Studying Africa

A guide to the sources

Edited by
Marianne Andersson and Åsa Lund Moberg

Literature surveys by
Tore Linné Eriksen

Nordiska Afrikainstitutet, Uppsala, 2011
Contents

Foreword 5
About the authors 6

Marianne Andersson

Literature searching 7
Bibliographic overviews 7
Current bibliographies 7
Searching for literature on the Internet 8
Searching for journal articles 11
References 12
Subject related databases 13
Internet resources 14

Marianne Andersson

Searching for facts 16
Introduction 16
Country specific information 16
Subject related information 18
References 21
Internet resources 23

Ása Lund Moberg

Africa Information on the Internet 24
Search engines 24
Link collections 26
Evaluation of sources 27
References 32
Internet resources 32

Birgitte Jansen

Periodicals 33
Introduction 33
News services 34
Development and aid issues 35
Political and economic development 35
Human rights 36
Academic journals 36
Older newspapers and periodicals on microfilm, in digital or printed form 39
References 40
Other web resources 43

Katarina Hjortsäter

Statistics 44
Finding statistics 44
Some sources of statistics 47
References 61
Internet resources 61
Search terms in AfricaLit 62

António Lourenço

Official publications 63
Principal types of official publications 65
Official publications on the Internet 65
National statistics agencies 67
National banks 67
References 68
Internet resources 68
Constitutions 69
Parliaments 69
National statistics agencies 69
National banks 69

Tore Linné Eriksen

The History of Africa 70
Introduction 70
General surveys 70
Historiography 71
Themes 72
War and conflicts 72
Religion 73
Historical dictionaries of Africa 73
Historical periods 73
African history in a global perspective  77
Regions and individual countries  79
Southern Africa  85
References  89

Tore Linné Eriksen

Politics, economics and society  106
Preamble  106
Introductions  106
General overviews  106
Democracy, governance and political parties  109

International affairs and African conflicts  111
Aid and development cooperation
Economic achievements and problems  115
Poverty and inequality  116
Land, resources and climate  117
AIDS, health and politics  118
Northern Africa  118
Western Africa  120
Central Africa: Congo and Rwanda/Burundi  121
Eastern Africa  122
Southern Africa  125
References  128
Foreword

Studying Africa is a guide to studying Africa primarily within the area of social sciences. Six years have now passed since the last edition of Studying Africa was published. In a changing world, this is quite a long time in terms of provision of information. The literature published about modern Africa has grown considerably in scope and quality in recent years. This new edition is therefore thoroughly revised and covers information sources from 2004 to the first six months of 2010. For older references, please see the previous edition of Studying Africa (edited by Kristina Rylander 2005).

Compared to the last edition, the subject introductions have been reduced. Now, only the chapters The History of Africa and Politics, Economics and Society have been updated. The selection for these chapters really are a selection. Literature about Africa is being published at an ever increasing rate. Highly specialized academic titles are therefore not included. When it comes to the chapters about general sources of information, all have been revised apart from the map section. These chapters provide practical guidance on literature and fact searches, with the aid of bibliographies, databases, handbooks, Internet, periodicals, statistics and official documents. The selection of material has a broad academic aim and both printed and Internet-based sources are dealt with. For further sources on the Internet, please see the Nordic Africa Institute library’s link collection A Guide to Africa on the Internet.

The English edition will only be available online. Chapters can be downloaded for free in full text format from DiVA, the Academic Archive Online.

Studying Africa is primarily aimed at university students and researchers, but other groups, such as teachers and pupils at upper secondary schools and folk high schools, librarians, journalists and aid workers, may also find it useful. The ambition is to provide a clear and practical guide to literature that is reasonably easy to access.

Studying Africa is a translation from the Swedish Att studera Afrika, which was published in 2010 in a, thoroughly revised, fourth edition.

Comments on the content and design of the publication would be gratefully received ahead of future updates.

Uppsala, March 2011

Åsa Lund-Moberg and Marianne Andersson

library@nai.uu.se

About the Nordic Africa Institute library
About the Nordic Africa Institute
About the authors

Marianne Andersson, Librarian at the Nordic Africa Institute
Tore Linné Eriksen, Historian, Professor at Oslo University College
Katarina Hjortsäter, Librarian at the Nordic Africa Institute
Birgitte Jansen, Librarian at the Nordic Africa Institute
António Lourenço, Librarian at the Nordic Africa Institute
Åsa Lund Moberg, Chief Librarian at the Nordic Africa Institute
Literature searching

Kristina Rylander

Entirely revised by Marianne Andersson

The purpose of this review is to point out some of the fundamental bibliographies and bibliographical databases for Africa studies. In-depth orientation is given, for example, in Kagan *Reference Guide to Africa* (2005), Zell *The African Studies Companion* (2006) and *Bibliographies & Resource Guides in African Studies* on the Columbia University Library’s website. The quarterly journal *African Book Publishing Record* produces an annual list of recently published bibliographies. The previous edition of this publication, *Studying Africa* (2005), includes references to older material.

“Bibliography – a list of literature within a certain subject area or concerning numerous subject areas … with the task of facilitating access to larger quantities of information to be found on a subject, country, language, etc.”

(From, Nationalencyklopedin)

A (bibliographic) database is a compilation of information that is organized into fields and can be searched logically, with dependable results. Databases may be library catalogs, indexes, or bibliographies, … The common element is organization and reliable searchability.

(Gretchen Walsh, African Studies Library at Boston University)

Bibliographic overviews

Bibliographic overviews can be found in the handbook series *Historical Dictionaries of Africa*. This provides a very good introduction to the literature concerning the respective countries. Recently published editions in the series are *Cameroon* by Rebecca Mbuh (2010), *Democratic Republic of the Congo* by Emizet F. Kisan-gani and F. Scott Bobb (2010) and *Nigeria* by Toyin Falola and Ann Genova (2009). There is an abundance of bibliographies covering the various subject fields. Good current examples of these are given in the previously mentioned Kagan *Reference Guide to Africa* (2005) and Zell *The African Studies Companion* (2006, with continuous updates to be found in the *African Book Publishing Record*). Detailed bibliographies can also be found in many of the monographs dealing with specific countries or subjects.

Current bibliographies

Current bibliographies are those that are issued at regular intervals, e.g. quarterly and sometimes as annual volumes. These collections usually include references
to books and journal articles, and are generally arranged according to countries and subjects. By using this type of bibliography, it is easy to keep up to date with recently published literature. *Africa Bibliography* is published once a year in cooperation with the journal *Africa*. The bibliography is arranged geographically and lists books, documents, journal articles and articles in collected works. It also includes some bibliographic articles relating to special topics. The bibliography will be available on the Internet starting in 2011. *International African Bibliography* includes sections dealing with countries or subjects and lists books, journal articles, and documents. A detailed cumulative index, subdivided into categories such as African languages and ethnic groups, is included. *A Current Bibliography on African Affairs* contains region and subject sections dealing with mainly journal articles. The journal *African Affairs* (3 issues/year) contains a register of recently released African literature. It also provides a list of articles on Africa published in non-Africanist journals. *dok-line AFRIKA* is an Internet-based current bibliography produced since 2000 by GIGA Information Centre in Hamburg. Each issue is devoted to a special theme with annotated references in German and English to books, journal articles and free Internet resources.

**Literature published in Africa**

Literature published in Africa is listed in *African Books in Print*, with a follow-up in the form of the current *African Book Publishing Record*. National bibliographies are current bibliographies listing all literature published in a particular country. At present 36 of Africa's 53 countries have national bibliographies or similar. Some are available online: *Bibliographie du Bénin*, *National Bibliography of Ethiopia* and *Namibia National Bibliography*. Soon to be available are *Bibliographie de l’Algérie* and *Swaziland National Bibliography*. *South African National Bibliography* (SANB) is a subsidiary database in South Africa’s national library catalogue *The National Library of South Africa*. SANB is also one of the databases in *Africa-Wide Information* (presented below).

**Searching for literature on the Internet**

Numerous types of databases dealing with literature can be found on the Internet. *Bibliographic databases* or *reference databases* consist of references to books, reports, articles and conference contributions, etc. Information is given under each reference about the item’s author, title, publisher and more. Sometimes an abstract is also included. *Full text databases* are sources that provide complete or partial access online to the publication itself, besides giving bibliographic information. *Hybrid databases* are a combined form, where full text links are supplied for some documents while only bibliographical details are provided for others. On the Nordic Africa Institute library’s website, there are links that point to the most important *databases* and *library catalogues*. 
Africa-specific databases

Only a few literature databases that concentrate on Africa exist. The largest of these by far is produced by NISC (National Inquiry Services Centre) in South Africa. It is called *Africa-Wide Information* and is a typical hybrid database. Here the user is able to search simultaneously in 50 databases sourced from more than 20 special libraries in Africa, Europe and the USA. Amongst its contributors are the Africa Institute in Pretoria, the School of Oriental and African Studies in London, the African Studies Centre in Leiden and the Nordic Africa Institute in Uppsala. This collective database concentrates on the social sciences and humanities. At present it covers close to 4 million records, some with full text links, to books, news articles, journal articles, grey literature and conference contributions, etc. A list of the databases included is available on NISC’s website. *Africa-Wide Information* is a commercial database for which a subscription is required. In the Nordic countries it is accessible for users at the Nordic Africa Institute, Uppsala University, and the University of Oslo.

