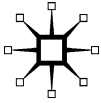


# The African Human Rights System

**The African Human  
Rights System**  
Origin and Evolution

Kofi Oteng Kufuor

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THE AFRICAN HUMAN RIGHTS SYSTEM

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## A C K N O W L E D G M E N T S

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This book began life as a paper entitled “The Origins of the Banjul Charter,” which was presented to a small seminar group at the British Institute of International and Comparative Law, in London (May 7, 2002). Constructive comments were made by all the participants but I am particularly grateful for the comments made by Ibrahima Kane at the time senior legal officer at the International Centre for the Legal Protection of Human Rights in London.

On the basis of the comments made at the British Institute seminar, a revised version entitled “The Puzzle of Collective Action: A Revisionist Challenge to the Received Explanation for the Adoption of the African Charter on Human and Peoples’ Rights” was presented at a Law and Development Research Group seminar in the School of Law, University of East London (February 28, 2005). The useful comments made at this seminar helped me consider expanding the paper into a book on the evolution of the African human rights system.

The task of writing this book was made much easier thanks to the excellent research assistance of my student Chioma Ishiodu. I owe her an eternal debt of gratitude for her hard work, her general support for the book, and, in particular, her swift responses to my last-minute requests for her time. Another student of mine, Cynthia Opoku-Gyamfi, was also of considerable assistance in the earlier stages of my research and my thanks go to her too.

My interest in human rights began in my postgraduate days at London School of Economics (LSE). Then professor, now Judge Rosalyn Higgins was responsible for this path in my intellectual development. She supervised my Masters dissertation entitled “Safeguarding Human Rights: The Paradox of the African Charter on Human and Peoples’ Rights” and through this, she helped nurture my ability to understand complex human rights law and to also write critically; little did I know, all those years ago, that my career as an academic had begun at her feet.

While at the LSE I had the privilege of taking a course on Human Rights in the Developing World at the School of Oriental and African Studies. My two lecturers for this course, Jane Connors and Michael Anderson, also did a lot to stimulate my interest in human rights and they too deserve my thanks. This interest in human rights, particularly economic, social, and cultural rights, was piqued further when I was doctoral student in the University of Warwick. My supervisor, Professor Upendra Baxi, helped me develop an interest in a sociological approach to the law the impact he has had on me is reflected in this book.

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