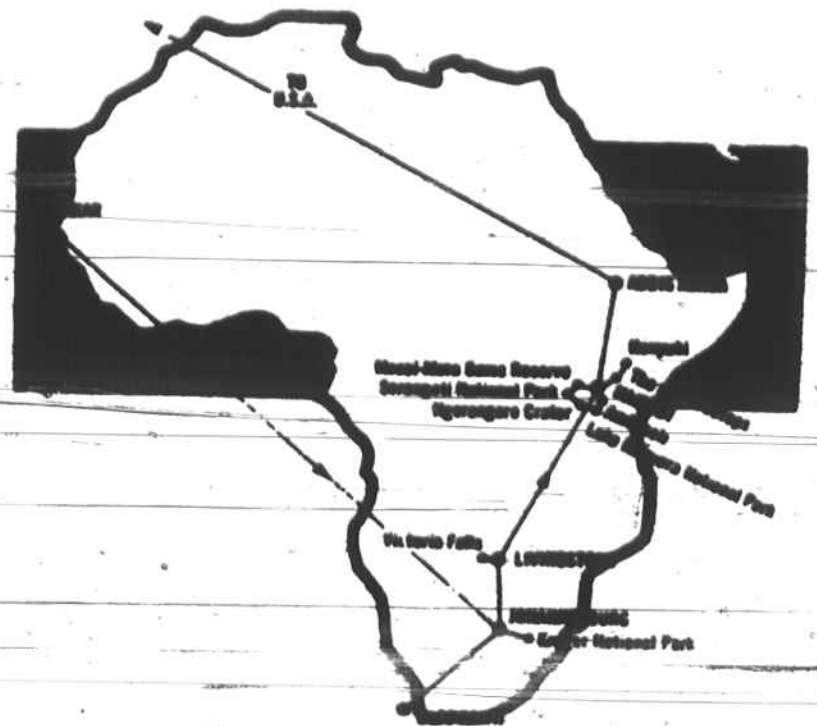


# African Spotlight



## Liberia

Liberia is probably one of the countries in Africa better known here in the U.S. than any other African country. There is a historical reason for this.

Liberia which means liberty or freedom was one of the first countries in West Africa to achieve independence. Founded by freed slaves from the U.S., Liberia has had a long association with this country. The capital of Liberia is Monrovia and the president is Mr. William R. Tolbert. He succeeded the late President Tubman. Mr. Tolbert was inaugurated the 19th President of Liberia on January 3, 1972. Tolbert was vice-president under Tubman when the latter died in July 1971. Mrs. Patricia Nixon, wife of ex-President Nixon, was one of the many prominent Americans that attended Mr. Tolbert's inauguration.

Liberia has consistently said that blacks are welcome to come and invest their skills and know-how in the development of that country. But there are some problems on both ends.

Many blacks seem to think of Africa as a place where gold can be picked on the streets. This narrow and uninformed view may be a product of seeing Africa as movies and the TV show her. Some believe that land in Africa is so cheap that they can buy as much land as they want with a dollar. But even in the so-called bush areas of Africa, nothing is ever gotten for nothing.

Some African students help to make things difficult by telling wild tales of the situation in Africa. But the sun of the 20th Century is shining everywhere in Africa perhaps not in equal density but certainly in seemingly even proportion as in any other country.

Thus, certain items are even more expensive in Africa since they are imported into the continent from overseas. Add to this kind of situation the fact that most African cities are overcrowded with young people who left the village to the cities in the hope of escaping the traditional village occupation such as farming, one can then see the problems in their proper perspectives.

Liberia has 43,000 square miles of land mass which consist essentially of a wide coastal plain rising to some 400 feet, interrupted by low hills and backed on the north-north-east by the escapement of plateau that look very much like the town of King, North Carolina. The plateau average between 1,500 and 2,000 feet in height and forming a southern foot-hill fringe to the highlands on the northern border.

