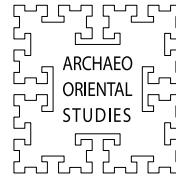




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***Manifestations of the postcolonial conflicts reflected in the costumes of African leaders***

**Abstract**

A clash of colonial and postcolonial way of perceiving the world is basic for postcolonial studies. Different manifestations of the conflicts resulting from the clash are to be observed, among others through symbolical meaning of African leaders' attires. Costumes of rulers and political leaders are generally speaking incorporated in the system of power and they serve as an element of its legitimisation. In case of postcolonial African leaders, costumes have also been used to convey a certain message making a statement in the ongoing postcolonial conflicts. Through this medium African leaders refer to local history, Pan-African history, world history and political situation, symbolism of different ideologies, they use elements of different traditions and apply invented traditions.

Reading the message presented by politicians' costumes is an indispensable addition to Africa's postcolonial history.