*Aluka Digital Library* is an international, collaborative initiative and consists of two databases, *African Cultural Heritage Sites and Landscapes* and *Struggles for Freedom in Southern Africa*. *Aluka* contains scientific resources from and about Africa, ranging from archival documents, images, books, periodicals, reports, personal papers, correspondence, UN documents, oral histories and speeches, and more. Access to full text documents requires a subscription. *Database of African Theses and Dissertations (DATAD)* is a programme initiated by Association of African Universities and contains citations and abstracts for theses and dissertations completed in African universities. *DATAD* includes works from all subject areas in ten leading universities. The database requires a subscription. *Aluka* and *DATAD* are accessible at the Nordic Africa Institute.

*AfricaBib*, comprised of two databases, *Africana Periodical Literature Bibliographic Database* and *African Womenis Database*, and a detailed bibliography, *Women Travelers, Explorers and Missionaries to Africa 1763–2004*, is freely available on the Internet. *AfricaBib* was developed by Davis Bullwinkle, University of Arkansas, and is now produced by the African Studies Centre in Leiden. *International Documentation Network on the Great African Lakes Region* is a full text database produced by the Réseau Grands Lacs Africains in Geneva. Its aim is to collect hard-to-find documents that deal with the current situation and the economic, political and social conditions in the region. *National ETD Portal* is a repository for South African theses and dissertations in full text.

Library databases

It is also possible to search in individual library catalogues that function as a type of bibliographical database. Besides libraries that specialize in Africa, such as the School of Oriental and African Studies, the Nordic Africa Institute, and the African Studies Centre in Leiden, there are also those that focus on development research. Examples of the latter are the Danish Centre for International Studies...
and Human Rights in Copenhagen, the British Library for Development Studies, the library of the IMF/World Bank, the United Nations’ library system, and many university libraries with large collections of African literature, especially in the USA. A list of library catalogues can be found on the Nordic Africa Institute’s website.

**Subject databases**

One category of bibliographic database that cannot be ignored when searching for African literature is the commercial database, which is subject related. A subscription is necessary, although, as a rule, they can be accessed at university libraries and special libraries. They are run by subject experts and are generally of high standard. The emphasis is placed on journal articles and the references are nearly always provided with abstracts. Some examples of these databases are *Sociological Abstracts*, *EconLit* and *ERIC*. Among the subject databases freely available on the Internet are *ERICIES*, which is a free version of *ERIC*, and *Anthropological Index Online* (use is permitted for private study only). The Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU) produces the bibliographic database *Women in Politics*, with references to books and journal articles dealing with women’s participation in political life. The database has many options for customized searches in the search function. *The Networked Digital Library of Theses and Dissertations (NDLTD)* provides access to theses and dissertations, mostly in full text. In the search function you may refine your search by subject or year. A list of subject-oriented databases of interest to African studies can be found at the end of this chapter. A selection of databases is available on the Nordic Africa Institute’s website. Sometimes it may be of benefit to do a parallel search in a number of databases since, while many of them overlap regarding subject content, none of them provides complete coverage of its era of focus.

**Digital archives and web portals**

Open Access publishing means that scholarly research findings are made freely available online, often in an open access repository. Other material besides research results may also be published. Approximately 2% of the open archives are located in Africa, the majority of these in South Africa. There are services that list digital archives, and services that search archives and collect references and links to the publications in their own databases. Large archives have a disadvantage, however, in that Africa-oriented material vanishes easily in the enormous flow of information that exists.

**Connecting Africa**

Connecting Africa is a service that provides access to African research information and materials produced in the Netherlands and elsewhere. Digital resources on Africa in about 55 institutional repositories, primarily in the USA and Eu-
rope, are harvested and made searchable. The service is provided by the Africa Studies Centre in Leiden, the Netherlands.

**ilissAfrica** – Internet Library sub-Saharan Africa

ilissAfrica is an Internet portal that offers integrated access to relevant scientific literature and digital information resources on sub-Saharan Africa. The database on *Internet resources* has a collection of more than 4,300 websites, mostly from Africa. The websites are searchable and browseable according to region, country, organisation and subject area. Under the option *Resource types* the portal has good and detailed overviews of various full text resources. The service is provided by the Africa Department at the University Library Johann Christian Senckenberg in Frankfurt, in cooperation with GIGA Information Centre Africa Library in Hamburg.

**OpenDOAR** – The Directory of Open Access Repositories

OpenDOAR is a directory of academic open access repositories around the world. The archives are listed geographically and include in-depth information on each repository. To search full text material a search service based on Google is provided. OpenDOAR is initiated by the University of Nottingham, England and Lund University.

**OAIster**

OAIster is a union catalogue of digital resources and contains links to more than 23 million documents. In the advanced search function, you can search according to subject, year and type of resource. The service is provided by OCLC and University of Michigan.

**DRIVER** – Digital Repository Infrastructure Vision for European Research

DRIVER is an Internet portal with European open access repositories, with content across academic disciplines. DRIVER provides access to more than 2.5 million scientific documents in 249 repositories from 33 countries. The portal has now also opened up for non-European archives, among them some in South Africa.

**SwePub** – Swedish Scientific Publications

SwePub gives unified access to Swedish scientific publications.

**Searching for journal articles**

References to journal articles can be found in many of the bibliographies and databases already mentioned. However, there are special journal indexes that
exclusively list articles. African Studies Centre in Leiden releases a current publications index. This index has been published since 1968, first with the title Documentatieblad and since 1994, as African Studies Abstracts. In 2003 it ceased to appear in print and the index now exists as African Studies Abstracts Online, accessible via the centre’s website. It covers a large number of journals and collected works. All of the articles are annotated in either English or French. Africana Periodical Literature Bibliographic Database, a shared database in AfricaBib, contains some 109,000 references to articles from approximately 521 journals focusing on African studies. Since 1991, the Quarterly Index of African Periodical Literature from the Library of Congress office in Nairobi has listed articles from more than 300 scholarly journals published in Africa. AJOL – African Journals OnLine is an online service providing access to African-published research, and increase worldwide knowledge of indigenous scholarship. AJOL lists the table of contents of some 400 African-published, peer-reviewed journals from 29 countries. Some 100 journals contain full text articles that are downloadable. Index to South African Periodicals is one of the databases in Africa-Wide Information (mentioned previously). Numerous references to journal articles, mainly in full text, can be found in ilissAfrica. More journal indexes are presented on the Nordic Africa Institute’s web page Electronic journals and articles, and in the chapter Periodicals.

References

AfricaBib Leiden: African Studies Centre
Africa-Wide Information Grahamstown: National Inquiry Services Centre
AJOL. Grahamstown: AJOL
Bibliographies & Resource Guides in African Studies New York: Columbia University Library
dok-line AFRIKA Hamburg: GIGA Information Centre

Subject related databases

These generally require a subscription, but are usually available at public libraries.

**Interdisciplinary**
PAIS International (Public Affairs Information Service), 1972–

**Social anthropology**
Anthropological Index Online, 1957– (Freely available for research purposes)
Anthropology Review Database (ARD)  
AnthroSource

**Theses and Dissertations**
Database of African Theses and Dissertations  
Dissertations & Theses  
National ETD Portal (Freely available)  
The Networked Digital Library of Theses and Dissertations (Freely available)

**Library and information science**
LISA (Library and Information Science Abstracts), 1969–

**Demography**
Population Index, 1986–2000 (Freely available)

**Human ecology**
Environmental Sciences, 1967–  
GreenFILE (Freely available)  
SCOPUS

**Economics**
EconLit, 1969–

**Geography, geology and related subjects**
Geobase, 1980–

**History**
Historical Abstracts, 1955–

**Humanities**
Arts and Humanities Citation Index (ISI)
Art, design
Artbibliographies Modern, 1974–
Bibliography of the History of Art / International Bibliography of Art (Freely available)
DAAI (Design and Applied Arts Index), 1973–

Agriculture, rural development
AGRICOLA Articles

Literature, language
Linguistics and Language Behaviour Abstracts, 1973–
LRC (Literature Resource Center)
MLA Bibliography (Modern Language Association), 1925–

Medicine, health, HIV/AIDS
African Healthline (includes several databases, available via Africa Wide Information)
PubMed, 1950–

Music
International Library of African Music (ILAM), 1900– (Available via Africa Wide Information)
RILM Abstracts (Répertoire International de Littérature Musicale), 1967–

Education, pedagogy
ERIC (Educational Resources Information Centre) (CSA), 1966–
ERIC/IES (Institute of Education Sciences) (a free version of ERIC/CSA)

Psychology
PsycINFO

Religion
ATLA Religion Database (ATLAS)

Sociology, social work, gender science
ASSI (Applied Social Sciences Index and Abstracts), 1987–
IBSS (International Bibliography of the Social Sciences), 1951–
Sociological Abstracts, 1952–
Social Sciences Citation Index (ISI)
Social Services Abstracts, 1979–
Women in politics (Freely available)

Political science
Columbia International Affairs Online (CIAO)
Worldwide Political Science Abstracts, 1975–

