TO CATHERINE ANNE

You Complete Me

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Chapter 9:

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FROM THE MOMENT I stepped off the plane in Mogadishu, Somalia, during the summer of 1985, I knew that my decision to make the study of African politics and society a lifelong endeavor was the right one. A gentle breeze from the Indian Ocean broke the heat of the moonlit evening and the sounds of passengers returning to their families and friends filled the night. A Somali oral poet sang beautiful, mesmerizing chants as he stepped onto the tarmac, rejoicing in his return home. The poet expressed a joy and excitement that I especially felt, as this was my first visit to a continent that was the focus of my studies. In the months that followed, I too began to feel at home, having been welcomed into the lives and families of Somali friends and colleagues. I reveled in learning Somali politics and culture, bargaining with street vendors and market women, sipping Somali spiced tea with village elders, interviewing members of the Somali government, and exploring the vast reaches of the countryside. Somalia had become a new home for me — an experience that would repeat itself often in the next fourteen years as I lived, worked, and traveled in more than half of Africa’s fifty-three countries.

In each place that I have lived and worked, I have learned lessons that are reflected in this book. In Senegal, West Africa, I had the privilege of teaching for two years at Cheikh Anta Diop University, one of Africa’s oldest institutions of higher learning, named after the famed Senegalese historian. A highlight of this period was one of several visits to Gorée Island — the transshipment point for thousands of slaves destined for the Americas — with Keith June, a very close African-American friend who came to Senegal to better understand the African diaspora. This visit, and our extended, nightly discussions with my Senegalese friends, most notably the family of Professor Elhadji Mbodj and his brother Bathie, personalized the destructive impact of the slave trade, as well as its creation of an equally indelible cultural link between Africa and the United States. Indeed, this experience reinforced my belief that any contemporary understanding of African politics and society by necessity had to draw upon the past.

Working in Southern Africa offered similar lessons of the importance of history. In the case of Zimbabwe, a visit to the massive stone enclosures known
as Great Zimbabwe offered testament to the rise and decline of hundreds, if not thousands, of sophisticated African empires and political systems that pre-dated the arrival of the colonial powers. Great Zimbabwe’s importance as a political icon for nationalist movements is clearly demonstrated by the decision of Zimbabwean leaders to adopt Zimbabwe as the name of their country. In the case of South Africa, one only has to visit the former prison cell of President Nelson Mandela on Robben Island to appreciate the resilience of this African nationalist spirit and its ability to transform the colonial legacy.

The greatest lessons, however, are ultimately taught by people and not places. My interviews with members of Botswana’s legislature offered compelling views on the future of democratic consolidation, derived from their participation in Africa’s longest-running democracy. Research meetings with members of the Council for the Development of Social Science Research in Africa (CODESRIA), the largest pan-African research institute located in Dakar, Senegal, introduced me to the exciting research projects and networks that are being advanced throughout the African continent. Evenings of discussions with Burkinabé, who regularly went to the cinema in Ouagadougou, Burkina Faso — the site of the world-renowned, biannual Pan-African Film Festival (FESPACO) — taught me the nuances of the politics of African cinema. Even the art of travel itself has offered impressive opportunities to learn. While traveling from Dar es Salaam, Tanzania, to Lusaka, Zambia, on the Tanzanian-Zambian (TANZAM) railroad, for example, an invitation to share food with Zambian railroad workers returning home for vacation turned into a fascinating all-night discussion about the prospects of regional integration. The stories and lives of these and other African citizens serve as the cornerstone of my understanding of continuity and change in African politics and society. It is through their lives and works that I seek to introduce the reader to the fascinating worlds of the African continent.

About This Volume

This book represents the first comprehensive, solely authored textbook to examine continuity and change in African politics and society from the precolonial era to the present, with particular focus on the post–Cold War era (1989–present). Each chapter stands alone, allowing the reader to select those topics that are of the greatest interest. For example, those who do not wish to focus on theory can skip Part II (“Rival Theoretical Perspectives”) and begin with any of the topics described in Parts III through VI. Each chapter emphasizes the major themes of a topic through illustrative case studies. The range of case studies includes countries from all regions and colonial traditions of the African continent. Each chapter concludes with a list of readings for further exploration and research. Boxed elements highlight fundamental issues of importance.

