Carl had a long-standing interest in the politics of South Africa and in encouraging a peaceful transition to black majority rule. A series of conferences was held under the auspices of the Institute of International Studies. Together with one of his former students and colleague in the Department of Political Science at Berkeley, Robert M. Price, Carl coedited a volume on *The Apartheid Regime: Political Power and Racial Domination* in 1980.

As Africa's economic decline became clear in the late 1970s and early 1980s, political scientists sought an understanding of economic failure through an examination of the weaknesses of African political institutions. It would be no exaggeration to say that *Personal Rule in Black Africa: Prince, Autocrat, Prophet, Tyrant* (1982), coauthored with another of Carl's former students, Robert H. Jackson, was one of the most influential books in causing students of African politics to rethink the role and nature of government in African countries. A spinoff of this project was a 1982 article in *World Politics* on "Why Africa's Weak States Persist: The Empirical and the Juridical in Statehood"—a piece that was praised not only by students of Africa but by many international relations theorists as well.

Carl's willingness to collaborate in publishing with his students was indicative of his general concern for their careers and welfare. Many students of Africa, and many African students, owed their survival at Berkeley at least in part to research assistantships and other forms of support that Carl arranged. Carl's concern with the welfare of those he taught was regarded as eccentric by some of his colleagues. Carl devoted an enormous number of hours to seeking scholarships for African students, and helping them personally if they encountered problems with visas or with university or other authorities. Overseas students were invited to Thanksgiving and Christmas dinners with Carl and his wife Elizabeth. Carl's door was always open to students and colleagues during the long hours that he spent in his office. His concern for people was a principal reason why so many people associated with him at Berkeley regarded him as a friend as well as a colleague.

Carl Rosberg was a pioneer in the study of African politics in the United States and a leader in international studies on the Berkeley campus. After completing his D. Phil. at St. Antony’s College, Oxford, Carl took up an assistant professorship in government at Boston University in 1955 and was a research associate in its new African Studies Program. In 1958 he moved to the University of California at Berkeley where he remained until his retirement in 1991. Among his many achievements at Berkeley was to build an African Studies Program. Not only was he chair of the Committee on African Studies in 1959–63 and 1966–67, but he also served as Director of the Institute of International Studies from 1973 to 1989. In his role as Director of IIS, Carl instituted undergraduate majors in political economy and development studies, established a graduate fellowship program in international and comparative studies, and initiated active exchange programs with the former Soviet Union, the People’s Republic of China, and research centers in Africa. Especially important to Carl was the Nairobi Exchange Program, facilitating student exchanges between Berkeley and Kenya. Carl also served as Chairman of the Department of Political Science at Berkeley in 1969–74, guiding the department through a particularly difficult period.

Carl shouldered heavy administrative responsibilities for virtually all of his years at Berkeley. His ability to continue to publish throughout this period is testimony to his energy and to his enthusiasm for African politics. He traveled frequently to Africa; he had periods as Visiting Professor at Makerere University, the University of Nairobi, and the University of Dar es Salaam, where he was Head of the Department of Political Science for two years.


The decade of the 1960s was a particularly exciting time to be involved in the study of African politics. Countries were coming to independence; political parties were in transition; and there was considerable optimism about the prospects for regional integration. Some of the dynamism and energy of this period is captured in the book that Carl edited with his good friend, James S. Coleman, on *Political Parties and National Integration in Tropical Africa* (1964). This book became a standard authority for students in the field for many years. Many of the young scholars who contributed to the book subsequently went on to consolidate reputations as leading figures in the field of comparative politics. In the same year that *Political Parties and National Integration in Tropical Africa* was published, Carl also edited the first of two volumes that he was to publish on socialism in Africa. *African Socialism*, coedited with William Friedland, became a standard work on the subject and, like *The Myth of “Mau Mau,”* it played an important role in demolishing myths—on this occasion about the “socialist” nature of Africa’s parties. This statement applies *a fortiori* to the second volume on this topic, *Socialism in Sub-Saharan Africa: A New Assessment* (1979), coedited with Thomas M. Callaghy fifteen years after the publication of the first. With Africa experiencing the rise of a new wave of “socialist” parties in the former Portuguese colonies, this volume brought a timely reassessment of the meaning of socialism in Africa.

Continued on following page
The Carl G. Rosberg Memorial Fund for Research in Africa

To honor the memory of Carl G. Rosberg (1923-1996), a leader of international and area studies at Berkeley, the Chancellor of the University of California at Berkeley, the Dean of International and Area Studies, and the Director of the Institute of International Studies are establishing the Rosberg Scholar Award at the Institute of International Studies.