Internet resources
AfricaBib – http://www.africabib.org
African Population Database –
http://na.unep.net/siouxfalls/globalpop/africa/Africa_index.html
AJOL – http://www.ajol.info
Aluka Digital Library – http://www.aluka.org/
Anthropological Index Online – http://aio.anthropology.org.uk/aiosearch/
Att studera Afrika – http://urn.kb.se/resolve?urn=urn:nbn:se:nai:diva-112
Bibliography of the History of Art / International Bibliography of Art – http://library.getty.edu/bha
Connecting Africa – http://www.connecting-africa.net/
DRIVER – http://search.driver.research-infrastructures.eu
GreenFILE – http://www.greeninfoonline.com
ilissAfrica – http://www.ilissafrica.de/en
National ETD Portal – http://www.netd.ac.za
The National Library of South Africa – http://natlib1.sabinet.co.za/search~S2
Nordic Africa Institute – http://www.nai.uu.se
OAIster – http://www.oclc.org/oaister
OpenDOAR – http://www.opendoar.org/
Population Index – http://popindex.princeton.edu/
SwePub – http://swepub.kb.se
Searching for facts

Kristina Rylander
Entirely revised by Marianne Andersson

Introduction

This chapter introduces yearbooks, encyclopedias and other reference material giving access to basic facts and fundamental information concerning particular countries or subjects. In the Nordic Africa Institute library’s link collection *A Guide to Africa on the Internet* a selection of good links can be found under the headings *links sorted by country or region* and *links sorted by subject*. Extensive guides to many different categories of information sources are the publications *Africa: A Guide to Reference Material* (McIlwaine 2007) and *African Studies Companion: A Guide to Information Sources* (Zell 2006). The latter is available as a printed publication and also accessible online at the libraries of the Nordic Africa Institute and Uppsala University, among others. The general Internet search services are also useful, especially when searching for specific factual information. More about this can be found in the chapter *African information on the Internet*. For older references, please see the previous edition of *Studying Africa* (Rylander 2005).

Country specific information

Basic facts

A good way to begin a search would be to look for brief and basic information on countries, concerned in general reference books such as *Nationalencyklopedin* or *Encyclopaedia Britannica*. These are generally available online at public libraries. In addition, *World Factbook* and *Background Notes* can be accessed free of charge on the Internet. The former, issued by the CIA, is updated annually, and is also available as a printed publication. *Background Notes*, produced by the U.S. Department of State, is updated regularly too. Brief and up-to-date country information on the Internet is also offered by Sida under *Countries and regions*, Danida’s *Landefakta* and the BBC’s *Country Profiles*, among others. Country information concentrating on specific problem areas can be found on the websites of various organisations, such as *WHO* for questions relating to health issues and *UNICEF* for questions concerning young people and children. *Länder i fickformat* is a series of small booklets issued by the Swedish Institute of International Affairs in Stockholm. Each booklet deals with one or two countries and briefly
discusses aspects such as their history, geography, politics, economics, people and culture. The series is also available as a database entitled Landguiden, and is generally accessible online at public libraries. *Political Handbook of the World* is a yearbook focusing on political conditions. In this volume, a short background, together with information about the government, constitution and political parties of all the world's nations, is given. Similar content specializing on Africa is presented in *Political Handbook of Africa 2007*. The wiki *Electionworld* and IFES' *ElectionGuide*, available on the Internet, gives insight into political parties, elections and electoral systems, and parliaments of all the world's nations. The *Inter-Parliamentary Union* (IPU) gives in-depth information on political conditions, and on issues such as women’s participation in political life.

The Corporate Council on Africa in the USA issues an African yearbook. It is succinctly entitled *Africa* and contains descriptions of countries, inter alia. With its handy format and affordable price, it is also suitable for smaller libraries. The same applies to the Norwegian Council for Africa's most useful yearbook, *Afrikårbok*, which contains country profiles (only in Norwegian), amongst other information.

Somewhat more detailed country information can be found in the *Encyclopedia of the World's Nations and Cultures, vol. 1–4* (Kurian 2007). Africa-specific encyclopedias also exist, with references to the various nations. *New Encyclopedia of Africa, vol. 1–5* (2008), for instance, contains fairly detailed country descriptions, while *Africa A-Z: Continental and Country Profiles* (Esterhuysen 2008), in one volume, has country surveys and general overviews. The general overviews deal with subjects such as geography, demography, ethnography, history and economics of the continent as a whole. The book, with maps and tables of facts, can be recommended for public or school libraries. As far as printed reference works are concerned, it is always important to pay attention to the year of publication and to supplement this information, if necessary, with newer facts gathered, for example, from yearbooks or Internet sources.

**Country descriptions**

Detailed country descriptions appear in yearbooks concentrating specifically on Africa. Incorporated in *Africa South of the Sahara* and *The Middle East and North Africa*, for instance, are country overviews and introductions to geography, contemporary history and economy. These works also incorporate statistical tables dealing with population, production, trade, national accounts, and more. Finally, there is a section with information about the country's constitution and government, its political parties and mass media, schools, transport, defence, and trade and industrial organisations. The development in North Africa can also be followed in *L’Année du Maghreb*, while various aspects of development in the area surrounding the great lakes in Central Africa are discussed in *L’Afrique des grands lacs*. Detailed information about South Africa can be obtained in the official *South Africa Yearbook* and in a summary version *Pocket Guide to South
Africa. These publications are available in printed format and online via the South African government’s website. Another type of yearbook is Africa Contemporary Record, in which detailed country overviews take the form of accounts of the events and developments in all areas of society for those years represented by the respective volumes. This is a very solid and useful publication. Its release, however, is unfortunately subject to delay, making it necessary to look to others sources for recent developments. One such source is the Annual Register, which presents annual overviews of the developments in all countries of the world. In Country Reports, published on a monthly or quarterly basis by The Economist Intelligence Unit, an up-to-date overview is given, chiefly of the economy, but also of the political situation within the country. For more about the EIU, see the chapter Periodicals. In addition to these publications, the handbook series Historical Dictionaries of Africa provides comprehensive information on countries. These reference works tend to be fairly wide-ranging and therefore are not of interest solely to historians. Apart from historical events, entries have also been provided for ethnic groups, geographical names, persons, etc. For larger country studies in the form of monographs, please see the chapters The History of Africa and Politics, Economics and Society.

News watch
The most up-to-date information available on a country is to be found in printed or online newspapers and periodicals. A selection of these is introduced in the chapter Periodicals. One example is EIU’s Country Reports, which are excellent for following the economic and political development in a country. Keesing’s record of world events (Keesing’s World News Archive, subscription required), based on daily newspapers and other news sources throughout the world, is a current record of the progress of events both internationally and in individual countries. A corresponding synopsis of development on the African continent can be found in Africa Research Bulletin, which consists of a political and an economic series. These are issued monthly and have a detailed annual index. Up-to-date information can also be sought via the Internet through news agencies, such as AllAfrica, Panapress, Afrol News and BBC News – Africa. Other news agencies and national media can be reached, for example, via the Nordic Africa Institute’s A Guide to Africa on the Internet under the headings links sorted by subject / News and media and links sorted by country or region.

Subject related information
Reference works and yearbooks
The New Encyclopedia of Africa, vol.1–5 (2008), was mentioned in the previous section on country information. It also contains articles on different subject areas, and has a well laid-out index. The Encyclopedia of African History, vol.1–3
(Shillington 2005), covers the history of Africa from the earliest times until the present day, and presents in-depth historical analyses in a number of areas. The *Encyclopedia of African History and Culture, vol. 1–5* (Page 2005), also includes the history of Africa from the earliest times, but most importantly, from the colonial era up to the present day. *Africa: A Modern History* (Arnold 2005) and *Historical Dictionary of Civil Wars in Africa* (Arnold 2008) are examples of handbooks that relate to the modern history of Africa. *Dictionnaire de l’Afrique: histoire, civilisation, actualité* (Nantet 2006), an encyclopedia in French, focuses on social sciences. A solid reference work on the African diaspora is the *Encyclopedia of the African Diaspora: Origins, Experiences and Culture, vol. 1–3* (2007). With an abundance of maps and illustrations, it can be recommended for public or school libraries. Further reference works focusing on history are discussed in the chapter *The History of Africa.*

The yearbooks *Africa South of the Sahara* and *The Middle East and North Africa* begin with background articles on the political and economic development in the area, while *Africa Contemporary Record* opens with essays on topical questions. *Africa Yearbook: Politics, Economy and Society South of the Sahara* includes facts about the political, social and economic development in Africa south of the Sahara. Each volume begins with some essays on current issues, followed by descriptions of countries and regions. A detailed analysis of economic and social developments in Africa and worldwide can be found in annual reports from distinguished international organisations. Examples of these are *World Development Report* (World Bank), *Human Development Report* (UN’s Development Programme – UNDP) and *African Development Report* (African Development Bank). Each annual report is devoted to a special topic, such as conflicts, climate change, sustainable development or poverty reduction. The last three organisations are also excellent sources for statistical information. Read more about this in the chapter titled *Statistics.*

**Document texts**

Resolutions, treaties and other documents can be found in full text as appendices to books. Another important source of documents is *Africa Contemporary Record*, which has a section made up entirely of texts concerning international relations, constitutional development, and economic and social relationships. *Africa Research Bulletin* often reproduces complete or partial documentary texts.

