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Depts. of Int. Development and Government

v. 24 Sept. 2026

DV435 African Political Economy
Autumn 2026

Lecture: Tuesdays, 5-6.30 pm, CKK.LG.03

Seminar 1, Wed, 9:00 to 10.30. FAW 3.04
Seminar 2: 10:30 to 12:00. FAW 3.04
Office Hours: Weekly. Sign up on LSE Student Hub

I. Aims of the course

This class is an introduction to the study of contemporary African political economy, with a focus on sub-Saharan Africa. The goal of DV435 to set major questions of state, politics, and economic development in Africa in historical, geographic, and international context. Course readings and lectures stress marked unevenness in national and subnational trajectories, aiming to describe and explain structure and variation in patterns of economic change and political competition across and within states. Students completing DV435 will come away with a better understanding of the economic and social underpinnings of order, conflict, and transformation in African countries.

There is a research component to DV435: each student will use secondary literature, grey literature, and other sources to develop particular knowledge about two country "case studies." Knowledge of these countries will be leveraged in the assessed assignment to consider general arguments concerning the political economy of Africa, and to compare/contrast the historical trajectories of different African states. The approach avoids levelling and overgeneralization (neglect of variation), time compression (neglect of temporal variation), and African exceptionalism in political economy explanation. The research component builds-in an "open syllabus" approach that requires students to explore the vast research literature on African political economy on their own.

DV435 is a complement to DV418, African Development. The two courses, taken together, are required for the African Development specialism in the ID department. Each also functions as a stand-alone course.

II. DV435 Requirements

Progressive Assessment based on class preparation and collaboration, worth 30% of the overall summative assessment. This will consist of 3 separate observations (worth 10% each), in seminars (or, in case of extenuating circumstances, office hours) in weeks 4-11. The observations will be based on individual contributions to seminar collaborative work and/ seminar discussions (guided by weekly worksheets). Worksheets for preparing for seminar and developing your country case studies (for weeks 2, 3, 4, 5, 7, 8, 9, 10) will be posted on Moodle 2 weeks before each seminar meeting.
The progressive work over course of term supports the brainstorming and scaffolding processes that prepare you to write the Assessed Summative Essay.

Assessed Summative Essay. Essay (70%, 3000 words) in the Winter Term Week 1. This is a paper of about 10 double-spaced pages) due in the first week of school in January. Footnotes and

reference list are excluded from the word count. The essay prompt will posted during AT Week 2. Your essay is expected to incorporate ideas and revised text from formative work.

To score well on the assessed essay, students must (a.) show good knowledge of, draw upon, and cite a broad cross-section of required course readings and (b.) respond directly to the essay prompt, (3) draw on country-specific case material that you have developed in your progressively-assessed work to support your main arguments, and (4) write a well-structured essay (strong introduction that clearly states the author's main argument, good paragraph structure (each with a strong topic sentence) and good conclusion that briefly summarizes and draws out implications of the work).

Attending weekly lectures and classes (seminars) are course requirements. Be sure to participate in class (seminar) each week -- by asking a question, contributing to discussion, or contributing actively in break-out groups (groups of 3-4 students). To prepare for class discussion, prepare answers to questions that appear as weekly assignments on this course syllabus.

III. Readings (see lists by week)

Required readings for each week are available via the LSE library as electronic journal articles or e-books, OR in the LSE library course book collection. The syllabus also lists recommended readings which you can draw upon according to your interests.

Books available in the course book collection of LSE library. ("Key Readings" on LSE Reading List on-line)

Fred Cooper, 2002. *Africa Since 1940*. Cambridge U. Press. Second edition published in 2019. (Either edition is OK for our class-- page numbers for both editions appear on the reading list.)

Giovani Carbone and Lucia Ragazzi, eds. 2023. *Is Africa Turning Against the West?* Milan: ISPI (www.ispionline.it).

Adom Getachew. 2019. *Worldmaking after Empire: The Rise and Fall of Self-Determination*. Princeton.

