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Introduction

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Introduction

This volume of the *Journal of Political Science* presents six articles and a series of book reviews related to the general theme of development in African countries in the post-cold war period. As these articles demonstrate, the post-cold war environment created new opportunities and opened new political space. Freed of the constraints of cold war politics, issues of economic growth and reform and of governance came to the fore. Results so far in the 1990s, while mixed, encourage optimism that an era of renewal, growth and development may be unfolding.

At the same time, the legacy of the cold war continued to be problematic for most African countries. Rigid, authoritarian regimes, having been entrenched by their cold war allies, continued to resist accountability and economic change. Political and economic issues developed in the colonial and nationalist periods were often left unresolved. Moreover, with the exception of key countries, the end of the cold war led to the marginalization of African countries on the world agenda.

A result has been alternating perspectives of optimism and pessimism, of opportunities and limits, of looking forward to a brighter future while held hostage to the past. The analytical problem is to identify creative opportunities taking advantage of new space while remaining sober about the lingering issues of the colonial era filtered through fifty years of cold war international politics.

Phillip Nying'uro addresses a vital issue in this process, the issue of politics. Writing about the difficult process of democratization in Kenya, a key East African country during the cold war, Nying'uro looks at the process of political change through the prism of interaction between external and internal factors. He concludes that a process of democratization in the end must be a "homegrown" one while emphasizing the value of external pressure. Nying'uro's is also a cautionary tale in appreciating the extent to which anti-democratic tendencies may become entrenched in a colonial and cold war past.

Elizabeth Normandy recalls how driven United States policy toward Africa was by cold war political and strategic concerns. Looking at Nigeria in particular, Normandy analyses how the new emphasis on human rights and a non-statist economy are tempered in U.S. policy by

the need for Nigerian oil. The driving force of international economics has perhaps replaced cold war geopolitics but still stands as an obstacle to the resolution of internal political and economic issues.

Terry Mays directs attention to intra-African international relations and the role of key regional powers, in his case Nigeria. Mays examines the determinants of Nigerian foreign policy from realist and idealist perspectives. His case study of Nigeria's role in the Chadian war reminds us of the significance of Nigeria for the whole West African region. Nigeria's role in ECOMOG, which was instrumental in the Liberian situation and more recently in Sierra Leone, points to the need to consider African regional international relations as a significant process.

Rebecca Spyke's description of Japan's African relations in the cold war and post-cold war eras highlights the likelihood that economic rather than military strategic issues are important in the near future. Japan's foreign policy toward Africa, like that of other world economic powers, reflects this new reality.

The last two articles develop somewhat wider themes. Tobias Lanz presents a non-traditional approach to modernization theory posing an ecological model accounting for African underdevelopment and the means for overcoming it. Contrasting "biotic" (traditional) with "non-biotic" (modern/industrial) energy systems, Lanz invites thinking in new ways about the future of economic, social, and political life.

The selection of articles ends with Tracy Snipe's directing attention toward the politics of culture in relation to the culture of politics. With an extensive case study of Senegal and the careers of President Senghor and the writer and filmmaker Sembene, Snipe reminds us that issues of politics and development play themselves out in a spectrum of arenas, from the world stage of international politics to the street theater of popular culture.

Taken together these articles touch on key issues of African development in the post-cold war global age. While not resolving the issues, they can, perhaps, provide a partial framework for moving forward.

In addition to the articles, this volume contains several book reviews, most of which are reviews of work published in Africa. Reprinted with permission, these reviews indicate a wide variety of

African publications which need to be taken into account in debates about African development.

The editors would like to thank Joan Dee for the care and excellence of her work in preparing the manuscript.

Finally, this volume of the *Journal* is long overdue. The editors have to accept responsibility and tender an apology for that delay to members of the Association and to subscribers to the journal.

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