These publications follow constitutional developments in each country, with reproductions of statutory texts. Texts of documents are regularly featured in *Keesing’s Record of World Events* and the French language publication, *Afrique contemporaine*. Texts of the constitutions of African states can be found in *Constitutiones Africæ* (Reyntjens 1988–2002) together with an analysis of the text and a description of the historical background of each country. Similar information can be found in the French work *Les Constitutions africaines publiées en langue française* (Gaudusson 1997–1998). The constitutions themselves, togeth-
er with their amendments, are published as supplements to the statute books that form part of the Nordic Africa Institute’s collection of official publications. Read more about this in the chapter titled Official Publications. Documents of the African Commission on Human and Peoples’ Rights, vol. 1–2 (Murray 2001–2009) contains basic documents, resolutions, bulletins, reports, and more from the establishment of the commission in 1987 onwards.

Regional and international organisations

The Historical Dictionary of International Organizations in Sub-Saharan Africa (Mays & DeLancey 2002) covers regional and international organisations from the beginning of the 19th century until 2000. A list of acronyms, a chronology, and an extensive bibliography are included. Political Handbook of Africa 2007 gives detailed descriptions of the most important regional and international organisations acting in Africa. Peoples and Cultures of Africa: Nations and Personalities, presented below, has similar content but in a more concise format. International Organizations: A Dictionary and Directory (Schiavone 2008) is a reference work that provides a comprehensive guide to international organisations.

Since change is an ongoing process, these publications need to be constantly updated with supplementary data. In the yearbooks Africa South of the Sahara and The Middle East and North Africa, overviews are provided of UN and other international organisations’ presence in Africa, as well as of regional African organisations, trade and industrial organizations, and trade unions. Examples of Internet-based lists of organisations are The Directory of Development Organizations: Africa focusing on development issues, OneWorld.net – Global Partner Database concerned with sustainable development, social justice and human rights. The Dimitra database contains profiles of organisations based in Africa and the Near East working with projects or activities on women in development. On its website, Columbia University Libraries’ have compiled a list of International Organizations on Africa. Links to organisations in Africa can be found in the Nordic Africa Institute’s A Guide to Africa on the Internet under the headings Research Institutes, Universities and Organisations.

Biographical information

An African Biographical Dictionary (Brockman 2006) has more than 700 entries on current and historically famous persons within various areas of activity. The book Peoples and Cultures of Africa: Nations and Personalities (see below) contains a biographical section of well-known persons.

Biographical main entries are also included in Historical Dictionaries of Africa and in some encyclopedias already mentioned. Information about people of topical interest can be found in, inter alia, Africa Research Bulletin and Afrique contemporaine. On its website, Columbia University Libraries have compiled the list African Biography on the Internet.
Ethnic groups and languages

Literature in the areas of language and ethnography are not currently included in *Studying Africa*. In this section only a small selection of more recent handbooks dealing with this extensive area are mentioned. *Ethnologue. Languages of the World* is issued by Summer Institute of Linguistics in the USA, in continuously updated editions. It is available as a printed book and in a web version (the latest is the 16th edition 2010). Here, one can search for countries, particular languages or language groups, or alternative language names. The *Encyclopedia of the Peoples of Africa and the Middle East, vol. 1–2* (Stokes 2009) has chapters that are presented in an easily accessible format with maps, tables of facts and illustrations, which makes it highly suitable for use at public or school libraries. *Peoples and Cultures of Africa* (Mitchell 2006), in 6 volumes, gives a broad introduction to Africa’s geography and culture. Five of the volumes deal with the respective regions, while one volume, titled *Nations and Personalities*, contains brief country surveys, and entries on well-known persons, as well as a list of regional, international and environmental organisations acting in Africa.

References


*Africa South of the Sahara* (annual). London: Europa Publications


*Africa Yearbook. Politics, Economy and Society South of the Sahara* Leiden: Brill


*Afrique contemporaine* (6 issues/year). Paris: La Documentation Française.

*L’Afrique des Grands Lacs*. Paris: Harmattan


*Annual Register* (annual). Bethesda: Keesing’s Worldwide


Historical Dictionaries of Africa. Metuchen, NJ: Scarecrow Press


Keesing’s Record of World Events. London: Keesing’s Worldwide LLC.


Länder i fickformat. Stockholm: Utrikespolitiska institutet.


The Middle East and North Africa (annual). London: Europa Publications


Norwegian Council for Africa’s Afrika-årbok (annual). Oslo: Fellesrådet for Afrika


World Factbook (annual). Washington D.C.: Central Intelligence Agency

Internet resources


Afrol News: http://www.afrol.com/

AllAfrica: http://allafrica.com/

Background Notes: http://www.state.gov/r/pa/ei/bgn/


Country Profiles (BBC): http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/country_profiles/default.stm

Countries & Regions: http://www.sida.se/Engelska/Countries--regions


A Guide to Africa on the Internet: http://www.nai.uu.se/library/resources/guidetoafrica


Inter-Parliamentary Union: http://www.ipu.org

Landefakta: http://www.um.dk/da/menu/Udenrigspolitik/Landefakta

Landinformasjon: http://www.afrika.no/Landinformasjon

OneWorld.net: http://archive.oneworld.net/section/partners

Panapress: www.panapress.com


UNICEF: http://www.unicef.org

WHO: http://www.who.int/en


Africa Information on the Internet

Åsa Lund Moberg

The Internet is now the first step on the way to finding information, but it is also a complement to other sources. Today, there is an increasing amount of information produced locally in Africa, alongside material about Africa from international organisations, institutions and other sources outside the continent. There are also several publications available as full text, both in digital archives and also on ordinary web pages.

Information services, portals and link collections supplied on the Internet from organisations and libraries focusing on Africa are in many cases a good starting point for finding structured information about Africa. Correctly used, major search services, such as Google, Google Scholar and Scirus can also sift out relevant material from the vast amount of information available on the Internet.

Finding information on the Internet that is relevant, up-to-date and reliable is difficult. Just as with printed media, the sources need to be scrutinised. In addition to the usual questions “Who?” (originator), “Why?” (purpose), “When?” (currency), one should also, for sources on the Internet, ask the question “How?” How did one actually arrive at the source?

Search engines

Search engines (such as Google) are characterised by the contents (words) of web pages being searched by machine and gathered together in a database. The robot that searches web pages finds its way via the links located on the web pages. When searching via a form, search words are matched against words in the database, which then point ahead to the web pages where the words were found. All search engines have help pages showing tips for how best to use the service. The greatest problem is the amount of hits that turn up. The answers are ranked according to where the words are to be found on the web page, and according to how many have linked to the page, among other criteria. The web pages where the words appear frequently, in the title, in the meta data of the web page (information about the web page title, author, publication date, subject, type of material, etc. shown in the html code) are shown at the top of the list. Likewise for those web pages that have links from many other web pages. However, there is a way of making the search more precise in order to avoid the large number of hits.

Question: What is education in Kenya like from a gender perspective?

The search words “gender education Kenya” on Google produces around 12 million hits. The first hits on the list look good, but it is difficult to sift out links
that are useful. However, using the advanced search feature on Google, it is possible to limit the search in various ways. If it is locally produced material that is wanted, you can search for links to websites in Kenya under “Region”. It is also possible to limit the hits to links on websites with the address “.org”, which are often the websites of large international organisations (see below under evaluation of sources relating to addresses).

It is also possible to try different file formats in advanced searching. By limiting a search to links in pdf format, it is possible to pick out information that gives a more detailed answer to the question. Reports that are already published in print are often published in pdf format.

Tip: Choose further search words based on the links that appear in order to target relevant material. Example: Add the word “statistics” to produce links to statistics, add “girls” for links to material about primary and lower secondary schools and “higher education” for links to material about universities. Add the file format “.xls.” for searches for statistics and the hit list will then contain Excel sheets with statistics. Change “.org” for “.ke” in the domain field to find information published in Kenya, or change it for “.gov” and up comes information from American public authorities. However, see below under evaluation of sources relating to addresses. You can also try to change the order of the words “Kenya gender education” in order to find different focus points. The hit list is sorted in accordance to the order of the search words.

**Google Scholar**

Google Scholar is aimed at academic material published both for free online and in licensed databases. Much of what is felt to be irrelevant when searching on Google is filtered out. Students and researchers at Nordic universities often have direct access to the complete text, as several university libraries have linked their paid resources to Google Scholar. However, it is very unclear how much material published in Africa is included on Google Scholar. They provide hardly any information about what is indexed in the service.

**Scirus**

Scirus has the same aim as Google Scholar, but is clearer about where the material comes from. As well as having good search facilities, it also has various options for limiting the search according to subject and year.

The major weaknesses of search engines is that they are based on robots that collect links via other links, and that they never cover the whole of the Internet. A robot visits websites with varying frequency. The websites of large organisations and websites that are very dynamic, such as news agencies, are visited more often than more peripheral websites. In Google’s database, there are links both to websites that are visited daily by the robot and to websites that it visits perhaps only once every six months. This means you must always ask yourself if what you are looking for is actually available in the search engine’s database. As
much of what is published on the Internet is focused on the USA or the west/north, and the search robots gather links via links, you should also ask yourself how well represented locally produced information from Africa is via search engines. There are investigations that show that there is a skewed distribution in favour of the west/north in search engines.

It may be worth trying various search engines, as they differ more than one would think in terms of content. The core of search engines’ databases with links to well-known, large websites is the same, but those parts of the databases that include links to smaller websites or individual web pages differ significantly. Investigations have shown that when searching narrow concepts using eight large search engines, more than half the total number of links was found by only one search engine. In order to find different search engines, search for “search engines” on Google, and links with alternatives will be shown.