John Harbeson and Donald Rothchild, eds., *Africa in World Politics: Sustaining Reform in a Turbulent World Order* (7th edition). New York: Routledge.

Catherine Boone. 2024. *Inequality and Political Cleavage in Africa: Regionalism by Design* (Cambridge U. Press).

Mahmood Mamdani. 1996. *Citizen and Subject: Africa and the Legacy of late Colonialism*. Princeton.

Arkebe Oqubay and Justin Yifu Lin, eds., *China-Africa and an Economic Transformation* (Oxford University Press, 2019).

Jon Schubert, Ulf Engel, and Elísio Salvado Macamo, eds. 2018. *Extractive industries and changing state dynamics in Africa: beyond the resource curse*. London: Routledge, Taylor & Francis.

Jepson, Nicholas. 2020. *In China's Wake: How the Commodity Boon Transformed Development Strategies in the Global South*. NY: Columbia University Press.

Lavers, Tom. *Ethiopia's 'Developmental State': Political Order and Distributive Crisis,* CUP, 2023.

Jesse Olvadia et al., eds, *Handbook of Resource Nationalism*, Edward Elgar Publishing, 2026. pp. 69-81.

Amy S. Patterson, Megan Hershey, and Tracy Kuperus. *Africa's Urban Youth: Challenging Marginalization, Claiming Citizenship*, Cambridge University Press, 2023.

IV. DV435 Moodle Page.

The course Moodle Page contains electronic copies of this syllabus, other handouts, other resources (such as copies of essay questions, assessed essay, and exam questions from last year), lecture recordings (when available), and links readings available via the LSE library on-line catalogue. We may post some readings in PDF format on the Moodle page.

VI. Blogs/Websites

An Africanist Perspective. https://kenopalo.com
The Week in Africa. ***thisweekinafrica****.tumblr.com*
Africa at LSE Blog http://blogs.lse.ac.uk/africaatlse/
Africa is a Country http://africasacountry.com
CODESRIA, codesria.org
Our World in Data.
Africapolis (Africa urbanization): https://africapolis.org/en
World Development Indicators at data.worldbank.org and
Observatory of Economic Complexity > "Profiles">"Countries"
Yale Gecon Project Economic Activity maps (https://gecon.yale.edu)

VII. Country case study working groups

Each seminar will be divided into 4 working groups. These working groups will be devoted to small-group work on your two country case studies for DV435. Each group will have one country case study in common. Each group member then picks another African country, preferably from a different region of the continent, as a comparison case.

The groups' shared cases will be drawn from this list: Kenya, Zambia, Ghana, Côte d'Ivoire, DRC, Uganda, South Africa, and Mali.

VIII. AI use

Use of GenAI is not allowed in preparing written work for this class. Submitting AI-generated presentation structure, argument structure, or text as your own work is considered to be misconduct. The purpose of disallowing the use of generative AI is to avoid de-skilling, atrophy of skills, AI dependency, and cognitive atrophy and surrender. AI dependency will short-circuit the process of developing wide knowledge of your case studies and the issues that scholars wrestle with in thinking through research questions, research strategies, and theoretically-grounded, empirically based arguments. AI use as a substitute for deep reading has been shown to impede knowledge retention and to impede the development of deep transferrable knowledge.

You may use Wikipedia, do research on the internet, and read and use sources found on the internet by search engines such as Google and Google Scholar. You are expected to lean on the LSE library catalogue holdings for a large share of your research. You can use AI tools to explore topics and aid in the development of reading lists, translate documents from other languages into English, explore topics and gather introductory information about topics you are exploring.

Course outline and readings by Week

Week 1: 29 Sept. 2026

Introduction and Course Overview

Cooper and Ndolvu-Gatsheni both write that many challenges facing African countries are persistent, and the quest for economic independence and autonomy for African countries is on-going. The roots of these challenges, and of the aspirations to overcome them, go back to the middle decades of the 20th C. The readings come from different disciplines: history, social science epistemology, and economics. This opens up the space for multiple perspectives and debate.