The book is divided into six major parts. Part I is comprised of an introductory chapter that sets out the major themes of the book. This chapter also
introduces the reader to a wide variety of resources to carry out research on Africa, including the addresses of the most extensive Web sites devoted to African politics and society and a list of the most noteworthy African studies journals. An appendix provides a country-by-country list of 128 introductory volumes, bibliographies, and historical dictionaries for undertaking library-based research on individual African countries.

Part II explores the general evolution of two rival theoretical perspectives that have competed in their quest to explain African politics and society. The liberal tradition (Chapter 2) envisions the development of free-market democracies on the African continent similar to those found in Western democracies. The critical tradition (Chapter 3) offers important critiques of the prevailing liberal model of development and, in its most extreme form, emphasizes that true development will only occur in the aftermath of revolutionary struggle and the creation of socialist regimes throughout the continent. Each chapter concludes with a discussion of theoretical developments in the post–Cold War era.

The thematic focus of Part III is the historical context of African politics and society and its importance in a comprehensive understanding of contemporary Africa. Chapter 3 explores the rich mosaic of political and economic systems that existed during the precolonial independence era (prior to 1884). Chapter 4 outlines the political and economic impacts of the colonial era (1884–1951), including an extended discussion of the slave trade. Finally, Chapter 5 discusses the rise of African nationalism and the emergence of the contemporary independence era (1951–present). Together these three chapters provide the basis for assessing continuity and change in African politics and society from the precolonial era to the present.

Part IV focuses on the sociocultural context of contemporary trends on the African continent. This section begins (Chapter 7) with a discussion of two concepts—ethnicity and class—that have served as the basis of often competing interpretations. Although each concept is capable of explaining one piece of the African puzzle, neither alone is capable of explaining society or politics as a whole. Chapter 8 examines how three major ideologies—capitalism, socialism, and Marxism—have competed for influence in the development strategies of African leaders during the contemporary independence era. We examine whether the different ideological pathways have led to greater or lesser development performance, or if all African ideologies have performed equally well during the contemporary independence era. This section concludes (Chapter 9) with an analysis of the political themes of the African novel, a form of African literature that increasingly is recognized by social scientists as a unique means of gaining insights into African politics and society.

Part V is devoted to explaining continuity and change in governance throughout the African continent. This discussion begins (Chapter 10) with a discussion of the evolving relationships between African states and civil societies. An important theme of this chapter is that the state-society relationship serves as an important foundation of a comprehensive understanding of African
politics and society. Chapter 11 explores the nature and impacts of one state actor — African militaries — through an analysis of military coups d’état and the rise and decline of military governance during the contemporary independence era. Special attention is paid to understanding the prospects for demilitarization and transitions to civilian rule. Finally, Chapter 12 explores the African continent’s highly diverse experiments in democracy, ranging from the single-party regimes of the 1960s to the multiparty regimes associated with the so-called third wave of democratization at the end of the twentieth century.

The last section of the book is devoted to the foreign relations of the African continent during the contemporary independence era. Chapter 13 begins with an analysis of the various actors involved in the formulation and implementation of African foreign policies. The remainder of the chapter examines the development of the “pan-African ideal” of African political and economic cooperation, as witnessed by the efforts of the Organization of African Unity (OAU) and a variety of projects in regional economic integration. Finally, Chapter 14 explores Africa’s relationships with a host of international actors, most notably the United States, France, the International Monetary Fund (IMF), and the United Nations. A special focus is placed on understanding the evolution of Great Power competition in Africa, from the ideologically based Cold War (1947–89) to the economically motivated Cold Peace of the 1990s and beyond.

Acknowledgments

Several individuals and institutions provided invaluable support during the process of writing this book. First and foremost, an intellectual debt is due Mark W. DeLancey, who continues to share his excitement for all things African with his colleagues and students at the University of South Carolina. Thanks to Mark’s grant-writing acumen, I was able to take part in a linkage project in Somalia and begin my own lifelong journey in the field of African studies. Although fourteen years have passed since I last took a graduate course with Mark, he and others who know him will recognize much of his thinking in this book.

