Capital Cities In Africa Power And Powerlessness Paperback

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this collection of essays examines the subject of power politics in africa paying special attention to the interests of african regional powers as well as their capabilities and strategies in the international arena it provides a theoretical bridge between concerns for militarised national interest perpetual distrust and insecurity struggles for power and hegemony in power politics

and the spirit of pan african solidarity brotherhood consensus cooperation and integration it is on these bases that this volume offers rich empirical insight into leading regional powers in africa with special attention given to nigeria and south africa it serves to contribute african perspectives to the field of international relations particularly regarding power politics which is important in terms of africanising the narratives of a subject matter that is largely considered as eurocentric in african and other non western societies

in recent years africa appears to have turned a corner economically it is posting increased growth rates and is no longer the world's slowest growing region commentators are beginning to ask whether emerging from africa is a new generation of lion economies to challenge the east asian tigers this book goes behind the headlines to examine the conditions necessary not just for growth in africa but for a wider business and economic transformation contrary to neoliberal economics it argues that governments can play an important role in this through selective interventions to correct market failures and controversially that neo patrimonial governance need not be an obstacle to improved business and economic conditions drawing on a variety of timely case studies including rwanda ethiopia tanzania and ghana this provocative book provides a radical new theory of the political and institutional conditions required for pro poor growth in africa

based on a meta theoretical approach and insights derived from analytic eclecticism as a comparative instrument olumuyiwa babatunde amao assesses nigeria and south africa s foreign policy and intervention behavior in africa with a special focus on the conflict episodes in sierra leone 1991 1998 and the democratic republic of congo drc 1997 2005 the foreign policy and intervention behavior of africa s middle powers an analytic eclecticism approach explores the relative merits of structural realism and social constructivism in explaining nigeria and south africa s motives and intervention behavior and why more than one theoretical perspective is required to sufficiently analyze the complexity of their intervention decisions and behavior it demonstrates the overlapping nexus between conflict intervention structural constraints relative power pursuit and the dynamics of regional complexes amao demonstrates how nigeria and south africa s relative power positions identities as african actors de colonization and anti apartheid struggles and the existing values and bonds that their contiguous states share play a crucial role in their intervention behavior using sierra leone and the drc as case studies this book illustrates the advantage of applying a multi perspective eclectic approach to foreign policy analysis and provides an alternative to the theoretical turf wars that are all too prevalent in the discipline of international relations

sustainable infrastructure development is vital for africa s prosperity and now is the time to begin the transformation this volume is the culmination of an unprecedented effort to document analyze and interpret the full extent of the challenge in developing sub saharan africa s infrastructure sectors as a result it represents the most comprehensive reference currently available on infrastructure in the region the book covers the five main economic infrastructure sectors information and communication technology irrigation power transport and water and sanitation africa's infrastructure a time for transformation reflects the collaboration of a wide array of african regional institutions and development partners under the auspices of the infrastructure consortium for africa it presents the findings of the africa infrastructure country diagnostic aicd a project launched following a commitment in 2005 by the international community after the g8 summit at gleneagles scotland to scale up financial support for infrastructure development in africa the lack of reliable information in this area made it difficult to evaluate the success of past interventions prioritize current allocations and provide benchmarks for measuring future progress hence the need for the aicd africa's infrastructure sectors lag well behind those of the rest of the world and the gap is widening some of the main policy relevant findings highlighted in the book include the following infrastructure in the region is exceptionally expensive with tariffs being many times higher than those found elsewhere inadequate and expensive infrastructure is retarding growth by 2 percentage points each year solving the problem will cost over us 90 billion per year which is more than twice what is being spent in africa today however money alone is not the answer prudent policies wise management and sound maintenance can improve efficiency thereby stretching the infrastructure dollar there is the potential to recover an additional us 17 billion a year from within the existing infrastructure resource envelope simply by improving efficiency for example improved revenue collection and utility management could generate us 3 3 billion per year regional power trade could reduce annual costs by us 2 billion and deregulating the trucking industry could reduce freight costs by one half so raising more funds without also tackling inefficiencies would be like pouring water into a leaking bucket finally the power sector and fragile states represent particular challenges even if every efficiency in every infrastructure sector could be captured a substantial funding gap of 31 billion a year would remain nevertheless the african people and economies cannot wait any longer now is the time to begin the transformation to sustainable development

takes an in depth look at twenty six economic and social development successes in sub saharan african countries and addresses how these countries have overcome major developmental challenges

this book will rightfully head many a reading list c allen british book news power in africa casts a fresh look at contemporary black african politics it reviews the merits and failings of existing interpretations of africa's post colonial society and offers a new approach to its understanding it has two main aims first to present a comparative conceptual framework which places africa's politics within its appropriate historical context second to offer an explanation of what is actually happening in africa beyond the clichs of a dark continent perennially in crisis

