NIGGERS, NEGROES, BLACK PEOPLE AND AFRIKANS
By Paul Grant

Synopsis

If one were to try to describe in simple terms the problem this book seeks to address, then it could be summed up by the question 'Why Do We Lose?'. That is, why is it that wherever you go on this planet Afrikans are firmly rooted to the bottom of the socio-economic ladder. Why is it that Afrikan run countries, be they in Afrika or the Caribbean are so often economic and social basket cases? Why is it that so-called 'Black' organisations are generally dysfunctional? The book moves beyond simply describing these well known problems and sets out ideas describing 'How We Can Win'.

This book uses Black organisations as a vehicle for addressing these issues and is designed to act as a practical toolkit/handbook for individuals seeking to set up or who are currently active in community organisations. With this in mind the book is divided into very short chapters, similar to the approach adopted by Tony Browder in his book 'The Browder Files'. The rationale for this is to aid comprehension, provide a logical structure and encourage readers to dip in and dip out on a regular basis, using the book as an 'active resource' and aide memoir.

The 'journey' involves moving from the spiritual to the material, from the theoretical to the practical, from the strategic to the operational and from the macro to the micro. The author provides an initial statement of purpose and a personal overview of the 'state of the Afrikan nation'. He then move on to provide a conceptual and cultural analysis regarding the nature of organisations and the challenge facing community activists.

After looking at the challenges set before Afrikan people the author sets out his understanding of the Afrikan worldview and how this must be actively incorporated into the setting up and running of Afrikan organisations. Some of the key areas of people development are examined and he probes many of the operational aspects of running organisations and offers concrete suggestions for change/renewal.

There are two no holds barred chapters on the psychology and behaviour of Afrikan men which offer a challenge, critique and possible solutions.

The book provides an overview of strategies and barriers to community economic development including a case study based upon a community economic development company set up by the author. The final chapters provide an overview of the challenges facing Pan-Afrikanism if it is to move from the fringes of Afrikan daily life and struggle and there is an interesting analysis of the leadership qualities of Nelson Mandela, Robert Mugabe and Bill Clinton.

This book is written from an Afrikan-British experience whereas most similar books are written by Afrikan-Americans. It also combines a grassroots perspective with international and global analysis. The reader will find something in this book for them if they are simply looking for personal improvement and development or for an incisive socio-political analysis of Why We Lose.