This book has also greatly benefited from the intellectual exchanges with my own students at Loyola University Chicago during the last ten years. It is through the trial and error of teaching this course to literally hundreds of undergraduate and graduate students that I have been able to hone my arguments and focus on those topics of greatest importance. During this period, I have had the privilege of working with several highly motivated graduate assistants who contributed to the completion of this book, including Brian Endless, David Jesuit, Jonathan Riggs, Bruce Taylor, and Patrick Van Inwegen. I particularly wish to thank Mara Naselli, a graduate assistant whose interest in Africa led her to contribute countless hours of her substantial research and
of one state d'état and its monetary independence for demilitarization of the Central American isthmus. The authorized edition of the Second Edition has been placed on the market by the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) in collaboration with the Cuban government. The book is meant to be used as a teaching aid in higher education institutions and as a reference for researchers and policymakers.

In the editorial process, the author, a renowned scholar in the field of international relations, has worked closely with a team of editors and proofreaders. Their dedication and expertise have contributed significantly to the final manuscript. The author is grateful for their invaluable assistance and acknowledges their efforts.

The manuscript was reviewed by a panel of experts from various prestigious institutions, including the American Political Science Association, the Council on Foreign Relations, and the Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars. Their critical feedback and suggestions have helped shape the book into its current form.

Several institutions, including universities and research organizations, have provided essential support throughout the writing process. The author is deeply grateful for the financial assistance and resources made available by these institutions.

The author extends special thanks to the numerous individuals who have contributed to the project in various capacities, from providing encouragement to offering substantive feedback. Their contributions have been integral to the success of this endeavor.
Stratford Publishing Services, as well as Jennifer Campbell, my copyeditor, expertly polished and transformed my manuscript into a book.

Last but not least, my family and friends have provided constant encouragement during the writing process. As I recognized long before I was initiated to the concept of clan politics during my initial fieldwork in Somalia, one's extended families are the key to success in any endeavor. Toward this end, I wish to thank Bill and Helen, Bill and Laura, Tom and Jorja, Jason and Tammy, Jerry, Paul, Phillip, Tricia and all other members of the extended Schraeder clan, and especially my newborn son, Maximilian Edward Schraeder. I also wish to thank my wife's family, the Scanlons, particularly Patrick and Marianne, John and Julie, Susan and Mike, Elizabeth and Scott, Margaret, Emmie, Abbie, Jack, Patrick, and Katy. As many of you will note as you read this book, Marianne's artful eye is responsible for the production of several photographs. Her artful wit was equally valuable during the writing process.

My greatest sustenance, however, remains my wife, Catherine Anne, to whom this book is dedicated. We met as a result of the Fulbright program, she leaving for Bangladesh and I for Senegal. When my Fulbright grant was renewed for a second year, Catherine Anne joined me in West Africa, and we were subsequently married on the Island of Zanzibar. Together we have witnessed and experienced many of the events recorded in this book, and she has spent innumerable nights reading and critiquing successive drafts of every chapter. As a result, this book is as much Catherine Anne's as it is mine.

I alone, however, take full responsibility for the substantive arguments put forth in these pages; readers are asked to point any criticisms squarely in my direction. Please email all comments to <pschrac@luc.edu>.