Required readings:

Sabelo J. Ndlovu-Gatsheni. 2020. African Decolonization's Past and Present Trajectories. *Current History*, May 2020. 188-193.

Fred Cooper, *Africa Since 1940: The Past of the Present* (Cambridge 2019 [2002]), Ch 1.

Recommended

Dupas, Pascaline et al. 2026. *The Changing Landscape of International Development: An Introduction.* NBER Working Paper Series, WP 34943. Cambridge, MA: NBER, March.

Week 2. Tues., 6 Oct. 2026

History, Geography, and Policy in the African Growth Debate

This lecture introduces debates over Africa's growth trajectory. Some analysts describe "poor economic performance" as chronic stagnation over the very long run (Bloom, Sacks, et al). Others see the growth trajectory as episodic -- that is, as marked by historical episodes of recurring growth (Jerven 2010) and episodes of recurring blockage or crisis. These debates over *describing* growth trajectories are overlaid by debates over *explaining* the causes of growth. This lecture introduces contrasting explanatory models that focus on geography or endowment (Bloom and Sachs), domestic political factors (Jerven), and forces embedded in the global economy (Ndikumana) as drivers of growth trajectories. Some disagreements are rooted in issues of periodization, historical timelines, and the levels of aggregation/ disaggregation of the data.

Required Readings:

David E. Bloom, Jeffrey D. Sachs, Paul Collier, Christopher Udry, "Geography, Demography, and Economic Growth in Africa," *Brookings Papers on Economic Activity*, vol. 1988, n. 2 (1998): 207-40 only.

Léonce Ndikumana. 2015. "Integrated yet Marginalized: Implications of Globalization for African Development," *African Studies Review*, 58/2 (Sept.): 7-29

Morten Jerven, "African Growth Recurring: An Economic History Perspective on African Growth Episodes," *Econ. History of Developing Regions*, 25/2 (2010): 127-154.

Recommended:

Léonce Ndikumana and James K. Boyce. 2011. Capital flight from sub-Saharan Africa: Linkages with external borrowing and policy options. International Review of Applied Economics, 25/2: 149-170.

Stephen Broadberry and Leigh Gardner. 2022. Economic growth in Sub-Saharan African, 1885-2008: Evidence from eight countries. *Explorations in Economic History* 83.

Mkandawrite, Thandika. 2014. "The Spread of Economic Doctrines and Policymaking in Postcolonial Africa," *African Studies Review*, 57/1.

Inikori, JE. 2017. The development of capitalism in the Atlantic world: England, the Americas, and West Africa, 1450-1900. *Labor History*, 58/2: 138-153.

Celestin Monga and Justin Yifu Lin, eds.. 2015. *The Oxford Handbook of Africa and Economics,* Vol. 2, Policies and Practices. Oxford University Press.

Benno Ndulu et al., 2007. *The Political Economy of Economic Growth in Africa, 1960-2000,* Vol. 1 Cambridge.

Week 3. T., 13 Oct. 2026 Suggested Film*: End of Empire: Gold Coast (Boston Public TV) https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=aFe4xB-swt8*

Colonialism and Colonial States in Africa: Rule and Revenue

Lectures and readings in Week 3 and 4 focus on colonial state formation processes and colonial economies. We trace the creation of contemporary African states through the colonial partition of Africa, establishment of colonial states, and the development of internal structures of rule and revenue generation. These processes built upon but profoundly modified pre-existing economic and political structures.

Classes: Cooper (2019 [2002]) describes the colonial states and economies as unstable and unsustainable. Why? What were the revenue bases of colonial states were these likely to be sustainable after independence? And what was indirect rule and how did it Indirect Rule contribute to sub-national political cleavages over decolonization in the 1950s?

Required:

Fred Cooper, *Africa Since 1940: The Past of the Present* (Cambridge 2019 [2002]), Chs. 2, 3

Leigh Gardner, *Taxing Colonial Africa: The Political Economy of British Imperialism* (Oxford U. Press, 2012), Ch. 1, "An Introduction to the Problem of Colonial Taxation," pp. 1-13.