The answers from the search engines are never better than the content of the database, or the question asked. Search engines work best if you search for unique concepts or words, and least well if a very broad, general question is asked. In this case, it is better to use a link collection.

Link collections

One portal for Africa information is the link collections that are held on the websites of libraries and organisations focusing on Africa. Another way of finding relevant link collections or links is to ask the question “Who would bother?” For example, if you want to find out about investments in a country, you can probably find links on the website of the Swedish Trade Council. The advantage of using a link collection is that it usually consists of links that have been checked for quality. When using this, do remember that while there is a quality guarantee, the selection of links is directed by the editor’s knowledge about the subject and also by the resources for keeping the link collection updated. The selection criteria also vary between different websites, and sometimes there is no account of these.

*Internet Library Sub-Saharan Africa ilissAfrica*

A portal with entries to Internet resources and library catalogues provided by the Africa Department of the University Library Johann Christian Senckenberg in Frankfurt and GIGA Information Centre Africa Library in Hamburg. The links are arranged according to regions, countries, organisations and subjects with a search function.

*A Guide to Africa on the Internet*

The Nordic Africa Institute’s library has developed the guide to meet the need for quality-checked and structured sources of information and databases. The content is aimed at research and many of the links are guides in turn for each
subject area, where some have a broader focus than just research. The division into subject guides and country guides is an attempt to capture the various types of questions the users have.

There are around 1100 links, with annotations in English, which cover the following subject areas among others:

Country-specific information sources, Subject-specific information sources, Libraries and databases, Periodicals, News agencies and news dissemination, Radio and television, Research institutes, universities and organisations, Internet portals in Africa, Other collections of information sources about Africa.

Africa South of the Sahara, Selected Internet Resources
A selection of Internet sources made by Karen Fung at the Africa Collection, Hoover Library, Stanford University for the Electronic Technology Group of the African Studies Association in the USA. The links are arranged according to regions, countries and subjects with a search function.

African Studies Internet Resources
A summary of bibliographic sources and research material about Africa, created by the African Studies Department of Columbia University Libraries, USA. The links are arranged according to regions, countries, organisations and subjects with a search function. The selection is aimed at research and also includes links to complete text documents.

An A-Z of African Studies on the Internet
A link collection compiled by Peter Limb of the Africana Library at Michigan State University, USA. This also includes links to email lists and discussion groups. The links are arranged according to subjects with a search function.

Open Directory: Africa
A general link collection with links arranged according to country with a search function. The link collection is compiled by volunteers.

Evaluation of sources
Just as with printed sources, sources on the Internet need to be evaluated. In the first instance, there are four questions that should be asked: Who? Why? When? How? A brief review of these follows below. The review is not at all complete, but should rather be seen as a suggestion for questions to ask when assessing the source, and as a complement to the usual questions asked when evaluating printed sources. There are many good reviews of how to assess Internet sources on the websites of libraries, see the end of the text for references.
Who?
Who is the originator? What authority does he/she/the organisation have? Is there any information about him/her/it?

Publishing on the Internet is both easy and inexpensive. Quality controls, such as editors and subject specialists in publishing houses do not exist. Financial resources are not an obstacle. Information from large, established knowledge organisations sits side by side with information from private individuals and organisations with both honourable and obscure purposes. Knowledge about who is behind a website on the Internet is needed in order to evaluate the reliability and authority of the source.

Address
Where is the website published?
The address of the web page, the URL (Universal Resource Locator) is constructed according to the model how://where/what. The address http://www.nai.uu.se/press/articles/ecas-keynote-speaker-issa/ can be divided up according to the pattern below.

“Http” shows that the document is transported using hyper text transfer protocol over the Internet, “www” that it is a world wide web document, “nai.uu” is the name of the server (sub domain) and “.se” stands for Sweden (top domain). “/press/” and “/articles/” states in which catalogue on the server the web page is held and “ecas-keynote-speaker-issa/” is the name of the web page itself.

By being able to read the top domain codes, you can usually see which country the web page is published in, or the type of organisation holding the web page. Often, the code gives an indication of whether the originator comes from a large organisation or a larger context.

However, some country codes and certain generic codes (“com”, “org”, “net”) can be bought. Among them is the country code “.nu”, from Niue Island, which is popular in Scandinavia.

If the information on the web page does not appear to correspond to the address, you should ask yourself how reliable the source is, such as a statement from Amnesty International about human rights in a country found on a page where the address ends in “.com” or “.net”.

Links to list of top domains, both country codes and generic codes, can be found if you search the word “top domains” using the search engine Google. On the Internet there are also services where you can search for those who register an address to a website. This often includes address and other information. Links to these can be found via Google if you search for “whois”.

Using this part of evaluation of sources for information produced locally in Africa causes problems. The infrastructure is built up to differing extents in different parts of the continent, which means that the assumption that the websites of major institutions and governments have a country code as the top domain code and are located on a local web server is not always correct. The electricity supply
is unstable in some countries. Local connections may be lacking between cities, and also between neighbouring countries. In order to provide a website that is constantly available, even major institutions choose to place their material on a commercial server outside Africa. The availability of space on a local web server may be limited, and while the price for the same may be relatively high locally, there is available web space for free or cheaply in both the USA and Europe. For instance, the official website of Togo www.republicoftogo.com/ is registered at an address in the USA.

Contact
Can you contact the originator? Is there an email address? Is the email address an established institution? Is the email address located on the same server as the web page? Is there a postal address, telephone number? Are the authors actually associated with the institution or organisation they state?

Sometimes there is no information on the web page about who is behind the information, in particular if the page is located deep down on a website. By cutting down an address section by section to a web page, you can move up the website and see whether there is information further up in the hierarchy. Examples: http://www.nbebank.com/pdf/annualbulletin/Annual%20Report%202005_06/Energy%20Production.pdf

On the web page itself, there is a document in pdf format. There is no link to the originator. By removing the entire string after “.com”, you get to the website itself, which turns out to be produced by the Ethiopian national bank.

If an email address is shown with another server address, you can try to get to the server in accordance with the analogy library@nai.uu.se-www.nai.uu.se, i.e. by changing the names before “@” to “www”. Many institutions and organisations have personnel lists on their website where it is possible to confirm a person’s association with the same.

When it comes to contact information on locally produced pages in Africa that refer to free providers of email services, this is not in itself an indication that the information is not reliable, or that the person is not an established authority within his or her subject. The price of both local email services and of space on web servers may be high, and an established free email service abroad may be more stable than a service from a local company that may not be operating in a few years. The problem with servers going down due to lack of electricity supply is also a reality. Many institutions in the public authority sector and the educational sector in African countries also do not have the same access to computer resources as do similar institutions in Europe and the USA. Being able to determine whether a person is associated with an established institution through his or her email address is therefore uncertain. If the originator claims to be a researcher or to be associated with academia, this information can be confirmed via library catalogues or in databases. For example, Library of Congress has a large collection of published academic material from Africa. Africa Journals Online is a platform for
almost 400 academic journals published in Africa, which also offer opportunities for searching authors.

Why?
Is it advertisement, propaganda or fact?

In order to evaluate a web page, you must place it into context. Sometimes the purpose of the publication is clear, sometimes it is difficult to determine what is fact and what is opinion. Just as some publish in order to inform, others publish in order to disinform. Just as important as what is mentioned on the web page is perhaps what is not mentioned.

When using the websites of international organisations, for example, you should be clear about what is on their agenda. Organisations concerned with human rights do not always bring up positive sides of a country and official websites published in a country may perhaps be aimed at attracting investors, and therefore do not publish negative information. A conflict may be described in right–left terms by a local party, while the same conflict is described in ethnic terms by another party, all depending on ideological background and interests. Subjective information on the Internet is in itself an important source, if it can be evaluated on the basis of why it is published. It is also important to remember the context in which the web page is published. The view of the world around us varies, not just from a north–south perspective, but also between other poles such as Europe and the USA, which are normally regarded as having the same view of the world.

When?
Is the web page dated? How often is the information updated? Is it of importance whether the information is old or new?

How frequently the information on a web page is updated can be an indication of the amount of resources the organisation/originator has. If it is a current subject that is discussed, old information can be misleading.

How?
How did the inquirer arrive at that particular site? What other websites link to the web page, and to what websites does the web page have links?

By following how a web page is linked on the Internet, you can get an indication of how reliable the source is. If the website has a link from an established source, this in itself is a quality indicator. Many search services, such as Google, have a search function where you can see who has a link to a web page. With Google, you use the search string link:web page address in order to find those who have links to the web page. Example: link:www.nai.uu.se

Just as interesting as finding out who has links to a web page is to see what links are located on the web page itself. If a current or controversial subject is
being dealt with, and there are no links to established sources within the same subject area, you should ask yourself why. A web page that has links both to and from bona fide sources must be regarded as more reliable than a web page that lacks these.

Comparing sources
The multitude of sources on the Internet is an asset, but the amount of information also makes it difficult to determine what information is correct. There is contradictory information about nearly everything.

It is important to compare information from several sources. However, having confirmed a piece of information from two sources does not necessarily mean it is correct. The originators may have used the same primary source for their information. Check the extent to which the information agrees. Are there any long quotes that have the same wording? Do the figures correspond down the last decimal?

If the statistical values are far from each other, this does not mean that one source is incorrect, as the definitions used in the calculations may have been different.