Peter J. Schraeder
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PETER J. SCHRAEDER received his doctorate in international studies from the University of South Carolina, after completing undergraduate work in French language and politics at the Sorbonne and international studies at Bradley University. He is currently an associate professor in the department of political science at Loyola University Chicago where he also teaches as part of the interdisciplinary black world studies and international studies programs. A specialist of African politics and international relations, Schraeder has lived, worked, or traveled in more than half of the fifty-three countries that comprise the African continent. In addition to teaching at Cheikh Anta Diop University in Senegal (1994–96) as part of the prestigious Fulbright scholar exchange program, Schraeder has held visiting appointments at Somali National University (1985), the African Studies Program at Northwestern University (1989–90), the Harare (Zimbabwe) branch of the French Institute of African Research (1996), and the Faculty of Law and Economics at the University of French Guadeloupe (1999). Schraeder’s research has been published in such diverse scholarly journals as African Affairs, The Journal of Modern African Studies, The Journal of Politics, Middle East Journal, Politique Africaine, and World Politics. He is the author of United States Foreign Policy toward Africa: Incrementalism, Crisis, and Change (1994) and the editor of Intervention in the 1980s: U.S. Foreign Policy in the Third World (1988) and Intervention into the 1990s: U.S. Foreign Policy in the Third World (1992). Forthcoming books include United States Intervention Abroad: The New Millennium and Exporting Democracy? Rhetoric versus Reality in the International Pursuit of Democratization. Schraeder’s tenure (1998–99) as president of the International Studies Association/Midwest (ISA/Midwest) is complemented by active involvement in a wide variety of professional organizations, most notably the African Studies Association (ASA) and the International Studies Association (ISA).
Understanding the African Renaissance

THE AFRICAN CONTINENT is in the midst of a renaissance of monumental proportions. The 1994 inauguration of Nelson Mandela as South Africa's first democratically elected president symbolized the successful efforts of thousands of African pro-democracy groups to instill democratic practices throughout the African continent. Mandela's willingness to embrace his former captors of nearly twenty-eight years to construct a new South Africa embodied the vision of a new generation of African leaders — a generation committed to creating multiracial and multiethnic societies based on an ethic of tolerance, the protection of universal human rights, and the rule of law. African policymakers, technocrats, and private entrepreneurs are also at the forefront of restructuring once-moribund African economies to unleash the African entrepreneurial spirit. As a result, once-dismal projections of Africa's inability to feed itself are being replaced by increasingly positive projections of rising food production. The African renaissance is perhaps best captured by the flourishing of newspapers, radio and television, and literature that is accompanying the progressive decline of state-sponsored censorship. A new generation of African reporters, writers, and scholars remains firmly committed to protecting and strengthening the democratic achievements of the last decade of the twentieth century. As a result, the dawn of the new millennium constitutes an exciting period of change and opportunity for all those interested in the future evolution of the African continent and its peoples.

Approaching the Study of African Politics and Society

Several themes guide our analysis of the nature and evolution of Africa's social, economic, and political renaissance in the chapters that follow.

African Continent Is a Rich Mosaic of Diversity

First and foremost, the African continent is a rich mosaic of tremendously diverse countries and peoples (see Map 1.1). Encompassing a landmass three times larger than the continental United States, Africa is comprised of fifty-three sovereign countries that range in size from the microstate of Djibouti (approximately the size of Massachusetts) to the continental giant of Sudan (approximately the size of Western Europe). The populations of African countries are equally diverse in both size and ethnicity. Whereas the Seychelles have a population of less than 100,000 Seychellois of mixed African, South Asian, and European descent, Nigeria leads the continent with over 100 million citizens divided among nearly 250 ethnic groups. Economically, oil-rich Libya boasts a gross national product (GNP) per capita of over $5,000, whereas economically impoverished Mozambique struggles to recover from decades of civil war with a GNP per capita of less than $100. The political dimension of this African mosaic is also diverse. Proclaiming adherence to the major political ideologies of the twentieth century, African leaders have variously employed capitalism, Marxism, socialism, and Islamic revivalism as the bases
endowed for creating a wide variety of political regimes, including monarchies, military dictatorships, Islamic republics, and liberal democracies.

MAP 1.1 Contemporary Africa

A second theme of this book is that a complete understanding of African politics and society requires a continental perspective inclusive of both North and South Africa. Classic studies often focus exclusively on Sub-Saharan Africa, but this book seeks to examine the continental trends that transcend individual regions and therefore provide us with a comprehensive understanding of African social, political, and economic development.
politics and society. For example, one by necessity must focus on both Saharan and Sub-Saharan Africa in order to understand the rise and decline of the trans-Saharan trade network during the precolonial and colonial eras, as well as the subsequent impact of this trend on contemporary African politics and society. Similarly, any comprehensive understanding of the rise of African nationalism and the emergence of the contemporary independence era must necessarily begin with that region — North Africa — which witnessed the first wave of nationalism and independence during the 1950s. In short, a comprehensive understanding of African politics and society requires the bridging of the gap that historically has separated studies of Saharan and Sub-Saharan Africa.