Catherine Boone. 2024. *Inequality and Political Cleavage in Africa: Regionalism by Design* (CUP), Ch. 3, pp. 48-89.

Recommended:

Philip Roessler, Yannick Pengl, Robert Marty, Kyle Sorlie Titlow, and Nicolas van de Walle. 2022. The cash crop revolution, colonialism, and economic reorganization in Africa. *World Development*, vol 158, October. N. 105934. https://doi.org/10.1016/j.worlddev.2022.105934

Mahmood Mamdani, *Citizen and Subject: Contemporary Africa and the Legacy of Late Colonialism* (Princeton 1996), Ch 2.

Gareth Austin. 2010. African Economic Development and Colonial Legacies. *International Development Policy Series*, no. 1, 11-32. doi 10.4000/poldev.78.

Marlous van Waijenburg. (2018) "Financing the African Colonial State: The Revenue Imperative and Forced Labor." *J. of Economic History* 78(1): 40-80.

Kristin Mann and Richard Roberts, eds., *Law in Colonial Africa* (Heinemann and J. Currey, 1991).

Lovejoy, Paul E. (1989) "The Impact of the Atlantic Slave Trade on Africa: A Review of the Literature." *Journal of African History* 30, 365-394.

Week 4, T., 20 October 2026 Suggested Film*: Lumumba* (Raul Peck, 2000) stream on IMDb

Colonial Economies and the crises of post-WWII colonialism

This week focuses on structure and variation in the economies of colonial Africa, building upon the typology established by Samir Amin. We trace post-WWII forms of political and economic instability that emerged in the African colonies, and rulers' attempts to stabilize government and expand economies. This analysis of colonial states lays groundwork for understanding the "successor states" that emerged with the granting of political independence.

Classes: How do your case study countries (or subnational regions within them) fit into Amin's typology of colonialisms, which distinguishes between colonial cash-crop, concession states, and labor reserves? What was "the second colonial occupation"? (Cooper, ch. 4). In most countries (colonies), nationalist movements united against the colonizers but divided along regional lines and over competing visions of the postcolonial state. Did this happen in your two case study countries?

Required Readings:

Fred Cooper, *Africa Since 1940: The Past of the Present* (Cambridge 2019 [2002]), Ch. 4.

Samir Amin, "Underdevelopment and Dependence in Black Africa: Origins and Contemporary Forms," *Journal of Modern African Studies*, 10.4 (1972): 503-24.

J.F. Ade Ajayi, "Expectations of Independence," *Daedalus*, vol. 111, n. 2 (Spring), 1982: 1-9.

Lumumba, Patrice. 1959. "African Unity and National Independence" and Lumumba, Patrice. Letter from Thysville Prison to Mrs. Lumumba (1960)
(from https://www.marxists.org/subject/africa/lumumba/1961/xx/letter.htm, downloaded 18 June 2023)

Recommended:

Belinda Archibong, Historical Origins of Persistent Inequality in Nigeria, *Oxford Development Studies*, 46/3 (2018): 325-347.

Robtel Pailey, Stopping Firestone and starting a "revolution from below": Reflections on the enduring exploitation of land and labor in Liberia. *Third World Quarterly,* 2023. https://doi.org/10.1080/01436597.2023.2240729

Bade Onimode, "Imperialism and Underdevelopment in Nigeria," and A. Adu Boahen, "The Colonial Impact," all in Robert O. Collins et al., eds., *Historical Problems in the Study of Africa* (Princeton: Markus Wiener, 1994, pp. 294-315).

Sara Berry, *No Condition is Permanent*: The Social Dynamics of Agrarian Change in Africa, Wisconsin, 1993.

Hopkins, Anthony G. (1973) *An Economic History of West Africa*, New York: Addison Wesley Longman.

Young, Crawford (1994) *The African Colonial State in Comparative Perspective*, New Haven: Yale University Press.

