ABSTRACT

“FOREIGN POLICY IN KENYA AND TANZANIA: THE IMPACT OF DEPENDENCE AND UNDERDEVELOPMENT, 1961-1980”. By Maria Nzomo***

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The thesis critically examines the foreign policies of two neighboring East African states: Kenya and Tanzania, covering the period 1961-1980. It analyses and compares their external policies and behavioral responses as they attempt to cope with, and at times to confront, inherited structures of dependence and underdevelopment. The central argument presented is that although the two States displayed different strategies and styles of dealing with and adjusting to their operational environments, as of 1980, each had failed to transform inherited social and economic structures. Their political economies, like those of most countries in post-colonial Africa, were still characterized by dependence and underdevelopment, albeit in different degrees and forms.

The historical empirical analysis was informed on both primary data derived from interviews with key informants, but also qualitative data derived from official documents and the extant literature on dependency theory and African foreign policies. The thesis begins with a prefatory review of salient approaches and an introductory theoretical chapter. Chapters 2 and 3 then examine the development of structures, relations, as well as the leadership, that continued largely to determine not only the perpetuation of dependence and underdevelopment but also the diplomacy pursued by these two states. Chapters 4 and 5 describe and analyze the foreign policies of Kenya and Tanzania from independence to the end of the 1970’s decade. They concentrate on the diplomatic relations and policies of the two states towards the major powers and/or countries and institutions on which they were dependent. Salient international issues and events to which they were responding to, are also examined. The final chapter review central findings and arrives at some summaries that largely support the hypotheses proposed. A series of projections and prescriptions for the political economies and foreign policies of Africa in general, and Kenya and Tanzania in particular, are provided in way of conclusion.

***Currently Professor & Director, Institute of Diplomacy & International studies, University of Nairobi