**To Understand the Present, One Must Understand the Past**

A third theme of this book is that any comprehensive understanding of contemporary African politics and society must draw upon Africa’s past. The evolution of African history can be divided into three broad historical periods:

1. **Precolonial Independence Era (prior to 1884):** A rich and varied political history of the rise and fall of hundreds, if not thousands, of independent African political systems.

2. **Colonial Era (1884–1951):** The period of direct European colonial rule in which the vast majority of previously independent African political systems were replaced by colonial states controlled by Belgium, Britain, France, Germany, Italy, Portugal, and Spain. The Berlin Conference of 1884, a gathering primarily attended by the European Great Powers that consecrated the creation of formal empires in Africa, marks the beginning of this period.

3. **Contemporary Independence Era (1951–present):** A new era of political independence, marked by the end of colonialism and the emergence of the fifty-three countries that currently comprise the African continent. This period began symbolically with Libya’s independence in 1951 and continues to the present.

The primary focus of this book is the politics and society of the contemporary independence era. However, to fully understand the antecedents of these contemporary issues, Part III, “Historical Context,” is devoted to exploring the politics and economics of the precolonial independence era (Chapter 4), the political and economic impacts of colonialism (Chapter 5), and the decolonization process that led to the emergence of the contemporary independence era (Chapter 6). These historical chapters enable the reader to assess the broad historical sweep of continuity and change in African politics and society and the degree to which the past influences the present.

The **dependency-decolonization debate** over the degree to which the colonial era still influences contemporary African politics and society testifies to the significance of understanding the past. According to scholars belonging to
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the dependency school of thought, the granting of legal independence that began 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 (see Chapter 3). This conceptualization of African politics — often referred to as neocolonialism — is especially prominent in writings about the relationship between France and its former colonies, primarily due to policies designed to maintain what French policymakers refer to as their chasse gardée (an exclusive hunting ground) in francophone Africa. Even in those former colonies where the European power was either too weak (e.g., Spain) or uninterested (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 Moscow and Washington. According to this perspective, direct colonial rule has been replaced by a series of neocolonial relationships that perpetuates external domination of African politics and society.

Scholars of the 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 is slowly being “peeled away” with the passage of time. While carefully underscoring that individual African countries can follow different pathways, proponents of the decolonization school argue that the most common pattern of political self-realization begins with legal independence, followed by efforts to assure national sovereignty in the military, economic, and cultural realms. “In this view, each layer of colonial influence is supported by the others, and as each is removed, it uncovers and exposes the next underlying one, rendering it vulnerable, untenable, and unnecessary,” explains I. William Zartman, one of the most prominent proponents of the decolonization school. “Thus, there is a natural progression to the removal of colonial influence: its speed can be varied by policy and effort, but the direction and evolution are inherent in the process and become extremely difficult to reverse.” Although the dependency-decolonization debate is far from being resolved, the year 2018 will mark a symbolic turning point as the contemporary independence era (1951–2018) will have then lasted as long as the colonial era (1884–1951).

Influential Impact of the International System

A fourth theme of the chapters that follow is that changes in the international system have significantly influenced African politics and society. From the middle of the fifteenth to the end of the nineteenth centuries, the international community’s acceptance of slavery as a legitimate form of commerce had a devastating impact on the African continent. It has been estimated that the European and Arab slave trades together were responsible for the forced
BOX 1.1
RESEARCHING AFRICA I: AFRICA ON THE INTERNET

The following four categories of electronic addresses provide useful starting points for carrying out research related to Africa on the internet.