A. Adu Boahen, *African Perspectives on Colonialism* (Baltimore: John Hopkins University Press, 1987).

Week 5, 27 October 2026 Suggested Film: *The Africans: In Search of Stability* (Ali Mazuri, 1989) (available on YouTube)

Building States and National Economies in 1960-1980.

Postcolonial rulers sought to promote growth while maintaining and extending control over territory, populations and resource flows. State-led developmentalism -- including the expansion of the civil service, infrastructure, social services, export crop production, and light industry -- supported this kind of state-building. The logic of subnational administration and subnational boundary creation was closely linked to the allocation of subnational entitlements, especially regulation of land access. We will see that economic liberalization in the late 1980s and 1990s restructured these arrangements and disrupted territorial strategies of rule.

Required Readings:

Fred Cooper, *Africa Since 1940* (Cambridge 2002), "Interlude," Ch. 5 and Ch. 6.

Adom Getachew, *Worldmaking after Empire: The Rise and Fall of Self-Determination* (Princeton, 2019), Ch. 5, pp. 142-170.

Kwame Nkrumah. 1965. Neocolonialism: The last stage of imperialism, 1965 (posted at https://www.marxists.org/subject/africa/nkrumah/neo-colonialism/introduction.htm).(2 pages)

Recommended:

Jeffrey Herbst, *States and Power in Africa*, Ch. 1 and 5

J. O. Adesina 2022. “Variations in Postcolonial Imagination: Reflection on Senghor, Nyerere and Nkrumah.” *Africa Development* 47 (1): 31–58.

Catherine Boone, *Political Topographies of the African State* (CUP 2003).

Iliffe, J. (1995), *Africans: A History of the Continent*, Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.

Week 6. T., 3 Nov. 2026
Reading Week.

Week 7, 10 Nov. 2026 Suggested film: *An African Election* (by Jarreth Merz, 2011. Stream on IMDb

The Changing International Context of Development and Economic and Political Liberalization since 1990

This lecture focuses on the macroeconomic crises of the late 1970s and 1980s and the political drivers and responses to them. We consider the growth strategy that was proposed by the IFIs through Structural Adjustment Programs, how this differed from the growth model(s) of the 1950s and 1960s, and how it contributed to the so-called "last decades" of the 1980s and 1990s. How and why did the experience with the SAPs vary across countries? What was the connection between the SAPs and the return to multiparty competition in the 1990s? Has multipartism produced democracy?

Classes. What were the "recurrent crises" of the postcolonial state that Cooper (2002/2019) writes of? Did the Structural Adjustment Programs address the sources of these crises, or lay the foundation for resolving the crises of the 1970s and 1980s? -What was the experience of the "dual liberalizations" (political and economic) in your two case study countries?

Required Readings

J. Barry Riddel. 1992. "Things fall apart again: Structural Adjustment Programs in Sub-Saharan Africa," *J. of Modern African Studies*, 30/1: 53-68.

Julius Nyerere. 1985. "Africa and the Debt Crisis." *African Affairs*, 84/337, pp. 489-497.

Fred Cooper, *Africa since 1940*, 2002, Ch. 7, pp. 156-180 [in Cooper 2019: 234-269]

Adom Getachew, Ch. 5, section on “Displacing the NIEO,” pp. 171- 175 and Epilogue, 176-181.

E. Gyimah-Boadi, "Aspirations and Realities in Africa: Democratic delivery Falls Short," J*ournal of Democracy,* 30/3 (July) 2019: 86-93.

Recommended:

Giovanni Arrighi, "The African Crisis: World Systemic and Regional Aspects," *New Left Review* 15 (May-June), 2002: 5-36.

"Adebayo Adedeji," profiled by Reginald Cline-Cole, in David Simon, ed., *Fifty Key Thinkers on Development* (London: Routledge, 2006), pp. 3-8

Howard Stein. 2008. "From Structural Adjustment to 'Poverty Reduction," Adjustment to the Crisis and the Crisis of Adjustment," Ch. 2 in Howard Stein, *Beyond the World Bank Agenda* (Univ. of Chicago Press).

