indeed accomplishes precisely what the editors hoped for, a most productive process of raising questions and evoking cross-disciplinary conversations.

JENNIFER L. MORGAN

Rutgers, The State University of New Jersey


Written by a prominent African theorist of African international relations, this book contributes to the debate over the degree to which the colonial era still influences contemporary African international relations. According to scholars belonging to the dependency school of thought, the granting of legal independence beginning in the 1950s did little to alter the constraining web of economic, political, military, and cultural ties that continued to bind African countries to the former colonial powers. Even in those former colonies where the European power was either too weak (e.g., Spain) or not sufficiently interested (e.g., Britain) to preserve privileged ties, the rise of the Cold War and superpower intervention ensured the gradual replacement of European neocolonial relationships with a new set of ties dominated by China, Japan, Russia, the United States, and the other great powers of the second half of the twentieth century. Scholars of an alternative decolonization school of thought argue instead that legal independence was but the first step of an evolutionary process permitting African leaders to assume greater control over their respective political and social systems. According to this perspective, although external influences were extremely powerful in the immediate postindependence era, layer upon layer of this foreign control—beginning with legal independence and followed by growing sovereignty in other realms—is slowly being peeled away with the passage of time.

Ihonvbere's book clearly falls within the dependency side of the debate. "It is so easy to forget that most of the predicaments of Africa today are precipitates of Western imperialism," notes Ihonvbere (p. xii), who subsequently provides an elegant analysis of a wide array of issues that are crucial for understanding African international relations at the beginning of the twenty-first century: the
debtfree crisis (Chapter 2), politics of structural adjustment (Chapter 3), human rights (Chapter 4), regional integration (Chapter 5), democratic transitions (Chapter 6), and globalization (Chapter 7). In sharp contrast to classic dependency theorists, however, Ihonvbere stresses the ability of African elites, social movements, and intellectuals to take advantage of Africa’s marginalization in the post–Cold War era to promote an “internally generated agenda for change, growth, development, and self reliance” that will be capable of restructuring Africa’s ties with the international community. “Rather than complain about marginalization, this is the opportunity for Africa to exploit increasing disinterest and to drastically alter internal relations of power, politics, production, and exchange,” argues Ihonvbere (pp. xii–xiii). Since the developed nations “have so far made only cosmetic and selective responses to Africa’s predicament, only a genuine restructuring of internal socioeconomic and political relations to reflect the interests of the majority can empower the region to effectively participate in an increasingly competitive global division of labor and power.” In short, Ihonvbere’s book is a must read for anyone interested in a critical examination of the current political economy of African international relations that nonetheless offers an optimistic set of conclusions as to how Africans can restructure their national and regional orders in the quest for the ultimate creation of a new world order.

PETER J. SCHRAEDER
Loyola University Chicago


With Zimbabwe’s political and economic struggles making headlines even in the United States in recent years, Norma Kriger’s book is a timely revision of the history of peace building in Zimbabwe during the 1980s. In her political history, Kriger argues that to understand Zimbabwe’s current politics and the process of postwar transition more generally, we need to view peace building as a political process in which people and organizations use negotiations, settlements, and the implementation of those settlements not only to create peace and democracy, but also to build power. “Rather than seeking to evaluate the settlement as an