Places to Start (wide range of information)
African Studies WWW (U. Penn)
http://www.sas.upenn.edu/African_Studies/AS.html
Harvard Africa Studies — Useful Links
http://www.fas.harvard.edu/cafrica/
Berkeley-Stanford Joint Center for African Studies
http://www-portfolio.stanford.edu/103667
African Studies Internet Resources — Columbia
http://www.columbia.edu/cu/libraries/indiv/area/Africa/
Northwestern University
http://www.nwu.edu/african-studies/

Contemporary News Updates
African News Online
http://www.africanews.org/index.html
Electronic News on Africa (Columbia University)
http://www.columbia.edu/cu/libraries/indiv/area/Africa/ejournals.html
Washington Post — Africa Regional Page
New York Times
http://www.nyt.com

Title VI (U.S. government-funded) African Resource Centers
Boston University
http://www.bu.edu/afri/
Central Connecticut State University
http://www.ccsu.ctstateu.edu/afstudy
Columbia University
http://www.columbia.edu/cu/libraries/indiv/area/Africa/
Howard University
http://www.howard.edu/
Indiana University — Bloomington
http://www.indiana.edu/~afrist/
Lincoln University
http://aux.lincoln.edu/departments/poli-sci/
Tuskegee University
http://www.tusk.edu/
Michigan State University
http://www.h-net.msu.edu/~africa/
Ohio State University and Ohio University
http://www.ohiou.edu/ (Ohio University) or
http://www.acs.ohio-state.edu/ (Ohio State)
Stanford University
http://www-portfolio.stanford.edu/103667
University of California — Berkeley and Stanford University
http://www-portfolio.stanford.edu/103667
University of California — Los Angeles
http://www.isop.ucla.edu/jscas/cas/
University of Florida — Gainesville
http://www.clas.ufl.edu/africa
University of Illinois — Champaign/Urbana
http://wsi.cso.uiuc.edu/CAS/
University of Kansas
http://www.ukans.edu/~afs/
University of Pennsylvania with Bryn Mawr, Haverford and Swarthmore Colleges
http://www.sas.upenn.edu/African_Studies/AS.html
University of Wisconsin-Madison
http://polyglot.lss.wisc.edu/afrst/asphome.html
Yale University
http://www.yale.edu/yco/ycps/A-D/afamstFM.html

Non-United States-Based Resource Centers
African Studies Centre (Afrika-Studiecentrum) (Leiden, The Netherlands)
http://www.fsw.leidenuniv.nl/www/w3_asc/
Center for African Area Studies, Kyoto University (Japan)
http://www.africa.kyoto-u.ac.jp/
Center for Afrikastudier (Copenhagen, Denmark)
http://www.teol.ku.dk/cas/default.htm
Centre d'Etude d'Afrique Noire (CEAN) (Bordeaux, France)
http://www.cean.u-bordeaux.fr/
Institut für Afrika-Studien (Bayreuth, Germany)
http://endjinn.soas.ac.uk/AEGIS/bayreuth.html
removal and enslavement of more than thirty million Africans (see Chapter 5). This international norm was finally rejected during the nineteenth century, only to be replaced by the legitimization of Europe’s occupation of Africa and the creation and expansion of European empires.

Three watershed events significantly influenced the international balance of power and the evolution of African politics and society during the twentieth century. First, the extended global conflict of World War II heralded the decline of Europe as the most powerful region of the world, as well as the rise of the United States and the former Soviet Union as the unparalleled superpowers of the twentieth century. Africa’s direct involvement in the war began with fascist Italy’s invasion and occupation of Ethiopia in 1935. The war weakened the European empires to such a degree that the first wave of decolonization began during the 1950s. Subsequent waves of decolonization ensured that, except in the case of Spain’s continued control over two small coastal enclaves (Ceuta and Melilla) in Morocco, African independence from direct colonial rule was largely complete by the end of the twentieth century (see Chapter 6).