Said Adejumobi, "Democratic Performance in Africa: Uneven Progress, Faltering Hopes," chapter 1 in Adejumobi, ed., *National Democratic Reforms in Africa: Changes and Challenges* (Palgrave, 2015), pp. 1-15.

Gabrielle Lynch and Gordon Crawford, "Democratization in Africa, 1990-2010: An Assessment," *Democratization* 18/2 (2011), 275-310.

Thandika Mkandawire. 1999. "Crisis Management and the Making of "Choiceless Democracies," in Richard Joseph, ed., *State, Conflict, and Democracy in Africa* (Lynne Rienner), pp. 119-136.

Thandika Mkandawire, "Thinking about Developmental States in Africa," *Cambridge J. of Economics*, 25 (2001), pp. 289-313.

Pitcher, M. Anne. *Party politics and economic reform in Africa's democracies*. Cambridge University Press, 2012. Chapter 2 pp. 30-64.

John Loxley, "Structural Adjustment in Africa: Reflections on Ghana and Zambia," *Review of African Political Economy*, n. 47 (Spring, 1990), pp. 8-27

Nicolas van de Walle, *African Economies and the Politics of Permanent Crisis*, 1979-1999 (Cambridge 2000).

Thad Dunning, "Conditioning the Effects of Aid: Cold War Politics, Donor Credibility, and Democracy in Africa," International Organization 58, no. 2 (2004): 409–23.

Week 8, 17 November 2026
African Economies in a "Hyper Globalized" World: China and Expanded Policy Space

The new century ushers in a "Post-Washington Consensus" World. Did China's dramatic entry as an investor and "development partner" in African countries contribute to the political autonomy and structural transformation of African economies? (How) can African countries take advantage of what China has to offer *without* getting mired in a new form of colonialism?

Required Readings

Akyeampong, Emmanuel and Liang Xu. 2015. Three Phases/Faces of China in Independent Africa: Reconceptualizing China-Africa Engagement. In Monga and Lin, eds. *The Oxford Handbook of Africa and Economics:* Vol. 2: Policies and Practices.

Stepan Verkhovets and H. E. Karaoguz. 2022. "Inclusive globalization or old wine in a new bottle? China-led globalization in Sub-Saharan Africa." *Globalizations*, 19:8, 1195-1210.
DOI: 10.1080/14747731.2022.2035481

Taofik Oyewo Hussain. 2026. China's Expanding Footprint in Nigeria: Implications of USAID's suspensionon development and geopolitical Alignments. *Africa Spectrum*, 61 (1): 146-161.

Willem H. Gravett. 2022. Digital Neocolonialism: The Chinese Surveillance State in Africa. *African J. of International and Comparative Law*. 30.1 (February): 39-58.

Recommended

Jepson, Nicholas. 2020. In China's Wake: How the Commodity Boom Transformed Development Strategies in the Global South. NY: Columbia University Press.

Cherif, Reda and Fuad Hasanov. 2019. The Return of the Policy that Shall Not be Named: Principles of Industrial Policy. IMF Working Paper WP/19/74, March 2019.

Fosu, A. and E. Ogunlelye. 2018. African growth strategies -- the past, present, and future. *The Oxford Handbook of Africa and Economics -- Volume II: Policies and Practices*, OUP. Ch. 1, pp. 23-38.

Siachiwena, Hangala. 2025. Policy reform after Structural Adjustment in Zambia: The politics of restoring a statist devellopment agenda. *African Studies Review* 68/4: 750-771.

Makundi, Merzon. China's Party to Party Diplomacy in Africa. Second Cold War Observatory, Dispatch 2025.3. (3 April 2025).

Lee, Ching Kwan. 2014. "The Spectre of Global China" [China in Zambia], *New Left Review* 89 (Sept/October): 29-65.

Shinn, David. 2023. "China in Africa." In Harbeson and Rothchild, eds., *Africa in World Politics: Sustaining Reform in a Turbulent World Order* (7th edition). New York: Routledge.