Undergraduate and graduate students will be eligible for the award, which will support research and study travel to Africa.

If you would like to contribute to this fund, you can use the form below.

Yes, I want to contribute to the Carl G. Rosberg Memorial Scholarship Fund for Research in Africa. Here is my check for $________,

made out to UC Regents—Rosberg Memorial Scholarship Fund.

Use the postage-paid envelope, or send your contribution directly to:

International and Area Studies Dean's Office
260 Stephens Hall #2300
University of California
Berkeley, CA 94720-2300

Your contribution is tax-deductible.
December 10, 1997

Dear Colleague:

To honor Carl Rosberg, who passed away a little more than a year ago on October 3, 1996, we have established a fund to carry on, in his memory, the important work that he began in his years as a Professor of Political Science, Director of the Institute for International Studies, and founder of the Center for African Studies at the University of California at Berkeley. We are writing to you in the hope that you will help us continue this work by making a contribution to the Rosberg Memorial Scholarship Fund. The scholarship will support travel and research in Africa for both graduate and undergraduate students at Berkeley. The opportunities that this fellowship will provide to young scholars will help to perpetuate Carl’s influence, inspiration, and the values that he upheld throughout his life.

As you well know, Carl left many enduring legacies at Berkeley, in Africa, and throughout the world. Indeed, Carl lives on in the indelible mark he made on his students and the many others whose lives he touched. As IIS Director, he had the vision and foresight to bring together all those on the Berkeley campus who had previously worked separately in traditional departments on international issues in order to create an interdisciplinary program in international studies. The result was the creation of two new and enormously successful interdisciplinary international majors: Political Economy of Industrial Societies (PEIS) and Development Studies (DS). The rapid growth of these majors confirms Carl’s innovative and imaginative vision. The Rosberg Memorial Scholarship Fund will provide these students with the opportunity to enrich their educational experience through research travel to Africa.

Carl also greatly advanced African Studies through his research and writing, through mentoring of graduate students, by bringing outstanding visiting Africanist scholars to Berkeley, and by developing exchanges with China and the Soviet Union. Indeed, Carl had the vision and foresight to establish those exchanges during a period when those societies were virtually closed to the American academic community. As head of the Political Science Department at Makerere University in Uganda and of the University of Dar es Salaam in Tanzania, and Head of the Education Abroad Program at the University of Nairobi, he greatly advanced the careers of African students. It was Carl’s genius to be open to the intellectual interests of others and to support them with whatever resources he could muster. And it is no exaggeration to note that many students of Africa and many African students owed their survival at Berkeley to the support that Carl gave them. His door was always open to students and colleagues, and his concern with
all of those with whom he came into contact was simply astounding. Indeed, Carl was an 
institution within an institution; yet he never lost a very humane personal touch. Now, those of us 
whom Carl helped, listened to, worked with, and mentored, have an opportunity to give 
something back and to perpetuate the network and institutions that he created.

The importance of establishing this fellowship now has been made even more potent by recent 
experience of human suffering, such as in Somalia, Rwanda, and Burundi. That experience has 
tragically demonstrated the pressing and immediate need for a better informed U.S. policy toward 
Africa, a policy based on sophisticated long-range planning, rather than a knee-jerk reaction to 
crisis. Carl was deeply aware of this need, and it inspired his effort to create a well-trained cadre 
of Africanist scholars in the United States. We believe that the establishment of this fellowship 
will go a long way to fulfill that need and in doing so, also keep Carl’s memory alive.

Carl Rosberg forged the path that many younger scholars are still following. His legacy of 
international interdisciplinary undergraduate programs, a lasting network of Africanist academics, 
and the emergence of Berkeley as a preeminent institution in comparative and international studies 
has provided a firm foundation for Berkeley graduate and undergraduate students wishing to 
undertake research in Africa. Those of us who knew Carl recognize what a privilege it was to 
wish a few steps in life’s journey by his side. It is our belief that this fellowship will provide a 
vehicle to continue in that journey. And it is our hope that you feel, as we do, that the Rosberg 
Scholar Fund is a fitting and important way to honor his memory and continue the work he began.

Sincerely,

Richard M. Buxbaum
Dean of International and Area Studies

For the Steering Committee:

Beverly Crawford
International and Area Studies Teaching Programs

Sanford Elberg, Dean and Professor Emeritus

Robert Price, Chair
Department of Political Science

Michael Watts, Director
Institute of International Studies

This scholarship still exists as the Rosberg-Geist Undergraduate Research Award
http://africa.berkeley.edu/rosberggeist-undergraduate-research