It is also important to find out the resources behind the information and the form of the primary source. For example, is it a question of estimates or statistical calculations? If the source was originally printed and later published electronically, you must take into account both that all scanned text-interpreted material always has a percentage error, and also that it is not always the case that the printed version corresponds to the electronic one. Some picture material and appendices are also left out in electronic publications. This applies also to material that originates from established organisations. For example, the Swedish parliament, the Riksdag, has information on its website that the electronic version of the Swedish Code of Statutes may lack appendices.

Lost sources
A great problem with the dynamic Internet is that many web pages disappear after a while, or are moved within the website. Many countries are working on long-term storage of material published on the Internet, but even more countries do not. This applies in particular to material from the south. Much of the so-called grey material that was previously published in printed form, for example brochures, minor reports and conference materials, is today often published as individual web pages, sometimes far down on the websites. With the help of projects such as Internet Archive, it is possible to locate these documents if the address to the website is there. Just as in the case of search engines, Internet Archive has an emphasis on the north/west in the archive, because the material is gathered using search robots.
References


Internet resources

Most websites or search services mentioned in the text can be found on the Nordic Africa Institute’s website [www.nai.uu.se](http://www.nai.uu.se) in the link collection *A Guide to Africa on the Internet*. Many university and college libraries have summaries on their websites about evaluation of sources on the Internet. Search “evaluate Internet sources” using Google, and you will get good hits.


*Africa Journals Online* – [www.ajol.info](http://www.ajol.info)


*An A–Z of African Studies on the Internet* – [http://staff.lib.msu.edu/limb/a-z/az.html](http://staff.lib.msu.edu/limb/a-z/az.html)

*Google* – [http://www.google.com](http://www.google.com)

*Google Scholar* – [http://scholar.google.se/](http://scholar.google.se/)

*Internet Archive* – [www.internetarchive.org](http://www.internetarchive.org)


Periodicals

Birgitte Jansen

Introduction

The Nordic Africa Institute’s library currently has more than 1500 periodical publications, of which approximately 400 are active. All periodicals focus on Africa, primarily within the subject areas of social sciences, politics, development issues and humanities. The library’s website has a current alphabetical list of all periodicals.

The periodicals collection consists of newspapers, journals, regular report series and yearbooks in both printed and electronic format, all of which are searchable in the library catalogue AfricaLit. In AfricaLit’s article catalogue you can also find more than 7000 selected articles and special issues from important scientific periodicals, primarily from the years 1990–2000, plus a small number for 2001 and onwards. Remote users can order copies of articles on a special order form and have them sent by post. There is a big range of electronic periodicals in full text in various databases, which are wholly or partly focused on Africa, and they are available via the Nordic Africa Institute’s website under the heading Electronic Periodicals and Articles.

The Nordic Africa Institute’s periodicals collection, which has been built up since the early 1960s, is a unique resource for research into Africa’s political development and history. The collection consists of both well-established western academic periodicals and academic periodicals published in Africa. During the last decade, development within periodicals publishing has been very rapid, and a ‘periodicals collection’ is today not the same thing as just a few years ago. Today, the concept of a ‘periodicals collection’ stretches far beyond the limits of the individual library. The number of so-called open access periodicals, i.e. periodicals that are freely available on the Internet, is increasing continuously. Many organisations that previously published printed publications now choose to publish their periodicals and newsletters in electronic format on their websites, and to send them out by email. It is important to select and make these visible as well. Selected report series published in full text by mainly Nordic institutions and organisations can be searched and downloaded from E-AfricaLit.

In this chapter, I have chosen to present a selection of periodicals that I would like to highlight. I have also selected periodicals within specific areas, which are currently particularly relevant within Africa research. The majority of these are available from the Nordic Africa Institute’s library. The periodicals that are freely available on the Internet are marked ‘(OA)’. 
News services

Newspapers
Today, it is no longer enough for news dissemination to be current for the day; instead, as soon as an item of news occurs it must be available ‘here and now’. Because of this, the value of printed newspapers has fallen and been replaced by news reporting on the Internet. However, if it should be necessary to find information about the newspapers being published in a specific African country, you can find the most important national newspapers with address and contact information in the handbooks *Africa South of Sahara* and *Middle East and North Africa*.

There is a large range of free African newspapers and other news reporting in full text from most African countries. Links to African newspapers can be found in *A Guide to Africa on the Internet* under the heading ‘News and Media’ under each country/region and among the subject links. Another compilation of African electronic newspapers is *Electronic Newspapers of Africa*, at Columbia University Libraries.

A newspaper that can be warmly recommended and that is of a high standard is *Mail & Guardian* online (OA), published in South Africa. Their news coverage does not only cover southern Africa, but the entire African continent.

Another important news channel is *IRIN – Integrated Regional Information Network, Humanitarian News and Analysis* (OA), which is published by the UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs. IRIN monitors the entire African continent and publish daily reports and news with analysis from all regions and countries in Africa. There are weekly summaries about urgent subject areas, such as conflicts, which are described in more detailed reports with links. You can subscribe to IRIN via email free of charge.

Periodicals
When it comes to periodicals with news coverage, *Africa Confidential* has held a singular position over the last 50 years, and has reported news about developments within politics, economics and security issues from the entirety of the African continent. They also identify and illuminate upcoming issues and trends within politics, often before they are noticed by other media.

Africa Research Bulletin, which consists of two subsidiary series, *Economic, Financial and Technical Series* and *Political, Social and Cultural Series*, have reported on developments within politics, economy, infrastructure, security, social development, culture and international relations since 1964. Each yearly edition has a register, which means that the entire yearly edition is also useful as a reference book. *Africa-Asia Confidential* is a periodical that started in 2007, and it focuses on relations between Asia and Africa, and Asia’s growing influence over politics and economy on the African continent.

*New Africa Analysis* is an independent news magazine that monitors all important events on the African continent.
**Indian Ocean Newsletter** was founded in 1984 and reports political and economic news from the Horn of Africa, eastern Africa, parts of southern Africa and the islands in the Indian Ocean.

In French, there is *Jeune Afrique: Hebdomadaire International Indépendant*, which covers all of Africa, although the emphasis is on the French-speaking countries. Of the bigger news magazines published in London, two should be mentioned: *New African* and *Focus on Africa: BBC Magazine*

### Development and aid issues

Among the leading international periodicals focusing on development and aid issues, the following, which provide continuous and solid monitoring of the African continent, can be recommended: *Development and Change*, *Development in Practice*, which concentrates on analysis of practical implementation of research within development issues and humanitarian areas. *European Journal of Development Research*, which often publishes special issues within areas of current interest. *Forum for Development Studies: the Nordic journal for development research*, *Journal of International Development*, *World Development: the Multi-Disciplinary International Journal Devoted to the Study and Promotion to World Development*.

The above periodicals are all very broad and multidisciplinary within politics, economy, sociology and anthropology. They focus on living conditions, the fight against poverty, environmental issues, indebtedness, equality, ethnic discrimination, conflicts, and so on.

When it comes to Africa-specific periodicals, the following can be recommended. *Africanus*: This is a journal of development studies that brings up development issues in the third world and in particular South Africa. *African Development Review*, which is published on behalf of the African Development Bank. It is aimed at scrutinising and analysing development policy in Africa, and focuses on the policy relevance of research results. *Development Southern Africa*: journal of the Development Bank Southern Africa.

### Political and economic development

The *Economist Intelligence Unit (EIU)* holds a special position as one of the world’s best providers of in-depth articles and analysis of the political and economic situation in all the countries in the world. Their target groups are primarily researchers, decision-makers and the world of commerce.
Their Country Reports are published quarterly or monthly, with reports from every African country. The Reports describe the political and economic situation during the latest quarter. They provide economic statistics for imports, exports, inflation, prices, foreign investments, etc. and forecasts of important political and economic changes during the next two years. As a complement or alternative to the Country Reports, *ViewsWire — Africa / Middle East*, can be recommended, providing daily analysis and forecasts from the entire African continent.

Another periodical focusing on the economy is *African Business*, which is published monthly and monitors the latest developments within economy, business and industry. *Marchés Tropicaux et Méditerranéens* concentrates mainly on French-speaking Africa, and also publishes in-depth *Dossiers* within various subject areas of current interest or country analyses.

**Human rights**

*African Human Rights Law Journal* (OA) is published by the Centre for Human Rights, University of Pretoria, and focuses on human rights and related subject areas within the entire African continent. *The International Journal of Transitional Justice* is an academic periodical that publishes articles focusing on countries that are in a transitional process towards democracy after conflicts or genocide. Subjects dealt with are truth commission, reconciliation processes, democratisation process, witnessing and readjustment. *Human Rights Watch — Reports* (OA) publishes approximately 100 reports annually on crimes against human rights in around 90 countries, among them countries in Africa. The reports can be downloaded free of charge in their entirety from Human Rights Watch’s website.

**Academic journals**

The highest ranking and internationally recognised Africa-specific journals are mainly published in Europe, South Africa and USA. In terms of indexed articles in western international periodicals, African researchers are extremely poorly represented, and amount to only 0.7% (Ngobeni 2010:187).

The well-known author Chinua Achebe disliked that the market was dominated by foreign publishers, and stated the following: “We have got to the point where our literature must grow out of the social dynamics of Africa …” “Writers, especially established writers, have a responsibility to support an indigenous publisher who displays the necessary qualities of intellect, creativity and organization ...” (Ngobeni 2010:54).