Week 9. 24 November 2026 Film: *Stealing Africa* [on Glencore in Zambia]

New Growth Models: The New Extractives, GVCs, and Infrastructure

What is "The new resource nationalism," and what are its local, national, and international correlates? Do post 2000 developments around extractives differ from colonial models of resource exploitation? If so, how?

Required readings:

Larmer, Miles. 2026. The history of resource nationalism in Southern Africa, in Jesse Olvadia et al., eds, Handbook of Resource Nationalism, Edwar Elgar Publishing, 2026. pp. 69-81.

Lars Burr, Rasmus H. Pedersen, Malin J. Nystrand, and José Jaime Macuane. 2019. Understanding the three key relationships in natural resource investments in Africa: An analytical framework. *The Extractive Industries and Society*. 6; 1195-1204.

Nicolas Niarchos. "In Congo's Cobalt Mines." *The New York Review of Books*, 7 Dec. 2023 issue. (review of 3 recent books on Congo's critical and conflict minerals)

Nelson Oppong. Mining and the Quagmire of Job Creation in Africa, *Current History*, May 2023, pp. 78-84.

Recommended:

UNCTAD 2025 Commodity Dependence Interactive World Map
https://unctad.org/topic/commodities/state-of-commodity-dependence
https://unctad.org/publication/state-commodity-dependence-2025

Tom Lavers. 2024. *Ethiopia's 'Developmental State': Political Order and Distributive Crisis.* Cambridge University Press.

Atolia, Manoj, Prakash Loungani, Milton Marquis, and Chris Papageorgiou. 2018. Rethinking Development Policy: Deindustrialization, Servicification, and Structural Transformation. IMF Working Paper, IMF WP/18/223.

Extractives

Osaghae, Eghosa E. 1995. The Ogoni Uprising: Oil Politics, Minority agitation and the future of the Nigerian State. *African Affairs*, 94/376 (July): 325-344.

Amoah, Macdonald, Benjamin Sovacool, et al. 2026. Sustainable development and Africa's critical minerals: a multi-framework approach. *Extractive Industries and Society*, 27 (2026) 10193.

Ngabirano, Dan. 2023. Maximizing tax and other revenues for strategic rents in Uganda's petroleum sector. In Anne Mette Kjaer et al., ed., *The Politics of Revenue Bargaining in Africa: Triggers, Processes, and Outocmes.* Oxford University Press. pp. 171-189.

https://doi-org.lse.idm.oclc.org/10.1093/oso/9780192868787.003.0008

Japhace Poncian. 2021. Resource nationalism and community engagement in extractive resources: insights from Tanzania," *Review of African Political Economy,* 48/170: 529-551.

Jon Schubert, Ulf Engle, and Elisio Macamo, "Introduction: Boom an bust: extractive industries and African states in the twenty-first century," in Schubert et al, *Extractive industries and changing state dynamics in Africa: Beyond the resource curse,* (London: Routledge, Taylor & Francis 2018): 1-18.

Claude Iguma Wakenge, *Eating the Congo: Unveiling State Governance of Copper and Cobalt Mining in Former Katanga.* LAP Lambert Academic Publishing, 2019. Chs. 1 and 2.

Hillbom, Ellen. (2008) "Diamonds or development? A structural assessment of Botswana's forty years of success." *The Journal of Modern African Studies* 46.2: 191-214.

Andreasson, Stefan. 2015. "Varieties of Resource Nationalism in sub-Saharan Africa's Energy and Minerals Markets." *The Extractive Industries and Society* 2 (2): 310–319.

Agriculture
Kojo S. Amanor, Global Value Chains and Agribusiness in Africa: Upgrading or Capturing Smallholder Production? *Agrarian South: Journal of Political Economy*, 8(1-2): 30-63. (You can skip pp. 37-41).