power sector reform and regulation in africa offers detailed up to date and original research into how governments and policymakers in six african countries have grappled with the development of their energy sectors arising out of a two year peer learning process involving senior executives in the electricity regulators in each country the book contains an intelligent and clear analysis of the knowledge and shared experiences gathered in africa by african scholars publisher s note

human rights as a legal concept and codification of human dignity were late to arrive in africa its evolution on this continent is to be seen against the background of the dynamic development of human rights within the united nations system and that of international law although the impetus of this evolution is owed to the struggles within african states in the pre colonial colonial and post independence eras human rights are rights inherent to all human beings whatever our nationality place of residence sex national or ethnic origin color religion language or any other status we are all equally entitled to our human rights without discrimination these rights are all interrelated interdependent and indivisible universal human rights are often expressed and guaranteed by law in the forms of treaties customary international law general principles and other sources of international law international human rights law lays down obligations of governments to act in certain ways or to refrain from certain acts in order to promote and protect human rights and fundamental freedoms of individuals or groups human rights are inalienable they should not be taken away except in specific situations and according to due process for example the right to liberty may be restricted if a person is found guilty of a crime by a court of law interdependent and indivisible all human rights are indivisible whether they are civil and political rights such as the right to life equality before the law and freedom of expression economic social and cultural rights such as the rights to work social security and education or collective rights such as the rights to development and self determination are indivisible interrelated and interdependent the improvement of one right facilitates advancement of the others likewise the deprivation of one right adversely affects the others equal and non discriminatory non discrimination is a crosscutting principle in international human rights law the principle is present in all the major human rights treaties and provides the central theme of some of international human rights conventions such as the international convention on the elimination of all forms of discrimination and the convention on the elimination of all forms of discrimination against women human rights as parts of moral discourse have significant implication on content of political social and economic life of human beings

in africa the distribution of power and powerlessness seems to be more rigid than on other continents political power is in the hands of narrow elites while the overwhelming majority has hardly any access to decision making the common denominator of this book is the notion of power it follows the analytical differentiation between the concept of power over that which is largely used by mainstream political science and the concept of power as social practice the book asks pertinent questions on how power is composed created and used on the african continent series afrikanische studien african studies vol 43

capital cities today remain central to both nations and states they host centres of political power not only national but in some cases regional and global as well thus offering major avenues to success wealth and privilege for these reasons capitals simultaneously become centres of counter power locations of high stakes struggles between the government and the opposition this volume focuses on capital cities in nine sub saharan african countries and traces how the power vested in them has evolved through different colonial backgrounds radically different kinds of regimes after independence waves of popular protest explosive population growth and in most cases stunted economic development starting at the point of national political emancipation each case study explores the complicated processes of nation state building through its manifestation in the urban geology of the city its architecture iconography layout and political use of urban space although the evolution of each of these cities is different they share a critical demographic feature an extraordinarily rapid process of urbanisation that is more politically than economically driven overwhelmed by the inevitable challenges resulting from this urban sprawl the governments seated in most of these capital cities are in effect both powerful wielding power over their populace and powerless lacking power to implement their plans and to provide for their inhabitants publisher description

this report presents three hypothetical case studies for how the aids epidemic in africa could evolve over the next 20 years based on policy decisions taken today by african leaders and the rest of the world and considers the factors likely to drive the future responses of african countries and the international community the scenarios draw on the age old tradition of story

telling rather than using data projections to explore the wider context of the aids epidemic reflecting the complexity of the subject matter

theories of international relations assumed to be universally applicable have failed to explain the creation of states in africa there the interaction of power and space is dramatically different from what occurred in europe in states and power in africa jeffrey herbst places the african state building process in a truly comparative perspective herbst s bold contention that the conditions now facing african state builders existed long before european penetration of the continent is sure to provoke controversy for it runs counter to the prevailing assumption that colonialism changed everything this revised edition includes a new preface in which the author links the enormous changes that have taken place in africa over the past fifteen years to long term state consolidation the final chapter on policy prescriptions has also been revised to reflect the evolution of african and international responses to state failure

this book is the indirect result of more than twenty years of work in eastern and southern africa that work began with the half baked construction of a small dam a village grain store that fell down a few years later and many nights of enthusiastic discussion of the arusha declaration in a tanzanian ujamaa village ben wisner makes an impassioned case for giving the poor of africa the means to develop their own future he shows how a new african renaissance could spring from a radical basic needs approach a renaissance which has as its constituent elements environmental sustainability women s emancipation and social justice will stand as the living refutation of the new conservative pragmatism so fashionable among development experts now

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