Many less well-known academic journals that were or are published at African universities are often of high quality, and should definitely not be underrated,
as they reflect the research that is being carried out on the African continent. However, for decades, the academic journals published in Africa have been wrestling with great difficulties, such as lack of money and resources, and in some countries lack of academic freedom. Likewise, marketing of these journals has been non-existent. They therefore remained invisible and impossible to find for anyone interested. This resulted in irregular publishing, and despite great willingness, publishing usually ceased after a couple of issues.

Since around year 2000, new technology has entailed a great turn-around, and successful initiatives to promote and make visible academic journals published in Africa have been made. One of the most successful initiatives is African Journals OnLine (AJOL), which, with the help of development support, was established in 1998 by INASP (International Network for the Availability of Scientific Publications). During the last decade, AJOL has constantly grown and today contains around 400 quality-controlled periodicals from 29 countries, and the number of periodicals is growing steadily. AJOL gives access to more than 40 000 searchable table of contents with abstracts. After having set up an account, it is possible to download articles direct in pdf form against payment. However, 100 periodicals in AJOL are freely available open access periodicals.

Another project is African E-journals Project (OA) at Michigan State University, African Studies Centre. The database consists of a full text archive, with 11 academic journals published in Africa. There is also African Journals Directory, which is a list of more than 1 900 periodicals about Africa with links to searchable lists of contents, abstracts and sometimes articles in full text.

Sabinet in South Africa, which has for many years been working to make electronic resources available to libraries in southern Africa, provides the database Sabinet – Open Access Journals Collection. It is still under construction, and currently the database contains around 50 titles. IlissAfrica is a German portal with electronic resources focused on Africa south of the Sahara. It includes Electronic Journals Library, which is an A-Z list with 610 electronic academic periodicals, of which many are freely available.

Another important database with periodicals in full text freely available on the Internet is DOAJ – Directory of Open Access Journals. The database has a considerable number of periodicals focused on Africa, and it is possible to search DOAJ at article level.

Among the multi-disciplinary periodicals of high academic status, the following can be recommended:

- Africa: Journal of the International African Institute focusing on humanities, social sciences and environment.
- Africa Development / Afrique et Développement, which is a bilingual periodical focusing on social sciences. (OA)
- Africa Today is one of the leading periodicals within politics, economics and social sciences.
African Affairs, which is published on behalf of Royal African Society, publishes articles about the latest political, social and economic development in countries south of the Sahara.

African Studies Quarterly (OA). This is published only in full text with articles about social sciences, politics and history.

Eastern Africa Social Science Research Review. Regional forum with reflective and reasoning analysis within economics, politics, social sciences and development.

Journal of Modern African Studies with emphasis on current issues within politics, economy, society and international relations.

Journal of North African Studies with focus on the countries north of the Sahara, brings up subjects such as history, sociology, anthropology and economics.

Journal of Southern African Studies publishes articles about current issues within social sciences and humanities in the countries in southern Africa.

Politikon: South African journal of political studies, focuses mainly on South African politics since the transfer from apartheid to democracy, women and politics, questions of identity and much more.


Among the more subject-specific periodicals, the following can be recommended:


African Journal of Aids Research the purpose of which is to contribute to the understanding of the social consequences of HIV/AIDS in Africa. It publishes articles within sociology, demography, epidemiology, social geography, economics, psychology, anthropology, philosophy, education and social work.

African Journal on Conflict Resolution. Focuses on conflict handling. (OA)

African Population Studies. Freely available periodical focusing on population studies. (OA)


African Security Review. Published by the Institute for Security Studies in South Africa. It contains articles about human security in a very broad perspective, such as criminality, justice and corruption, weapons control, peace initiatives and conflict handling.

Gender and Behaviour, published by the Department of Psychology, Obafemi Awolowo University, Ile-Ife, Nigeria. It focuses on gender issues from a psychological and behavioural science point of view.


Journal of African Cultural Studies is a forum for African culture both within and outside Africa.

Journal of African History publishes articles covering everything from the Stone
Age up to our own time. In recent years, greater focus has been paid to economic, cultural and social history, and subject areas such as gender roles, demography, health, propaganda, labour history and similar have been highlighted. 

*Journal of African Law*. The leading periodical within its area, focusing on Africa south of the Sahara. The periodical has a separate section that deals with new legislation, case studies, proposals for new laws and the latest international developments that affect Africa. 


### Older newspapers and periodicals on microfilm, in digital or printed form

That which is news today becomes an important source of information in the longer term in research into the history of modern Africa. The sources that historians have at their disposal are often limited, because archives with important documentation are not available for various reasons. This is often due to a lack of any archive to take care of documentation, such as official documents, to them being destroyed in wars or being subjected to moisture and insect infestation, and therefore being in very poor condition.

This means that non-academic sources, such as old newspapers, news magazines and old news broadcasts on the radio with eyewitness reports and interviews are very valuable materials (Ellis, 2002). However, one must be careful and assess the reliability of this type of material very carefully, as many newspapers have been the mouthpieces of regimes that limit the freedom of speech. The Nordic Africa Institute has a collection consisting of around 90 old newspapers, which can be searched in *AfricaLit*. The collection consists of newspapers that are unique, that is to say they only exist at the Nordic Africa Institute, and nor are they available on microfilm from the project below, for example.

*CAMP – Cooperative Africana Microfilm Project* at the Centre for Research Libraries in Chicago is a world-wide collaborative project the aim of which is to collect and microfilm unique material. An important part of the project since its start in 1963 has been to collect and microfilm African daily newspapers. Microfilmed African newspapers can be searched for in *AFRINUL – African Newspaper Union List*. There is also a [current list of all of CAMP’s microfilmed titles](#). As a member of CAMP, the Nordic Africa Institute’s library can order in microfilmed African newspapers via remove lending for research purposes.

Another example of a successful project is *The DISA Project* – Digital Imaging Project of South Africa – which is a national project the purpose of which is to collect and make available South African material documenting the liberation
and anti-apartheid movements during the period from 1950 up until the first free election in 1994. The main part of the documentation in DISA was illegal during the apartheid period. For this reason, periodicals and booklets from many libraries around the world have been collected, among them items from the Nordic Africa Institute’s library. 56 periodicals have been digitalized and been made available on the Internet.

Summary of World Broadcasts (BBC) – SWB, Middle East and Africa and Latin America contains summaries of BBC’s foreign radio broadcasts during the years 1939–1997. They have been compiled by the Monitoring Service of the British Broadcasting Corporation (BBC). The Nordic Africa Institute has SWB for the period 1964–1997, and they can be ordered up and used in the library’s reading room.

References

The web addresses are for the publisher’s/periodical’s website with information about the periodical and its subject area, subscriptions and prices. The year is the periodicals starting year.


Summary of World Broadcasts (BBC), 1939–1997
Databases
AFRINUL – African Newspaper Union List – http://www.crl.edu/grn/afrinul/search

Other web resources

AfricaLit (Nordic Africa Institute’s library catalogue) – http://africalit.nai.uu.se/F/
CAMP – Cooperative Africana Microfilm Project – http://www.crl.edu/area-studies/camp
The DISA Project – Digital Imaging Project of South Africa – http://www.disa.ukzn.ac.za/
E-AfricaLit – http://africalit.nai.uu.se/F/-/?func=file&file_name=find-b&local_base=e-africalit
Nordic Africa Institute – http://www.nai.uu.se/
Nordic Africa Institute library. Periodicals – http://www.nai.uu.se/library/resources/journals
Statistics

Katarina Hjortsäter

Statistics consist of numerical information that describes a phenomenon or an activity. Using statistical information, you can gain insight into society and how it is managed. Statistical data are important, both as a component in publications and as the basis for studies and research. Statistics describing, for example, population, education, occupation, salaries, prices, interest rates, exports, imports, production, health and housing reflect a country’s social and economic conditions. Today, these can be accessed in both printed and electronic form, and they are usually classified into two groups, national and international statistics, based on the sources of the information.

Finding statistics

National statistics

National statistics means statistical data collected from national sources. This is information that is produced by state authorities with responsibility for statistics. The central statistics agencies of individual countries are important producers. They have the task of producing official statistics and are responsible for coordinating the state’s production of statistics, and for making it accessible. Today, most African countries have statistics agencies. Other important producers are central and commercial banks, who report a country’s economic statistics. Other producers of national statistics are non-governmental institutions, research institutes and individual researchers’ publications in scientific periodicals and other press. In other words, national statistics describe the activities of an individual nation. They are detailed and information is usually available at the regional level. A potential problem with this type of statistics is that it is often presented in a national language, which leads to difficulties for anyone who does not speak this language.

International statistics

International statistics are often available in English, as they are gathered from international sources. These may be, for example, organisations such as the World Bank, the International Monetary Fund or other bodies within the UN system or other organisations that produce both their own statistics and publish statistics from individual countries’ central statistics bodies. International statistics are not as detailed as national statistics, but they fulfil an important function when comparing countries.
Statistics

There are advantages and disadvantages of both types of statistics. Using only national statistics is seldom enough, in particular where comparisons are needed. The production of national statistics in Africa is in the progress of being organized, and therefore has weaknesses. The political situation in a country can also affect whether statistical information can be found in national sources. Statistics on AIDS were long unavailable from South Africa's central statistics body. This may be because it was – and is – a politically charged subject. Statistical information about AIDS in South Africa was available, however, from international organisations such as the UN bodies WHO and UNAIDS. International statistics can therefore function as a supplement to national statistics.

