



## NATION BUILDING IN POST-COLONIAL AFRICA: THREE CASE STUDIES

Coordinated by Gerry Corrigan

*Fridays*  
**May 12, 19, & 26, 2017**

**9:30 am - 12:30 pm**

**Goleta Library  
500 Fairview Ave, Goleta**

Our class on Africa in May 2017 will build on the several VISTAS classes on Africa we presented in previous years. Those classes focused on Sub-Saharan Africa beginning with the explorers and missionaries in the 19th Century and then presentations on the experience of independence in the countries of South Africa, Namibia, Nigeria, and the Congo (DRC).

This year's class will have presentations on three other countries in Sub-Saharan Africa and discuss their efforts to establish and build functioning countries since achieving independence from their colonial masters. The three countries selected for 2017 are Ghana, Zimbabwe, and Liberia. The class will also include a "mini-presentation" on efforts in Mali to save priceless manuscripts and books from being destroyed based on the book *The Bad-Ass Librarians of Timbuktu and Their Race to Save the World's Most Precious Manuscripts*.

**Friday, May 12**

**9:30** Republic of Liberia: Gerry Corrigan, Curriculum Committee member

**11:30** *The Bad-Ass Librarians of Timbuktu*: Lois Kaplan, former VISTAS President

**Friday, May 19**

**9:30** Republic of Zimbabwe: Mhoze Chikowero, Associate Professor of History, UCSB

**Friday, May 26**

**9:30** Republic of Ghana: Stephan F. Miescher, Associate Professor of History, UCSB

**Deadline for registration: April 28th**

**Enrollment Form: AFRICA - May 12, 19, & 26, 2017**

**VISTAS Members \$35 - Nonmembers \$52.50**

Amount Enclosed \$ \_\_\_\_\_ Check# \_\_\_\_\_

Name(s): \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Mail registration form to:

VISTAS Lifelong Learning, Inc., P.O. Box 23228, Santa Barbara, CA 93121-3228

**Or you may go to our website and pay by secure credit card through PayPal**

<http://www.vistaslifelonglearning.org/upcoming.html>

The presenters in 2017 will again be a mix of Vistas members and non-members. We are pleased to have two outstanding young professors from UCSB join us for this class. Both have lived and traveled in Africa and have conducted research on the countries they have chosen. Each has published books and articles on aspects of the history and development of these countries.

- **MHOZE CHIKOWERO**, Associate Professor of History at UCSB, will discuss Zimbabwe. Mhoze, a native of Zimbabwe with an undergraduate degree from the University of Zimbabwe and a PhD degree from Dalhousie University in Nova Scotia, teaches and does research on social and economic history in Southern Africa. He has published several books and articles on these subjects, including his recent award-winning book *African Music, Power and Being in Colonial Zimbabwe* which deals with the role of music in the shaping of modern cultural and political realities in Zimbabwe. Among other things, Mhoze is an authority on the music and public life of Thomas Mapfumo; known fondly as The Lion of Zimbabwe, Mapfumo is the country's most famous musician and a prominent political activist now living in exile in America.

- **STEPHAN F. MIESCHER**, Associate Professor of History at UCSB, will discuss Ghana. Stephan, a native of Switzerland with an MA from the University of Basel and a PhD from Northwestern University, has conducted research in Ghana for over 25 years. His first book *Making Men in Ghana* (2005) featured the life histories of eight elderly men who were prominent in their communities when Ghana became an independent country. His new book presents the history of the Volta River Project and the hydroelectric Akosombo Dam, Ghana's largest development project, built in the 1960s. Although the Volta River Project was to industrialize and modernize the nation of Ghana, most electricity generated benefited an aluminum smelter owned by Kaiser Aluminum. Stephan's book will be accompanied by the documentary film Ghana's Electric Dream. In his VISTAS presentation Stephan will talk about his research on the Akosombo Dam, particularly the project's aspirations and unintended consequences, and show excerpts from his forthcoming film.

- **LOIS KAPLAN**, former President of VISTAS, will discuss the book *The Bad-Ass Librarians of Timbuktu* by Joshua Hammer, a former bureau chief for Newsweek and National Magazine award-winner in 2016. The book tells the story of how an archivist and his associates organized and executed the sneaking of over 350,000 priceless volumes out of the city of Timbuktu to safety in southern Mali, saving them from sure destruction by members of Al Qaeda. Lois is a graduate of the University of Michigan and holds an MSLS degree from Case Western Reserve University and spent 21 years as a secondary school librarian in her native Ohio.

- **GERRY CORRIGAN** will discuss Liberia. Liberia, sometimes erroneously called a former US colony, in its present form was founded by former slaves and free blacks from the US in the 1820s and declared itself an independent nation in 1847. After a hundred-plus years of relative peace and modest economic growth the country experienced a number of coups, counter-coups and civil wars in the late 20<sup>th</sup> century and now faces a critical Presidential election with two leading candidates with questionable credentials. Gerry, a native of Ireland, is a graduate of UCLA with a degree in economics and an MBA. While now retired from the consulting profession he continues as a financial arbitrator for FINRA in Los Angeles.

## VISTAS Calendar

Documentary Film Club	3rd Thurs Monthly	2:00 pm	Maravilla Theater
Nonfiction Book Club	3rd Wed Monthly	1:30 pm	Vista del Monte-Sierra Madre
Western Medicine Study Grp	1st Friday Feb - July	10:00 am	Private Home
Symphony Orchestra/Katz	Wed, Apr 12, 19, & 26	1:30 pm	Grace Gathering Church
Rural New England 1830's	Thurs, May 4	9:30 am	Valle Verde - Social Room
Mental Illness Touches Everyone	Wed, May 10	9:30 am	Valle Verde - Social Room
<b>Post-Colonial Africa</b>	<b>Fri, May 12, 19 &amp; 26</b>	<b>9:30 am</b>	<b>Goleta Library</b>
Presenters Workshop	Mon, May 22	9:30 am	Valle Verde - Social Room