Another watershed event of the twentieth century was the outbreak of the Cold War (1947–89). An important outcome of this ideological struggle was the emergence of the African continent as a battlefield for proxy wars between the United States and the former Soviet Union. During the 1960s, for example, the White House ordered a series of covert campaigns in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (Congo-Kinshasa; formerly Zaire) that not only led to the assassination of Prime Minister Patrice Lumumba (denounced in Washington as a “Castro or worse”), but also ensured the rise to power in 1965 of a pro-West military strongman, Mobutu Sese Seko. The Cold War also fostered the longevity of numerous African dictators who were courted by the super-
powers with lavish offers of economic and military aid in exchange for loyalty. In the case of Congo-Kinshasa, the United States provided Mobutu’s military dictatorship with approximately $1.5 billion in economic and military aid during a period of more than twenty-five years. As long as Mobutu was willing to pursue Washington’s anticomunist agenda throughout Africa, U.S. policymakers overlooked his regime’s authoritarian character and severe violations of human rights.7

The third watershed event of the twentieth century was the end of the Cold War in 1989. The collapse of single-party regimes throughout Eastern Europe and the former Soviet Union powerfully influenced African pro-democracy activists and sparked a wave of democratic transitions in all regions of the African continent (see Chapter 11). Much to their dismay, authoritarian leaders could no longer successfully ally themselves ideologically with one of the superpowers in exchange for protection against opposition movements. The Soviet Union had ceased to exist, and a new Russian regime preoccupied with domestic economic restructuring had largely withdrawn from African politics. Also, the United States began to downplay anticomunist political-military relationships in favor of promoting trade and economic investment. The Clinton administration’s refusal in 1997 to prevent the pro–United States Mobutu from being overthrown by a popular guerrilla movement, led by Laurent-Désiré Kabila, exemplified this new international order (see Chapter 14). Although Mobutu’s downfall was primarily determined by the emergence of organized domestic opposition to his increasingly corrupt regime, the inaction of the Clinton administration would have been unthinkable prior to the end of the Cold War. Indeed, presidents from John F. Kennedy to George Bush had supported a series of military interventions designed to keep Mobutu in power and prevent the emergence of new leadership that presumably might have been more sympathetic to the foreign policy interests of the former Soviet Union and its allies.

**Central Importance of the Domestic Dimension**

A fifth theme of this book is the central importance of African domestic actors in any understanding of continuity and change in African politics and society. The international environment may provide the context within which decisions are made, but one must not overlook the impacts of individual African leaders, citizens, and social movements. The reader will be introduced to a variety of Africans in the following chapters: the leaders and citizens of the political systems of the precolonial independence era; the armed resistance movements of African kingdoms and ethnic groups that challenged the imposition of colonial rule; the nationalist movements that led their countries to independence beginning in the 1950s; the military officers who illegally took power in coups d’état and established military dictatorships; the civilian politicians who have led democratization movements intent upon replacing...
BOX 1.2

RESEARCHING AFRICA II: AFRICAN STUDIES JOURNALS

The study of African politics and society has prompted the publication of a wide variety of academic journals and yearbooks. The following list is designed to serve as a starting point for carrying out research. Dates in parentheses mark the first year of publication.

African Studies Association Journals (with political content)


Other Journals on African Politics

*Africa: Journal of the International African Institute/Revue de l'Institut Africain International* (1928)
*Africa Quarterly* (1961)
*Africa Today* (1954)
*Afrique et Développement/Africa Development* (1976)
*Asian and African Studies* (1965)
*Northeast African Studies* (1979)

Journals of Related Disciplines

*African Economic History* (1972)
African Literature Today (1968)
African Urban Quarterly (1986)
African Urban Studies (1978)
The International Journal of African Historical Studies (1968)
Journal of African Civilization (1968)
The Journal of African History (1960)
Journal of African Languages and Linguistics (1979)
Journal of African Law (1957)
Journal of Religion in Africa (1967)

Leading Non-English-Language Journals
Africa. Rivista Trimestrale di Studi e Documentazione dell’Istituto Italiano per l’Africa e l’Oriente (Italian: 1946)
Afrika Spectrum (German: 1966)
Afrique Contemporaine (French: 1962)
Estudios Africanos (Spanish: 1985)
Politique Africaine (French: 1980)
Revista Internacional de Estudos Africanos (Portuguese: 1985)

Current Events Summaries
Africa Analysis (1986)
Africa Confidential (1960)
Africa Research Bulletin: Political Series (1964)

Annuals and Yearbooks
Africa Contemporary Record: Annual Survey and Documents (1970)
Africa South of the Sahara (1971)

