? What was the popular slogan of this period?
- Why did the Party found InPDUM? What was the date and location of the founding convention? What was significant about the date?
- What were the circumstances around the Party winning “dual power” in St. Petersburg, Florida in 1996? What were some of the results of the Party-led work of this period?
- What happened on November 13, 1996?
- What did the Party do to end its isolation by the government?
- How did the Party influence the police department?
- What is the significance of the Party’s definition of neocolonialism?
- Why is the African Socialist International “our Africa plan”?
- What is the significance of the Black is Back Coalition?
- How did the BIB change the face and character of the anti-war movement?
- What are the “other” wars?
- What is the significance of *The Burning Spear* newspaper?
- What is the Party’s stance on leadership?
- Why is the Party the highest expression of the will of African people to struggle for liberation?

- How do the self-determination institutions of the Party distinguish it? What are some of the major economic and political institutions of the Party over the years?

Chapter VI — The One People! One Party! One Destiny Campaign

- When and why was the OPOPOD campaign started by the Party?
- What was one of the main goals of the campaign?
- What was the emphasis on centralism in democratic centralism in the OPOPOD campaign?
- What does it mean that no one falls through the cracks?
- What were some of the key results of the OPOPOD campaign? Why did some forces leave during this process?
- What was APSC's particular role during the OPOPOD process?
- What are some of the important advances of the Party's Agit-Prop Department during the OPOPOD campaign?
- Why must the Party now focus on cadre building? What is a cadre? What are some of the characteristics of cadres?
- What must the Party cadres know how to do? Why must they know the history of the Party?

Chapter VII — African Economic Self-Reliance/Self-Determination

- Who leads the Party's Office of Economic Development and Finance (OEDF)?
- What were the tasks laid out by the Fifth Congress for the OEDF?
- What kind of culture was the OEDF mandated to create? Why must each cadre have an understanding of the economic work of the Party?
- Why is the struggle for self-determination an integral part of the struggle for national liberation under the leadership of the African working class?

- What does the Chairman mean when he says we see “our economic work as a new political front”?
- How does the Party’s economic work forward the struggle of the African working class to become the ruling class?
- What are some of the key economic institutions of the Party over the years?
- What is Black Star Industries and what is its significance?
- How is BSI an anti-colonial project of the Party?
- How has the economic work been a tradition in the mass work of the Party since the beginning?
- Does the Chairman see the economic work of self-reliance being generalized throughout the Party?

Chapter VIII — The State of the Organization

- What is the rapid growth and influence of the Party a reflection of?
- What is dual power? What is its significance for the Party?
- What are some of the examples of the growth of the Party around the world?
- What is the stance of InPDUM today? How has it increased its capacity?
- What were some of the questions taken up by the InPDUM convention? What is InPDUM’s stand on African women and same gender loving people?
- How does the existence of APSC disclose the universality of African Internationalism?
- What are some of the contradictions in the African Socialist International?
- What does the Chairman mean when he says, “there are no well-trodden paths here”?
- What are the tasks of the ASI in this period?
- Where are current members and contacts of the Party in Africa?

Chapter IX — The Upcoming Period—What is to be Done?

- What is the key to the future of African people and the African revolution?
- Why is the ASI our most difficult though most important work?
- Why has the African Revolution when fought within the borders established by imperialism run into its limitations?
- How is the ASI already having an impact on the politics of the African world?
- What does the ASI mean for Africans who have been chased into Europe by conditions in Africa created by Europe?
- What must we never again do in relation to the mandates of the Party Congress?
- What are key questions addressed by the Fifth Congress Political Report concerning African students? What is the significance of AISO and why is it important?
- What does the Fifth Congress report say about influencing and organizing African labor?
- What is the significance of the call to re-establish the African National Prison Organization (ANPO)?
- What does the Chairman say about formalizing the leadership of African women? What is the Party's stand on the leadership of African women? How is the Party's position on the leadership of African women different than white bourgeois feminism? What is the African National Women's Organization?
- Why is it important that in the next period the Party must grow the ability to provide the necessary leadership and training for cadres responsible for leading this crucial work?
- What are the major components of a Party mandated recruitment POA?
- Why must we develop a deeper understanding of how to carry out our coalition work.

- What should be our basic organizational training mission in this period?
- What does the Chairman mean when he says we must become a Party of propagandists?
- What is the significance of the Chairman's Political Report to the Sixth Congress?