The unusually wide coastal plain, 20 to 40 miles, with its heavy rainfall, 200" in the west and 100" in the east, offer advantages for the development of export crops.

These areas have been used for rubber, coffee and citrus plantations and they are also the areas where oil-palm produce come from.

Yet the total area exploited is small compared with what is available.

The main project, aside from Firestone rubber plantation, is the mining of iron ore on Mount Nimba. There is also iron and steel mill at Buchann. Liberia exports over 26 million tons of ore a year.

There are numerous investment opportunities in Liberia and in other African countries. But first the would-be black investor must get himself together. He must not expect special treatment and he must learn to live and mix with the people of whatever country he may choose to go.

It is said that there are three types of black Americans that one can see in Africa today.

The first type are those who work for American Government. They are generally well off and always move in the circle of other diplomats. And they do no always regard themselves as part of the countries in which they stay.

The second type are the visitors. Many of them have some money to spend and knew what they are there for a short period and seem to enjoy themselves by visiting only the big cities.

The third group are private visitors as opposed to tourists. They try to learn the language of the people and delight in going to see not just the cities but also the country sides. When you meet these kind of people you know immediately that they know what they are there for and usually they are there to make some worthwhile contribution in the development of Africa. N.E.

# Watergate Tale Fascinating

"All The President's Men" by Carl Bernstein and Bob Woodward (Simon and Schuster, 630 Fifth Ave., New York, N.Y. 10020. 349 pages. \$8.95).

By Thom Hill

In a continuing climate of mistrust of the press, stirred and heated by the reporting of Watergate, Washington Post reporters Woodward and Carl Bernstein take their readers behind the headlines and into the front lines of the battle for news in Washington, D.C.

After their first misgivings and mistrust in their team assignment to cover the Watergate story, Woodward and Bernstein meshed into a composite reporter called "Woodstein" by others in the Post newsroom. It is this reporter who writes, "All The President's Men."

Elements of the story are known to anyone who has read a newspaper in the last two years. But "Woodstein's" book shows how, bit by bit, the story unfolds, while the reader is held by the same suspense that held Bernstein and Woodward to their hunt for clues.

The book is written in a journalistic style. The paragraphs are relatively short with several quotes and quick sketches of characters and settings. The book is written in the third person, just as "Woodstein" wrote the original news stories for the Post.

The book may well become a text in journalism schools in a course on ethics as well as methods. Investigative reporting is not very romantic; it involves much legwork and research and scores of telephone calls.

The investigative methods and accompanying pitfalls are described in the book; "Woodward wondered whether there was ever justification for a reporter to entice someone across the line of legality while standing safely on the right side himself."

More than once, there is a self-examination by the reporters on the same ethical theme. "They had not broken the law when they visited the grant jurors, that much seemed certain. But they had sailed around it and exposed others to danger. They had chosen expediency over principle..."

The book describes the fierce deadline pressure the reporters were working under, and the competition with other papers for the fast-breaking Watergate stores. After being beaten by the Los Angeles Times on a story, Woodward and Bernstein hurriedly wrote a front-page story on three men who received information from illegal wiretaps conducted by the Committee for Re-Election of the President. The story was erroneous.

"Three men had been wronged. They had been unfairly accused on the front

page of the Washington Post, the hometown newspaper of their families, neighbors, and friends," "Woodstein" admits.

Woodward and Bernstein are quite candid about their feelings on what methods are legal and fair for reporters to use in getting a story. Both went through periods of apprehension about the foundations of their reporting: whether they had enough factual information to justify printing the story.

Should the reader be led by a front page story to believe that there is a larger amount

of factual evidence to back it up, when the reporters are not even sure themselves?

With "All The President's Men", Woodward and Bernstein have made their second contribution to reporting the Watergate scandals: a revealing explication of how they broke the story.

The book will be discussed by journalists and newspaper readers everywhere for years to come, both for its worth in showing how the break in the Watergate cover-up occurred, and because it is fascinating work which should have been a novel, but unfortunately, was not.

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