Wudil, Abdulazeez, et al. 2022. "Reversing years for global food security: A review of the food security situation in Sub-Saharan Africa." *International J. of Environmental Resarch and Public Health,*19, 14836. https://doi.org/10.3390/ijerph192214836
MDPI.

Jayne, T.S, Shamie Zingore, Amadou Ibra Niang, et al. 2023. Building twenty-first-century agricultural research and extension capacity in Africa. *European J. of Agricultural Economics,* 50/5: 1824-1846.

Digital
Mohammad Anwar and Mark Graham. 2021. Briefing: Digital labor at economic margins: African workers and the global information economy. *Review of African Political Economy*, 47/163: 95-105.

John C. Anyanwu and Adeleke O. Salami. 2021. "The Impact of Covid-19 on African Economies: An introduction." *African Development Review* 33/S1: S1-S16

Prince Guma, Nairobi's Rise as a Digital Platform Hub. *Current History*, May 2022, pp. 184-189.

Week 10, 1 December 2026

Suggested Film: *Not Yet Kenyan*, Al Jazeera Correspondent (you.tube)

Geopolitical Splits, Shifts, Rollback. Democratic Deficit and Spatial Inequalities. Lessons from the Sahel.

New growth strategies and new global partners interact with politics -- electoral and otherwise -- in African countries. Are the new growth models delivering a "democratic dividend" or "democratic deficit"? Territorial or spatial inequalities often serve as templates for resource conflicts, electoral politics, and even civil war.

With a focus on West Africa's "coup belt" of the Sahel, we see how weak states, political frustrations and inequalities, and climate change can eat away at the promises of democracy and erode the framework of domestic politics.

In the Sahel how this can interact with shifting geopolitics at the global level -- China's slowdown, the rise of Russia as a regional player in Africa, the race for extractives, and the exploitation of "ungoverned spaces" by opportunistic state and non-state actors. Established ideologies of development can give way to new discourses of nationalism and Pan-Africanism, neo-sovereignism, and jihadism as a vortex of pressures come together to transform a region.

Required readings

Ero, Comfort and Murithi Mutiga. "The Crisis of African Democracy: Coups are a Symptom - not a cause -- of Political Dysfunction." *Foreign Affairs*, Jan-Feb. 2024. pp. 120-134.

Alexander Thurston. 2024. Military Coups, Jihadism, and Insecurity in the Central Sahel. OCED/ Club du Sahel Working paper n. 43, April.

Manfredi Firmian, F. 2024. Russia's state capture strategy in Africa, from Wagner to the Africa Corps. *Small Wars and Insurgencies*, 4 December. 1-30.

Recommended:

Boone, Catherine. 2024. "Territorial Oppositions in African Poltiics," Ch. 4 in *Inequaity and Political Cleavage in Africa,* CUP, pp. 168-194. (on Kenya, Uganda, Zambia, and Malawi.

Giovani Carbone and Lucia Ragazzi, eds. 2023. *Is Africa Turning Against the West?* Milan: ISPI (www.ispionline.it).

Villalón, Leonardo A. ed. *Oxford Handbook on the Sahel*. Oxford University Press, 2021.

Biniam Bedasso. 2017. "For richer, for poorer: Why ethnicity often trumps economic cleavages in Kenya." *Review of African Political Economy*, 44/151: 10-29.

Rahmane Idrissa. 2021. The Sahel: A Cognitive Mapping. *New Left Review*., n. 132. Nov-Dec. 2021.

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Week 11, T., 8 Dec. 2026
New Maps, Brave New World: Looking forward to Africa in 2040.

This session focuses on cross-national variation in growth trajectories and growth models in African countries in the last decade. Are we seeing 21st century developmental states, the return of industrial policy, and effective technological leapfrogging? If so, are cross-national differences in trajectories and outcomes explained by domestic factors? What about locational and geographic factors, and/or international economic factors? How do debt, climate change, and global and continental trade restructurings, impact these forms of state activism?

Are there tensions between new growth strategies, on the one hand, and building more inclusive and cohesive political systems, on the other?

Required Reading:

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Recommended:

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