Journals for Bibliographical Searches
The African Book Publishing Record (1975)
A Current Bibliography on African Affairs (1963)
International African Bibliography (1971)

authoritarian regimes with democratic forms of governance; African writers and filmmakers who have spoken out against abuses of human rights; and presidents and other national leaders who manage the foreign relations of their countries. In short, a true understanding of African politics and society must include the Africans themselves.
Balancing Afro-Pessimism and Afro-Optimism

A final theme is the necessity of seeking balance in our understanding of African politics and society. It is widely recognized, for example, that the U.S. media — the primary source of Africa-related knowledge for the vast majority of the U.S. population — provide at best an incomplete, and at worst a highly stereotypical, image of African politics and society. News editors interested in “what will sell” most often cover the sensational events, such as famines, military coups d’état, civil wars, and ethnic conflicts, that neatly fit the preconceived notions of their audiences. This incomplete understanding of Africa has contributed to the rise of Afro-pessimism: the belief that, in the extreme, Africans are incapable of reversing what is perceived as the African continent’s eventual slide toward poverty and anarchy.

One need not err on the side of Afro-optimism, that is, the belief that all is well, to recognize the imperative of achieving a more balanced understanding of African politics and society. For every famine there exists an agricultural “success story” such as Botswana, where forward-thinking leadership has made that country a net exporter of foodstuffs. For every military coup d’état there exists a transition to civilian rule, such as in Benin, where nineteen years of military dictatorship (1972–91) have been replaced by democracy (1991–present). For every civil war there exists a case of conflict resolution as in Mozambique, where a peace accord signed in 1992 ended nearly thirty years of guerrilla warfare. For every ethnic conflict there exists a well-meaning attempt to create multiethnic cooperation, such as South Africa’s democratization under the leadership of Nelson Mandela. These issues and others are examined in the chapters that follow.

Key Terms

African renaissance
Saharan Africa
Sub-Saharan Africa
Precolonial Independence Era
  (prior to 1884)
Colonial Era (1884–1951)
Contemporary Independence Era
  (1951–present)
dependency-decolonization debate
dependency school of thought
neocolonialism
decolonization school of thought
Afro-pessimism
Afro-optimism

For Further Research

The following books constitute excellent starting points for researching individual African countries. Three series are represented, each of which embodies specific strengths. The World Bibliographical Series (WBS), published by Clio Press, offers the most extensive, up-to-date, annotated bibliographies of sources relevant to each country. Each volume also includes an introductory
overview essay and an extensive index. The *African Historical Dictionaries* (AHD) series, published by Scarecrow Press, constitutes mini-encyclopedias of a country’s historical figures, places, terms, and events. Each volume also includes an introductory overview essay and a comprehensive bibliography. Finally, the *Nations of the Modern World* (NMW) and *Nations of Contemporary Africa* (NCA) series, published by Westview Press, offer the best up-to-date descriptive overviews. Each volume contains separate chapters discussing history, economics, politics, international relations, and other relevant topics.

**Algeria**


**Angola**


**Benin**


**Botswana**


**Burkina Faso**


**Burundi**

Cameroon

Cape Verde

Central African Republic

Chad

Comoro Islands

Congo-Brazzaville
Côte d’Ivoire


Democratic Republic Of Congo (Congo-Kinshasa)


Djibouti


Egypt


Equatorial Guinea


Eritrea


Ethiopia


Gabon

The Gambia


Ghana


Guinea


Guinea-Bissau


Kenya


Lesotho


Liberia

Libya

Madagascar

Malawi

Maldives

Mali

Mauritania

Mauritius

Morocco
Mozambique

Namibia

Niger

Nigeria

Rwanda

Sao Tome and Principe

Senegal
Seychelles
Bennett, George, with Pramila Ramgulam Bennett (1993). 

Sierra Leone

Somalia

South Africa

Sudan

Swaziland
Grot腠eter, John J. (1975). Historical Dictionary of Swaziland (AHD, no. 3).

Tanzania
Togo

Tunisia

Uganda

Zambia

Zimbabwe

For Further Reading


Notes


3. For example, see I. William Zartman, “Europe and Africa: Decolonization or Dependency?” *Foreign Affairs* 54 (1976):325–43.


