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SOUTH AFRICA AND LIBYA IN THE FORMATION OF THE AFRICAN UNION (AU): IDEOLOGICAL VERSUS MATERIAL POWER

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SOUTH AFRICA AND LIBYA IN THE FORMATION OF THE AFRICAN UNION (AU): IDEOLOGICAL VERSUS MATERIAL POWER

BY

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SUPERVISOR: GILBERT KHADIAGALA

DECLARATION

MAY 21, 2010

I, Bekiwe L. Peppetta, declare that the thesis entitled:

SOUTH AFRICA AND LIBYA IN THE FORMATION OF THE AFRICAN UNION: IDEOLOGICAL VERSUS MATERIAL POWER

is my own work and that all the sources used have been acknowledged by means of complete references. To the best of my knowledge, this thesis has not been submitted before, for any degree or examination in any university in South Africa or elsewhere in the world.

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DEDICATION

I dedicate this thesis to God, my Master and source of inspiration;
and to my parents, Andrew and Laura Peppetta.

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It is with deep gratitude that I would like to thank:

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ABSTRACT

This thesis looks at the roles played by South Africa and Libya in the transformation of the Organization of African Unity (OAU) into the African Union (AU). South Africa and Libya were selected because they are both highly influential in Africa and very different from each other in leadership, politics, history, economics, languages, location and regional memberships. For each of the two countries, this thesis tries to determine what the most powerful explanations were for their foreign policy actions. Was it to maximize material power as postulated by realism or was it idealism as constructivists claim? Given the different political and leadership styles of each country, the thesis also examines which of the two variables, realism or constructivism, stood out more. The thesis concedes that though material power is important, it was both material and ideological concerns that were factors in South Africa and Libya's foreign policy decisions in the formation of the AU.

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