Statistics in printed and electronic format and on the Internet

National and international statistics are currently produced in both printed and electronic form. Printed publications consist primarily of handbooks of various kinds, such as yearbooks, bank reports, periodicals (journals and the like), official publications and other what are called figure publications from international organisations. Statistics are also included in other publications, and, when looking for such information, it can therefore be useful to search in documents that report not only statistical data. The Nordic Africa Institute library has a large amount of national and international statistics in printed form, which can be searched via the library catalogue AfricaLit. (A list with useful keywords appears at the end of this chapter). Particular mention should be made of the library's large collection of official publications from African countries containing various types of national statistics. This material is described in more detail in the chapter Official publications. Various forms of printed publications containing statistical information can be found mainly in large libraries and in special libraries, such as the Statistics Sweden Library. Statistics Sweden's collection consists of figure publications from most countries in the world, and from around 50 international organisations. For the African countries, there are primarily yearbooks, company and population censuses.

The growth of information technology has given us statistics in electronic form, which in turn offers many advantages, not least ease of access. More and more information is now available in databases and via the Internet. The development has also affected the production of statistics, and has contributed to large amounts of data now can be transferred, stored and processed quickly. As a user, it is easy to tailor one's own tables, maps and diagrams as statistical data can be processed together. Large libraries in general, and special libraries such as the Statistics Sweden Library in particular, have statistical databases, journal and article databases and reference databases that are useful in the hunt for statistical data.

On the Internet today, both national and international statistics are published in databases or in various formats available for downloading. Via their websites, libraries, research institutes and international organisations offer the opportunity to search for references in databases or library catalogues and link collec-
tions with links to websites and statistical material. Databases on the Internet are, unfortunately, not always accessible to the general public, but larger libraries usually have access through agreements. You can, of course, choose to go directly to the central statistics agencies or similar bodies in individual countries to get national statistics, or directly to the websites of international organisations. Most African countries have national statistics agencies, but not all of them have their own websites as yet. On the website of the Nordic Africa Institute, the library has collected links to national statistics sources, such as statistics agencies and central banks in the link collection *A Guide to Africa on the Internet*. They can be found under each country under the heading **Links sorted by country or region**. Links to other sources of statistics on the Internet are available under the heading **Links sorted by subject**.

*On its website, Statistics Sweden has a link collection* that functions as a guide to international statistics on the Internet. The links are organised according to country and subject. There is also a choice of international organisations that are interesting from a statistical point of view. Free text searching using search services on the Internet can work as a complement, as this can give hits for material that had not been considered before. Statistical tables and diagrams are usually presented as PDF, Excel or PowerPoint files. It can therefore be a good idea to limit the search to such documents. Consider using several search engines, as their indexes contain different web pages, and therefore do not produce the same result when searching. The disadvantage of using search services on the Internet is that it can be difficult to formulate a sufficiently specific or good combination of keywords in order to find relevant material. Free text search on the Internet is not a precise tool. A search may produce many hits, and it can be difficult to sift through them. It might seem that there is an abundance of websites with statistics, but often this is the same information, gathered from the same source. All information gathered from the Internet, and in particular statistical information, must be quality controlled.

**Quality control**

Regardless of whether you use printed or electronic sources, quality control is important. When it comes to control of statistics, you should consider in particular how many intermediaries there are between the source/producer and the publisher of the information. The primary source is the body that gathers, compiles and produces statistical information. The best way is to gather the information direct from the source. A body that only publishes statistical data collected and compiled by someone else is a secondary source. It is always a good idea to know how many intermediaries there are, and the principle is: The fewer the intermediaries, the better. Also, in conjunction with a table, there should also be definitions of concepts and explanations for them. Alternatively, there should be information about how to find information about tables and concepts used. More about what to consider in terms of quality control in general can be found
Statistics can never give a completely correct picture, but are a simplified way of interpreting reality. Official statistical information is estimates, and is often based on representative samples; for this reason sampling errors may occur. However, in some cases they are based on entire population counts. The information from different countries or from different points in time is not always comparable either, due to differing definitions and measuring processes. Statistics can also be misleading for other reasons such as drop-out, response errors, and processing errors. The situation in a country may also be of importance as to whether it is possible to find certain statistical information, as in the example above about AIDS in South Africa. The statistics about AIDS in South Africa that can be found in international organisations consist of administrative information gathered from clinics. This may in many cases be the most certain information, as it is difficult to gather this type of statistical data via surveys. You should therefore be aware that the statistics only show that part of a country’s population that is seeking care. The part of the population that is suffering from AIDS and does not seek care can only be estimated, on the other hand.

Some sources of statistics

Handbooks

Printed publications that include statistics, such as handbooks, can currently be sought out in various library catalogues via the Internet, among them the Nordic Africa Institute library catalogue, AfricaLit. Handbooks of particular interest when searching for statistics are the yearbooks Africa South of Sahara and The Middle East and North Africa (Europa Publications). They include country by country summaries with statistics showing social and economic conditions. Other handbooks are presented below in the sections about organisations and the UN system.

One title that should be mentioned, even if it is published at long intervals, is Africa at a Glance: Facts and Figures 2006/2007. It is the twelfth edition of a handbook published by the Africa Institute of South Africa (Pretoria) since 1970. It contains basic facts and statistics showing social, economic and political conditions, presented in clear tables. The sources of the figures are the World Bank, various UN bodies, OECD, FAO, Economist Intelligence Unit (EIU), African Development Bank and other sources, such as the monthly Africa Research Bulletin. The handbook is recommended, both for public libraries and for specialised Africa collections.

Africa: A Publication of the Corporate Council on Africa and Business Books International (Business Books International) is a book published annually. It does not contain large amounts of statistics, but is a handbook worth mentioning in the cir-
cumstances. It lists addresses, telephone and fax numbers, and email as well as web addresses (to the extent they exist) of statistics agencies in the African countries.

Africa: A Guide to Reference Material by John McIlwaine (Hans Zell publ.) presents sources of statistics at both national and regional level, and for the African continent as a whole. The sources are not specialised within any area, but are references to general statistics. The reference work African Studies Companion: A Guide to African Information Sources, edited by Hans M. Zell, (Hans Zell publ.) also gathers together sources of statistics. This publication is also available online, via the Nordic Africa Institute library among others.

The periodical EIU Country Reports, which is published on a monthly or quarterly basis by the Economist Intelligence Unit, presents summaries for each country relating to economics in particular but also of political circumstances, and contains up-to-date statistics. It is available online via the Nordic Africa Institute library. Further information about this periodical is available in the chapter Periodicals. The other publications are described in more detail in the chapter on Searching for facts.

Organisations

International organisations and institutions both produce and publish statistics, and are important sources. On the one hand, the statistics are not as detailed for each individual country as those published at the national level, but on the other hand it fulfils an important function when comparing countries. The organisations also present statistics within their area of specialisation. They publish printed material in the form of annual reports, bulletins, newsletters and similar. This material is often also available on their websites in various electronic formats, such as databases, PDF Word and Excel documents. Often there are special web pages where entries to all statistics have been gathered together. Below follows a review of various organisations that supply statistics relevant to Africa. The presentation that follows is not comprehensive, but is intended to highlight some important sources, both printed and electronic. AFRISTAT, African Development Bank (ADB) and United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (UNECA) are entirely focused on Africa. The World Bank also published statistics focusing on Africa. A long list of other organisations, such as OECD and BIS, and bodies within the UN system, such as WHO, FAO, UNESCO, UNAIDS and ILO, are important for statistics within their differing specialist areas. To end the chapter, there is a list of all the organisations in alphabetical order, with web addresses to their websites.

AFRISTAT: Observatoire Économique et Statistique d’Afrique Subsaharienne is an international organisation whose goal it is to strengthen the development of social, environmental and economic statistics in the member countries. The organisation supports the national central statistics agencies in their work and works for regional and economic integration, which in turn leads to corre-
spondence and more comparable statistical data. On AFRISTAT’s website there are national statistics for 19 countries in western and central Africa.

**Electronic resource**  
**Web/Format**  
**Availability**  
- AFRISTAT (In French)  
  Yes. Website  
  Free


**African Development Bank Group** (ADB Group) consists of African Development Bank (ADB), African Development Fund (ADF), and Nigeria Trust Fund (NTF). It is the foremost institution in Africa working with financial development, the goal of which is to reduce poverty and improve the living standards of people by promoting economic and social growth. ADB publishes several publications containing statistical information. _African Development Report_ is ADB’s yearbook and contains statistics showing economic and social conditions. _Compendium of Statistics on Bank Group Operations_ reports on various banking operations in relation to loans and the exchange range of different countries for example. _Selected Statistics on African Countries_ contains comparative statistics country by country, and country-specific time series data for all countries on the African continent. _Gender, Poverty and Environmental Indicators on African Countries_ is published annually or biennially and provides both comparative statistics between countries and country-specific information about gender, environment, living conditions and poverty in Africa. The publication also follows up the development goals in the UN’s Millennium Declaration. _ADB Statistics Pocketbook_ summarises various economic and social data about the member countries and the ADB’s activities. Most of the information is gathered from the publications mentioned above. All publications and much more can be found on ADB’s website. In 2002, a new study by the OECD Development Centre and the African Development Bank, _African Economic Outlook_, was published. It gives a broad overview of the economic conditions on the continent. The goal is to annually review the current situation and short-term development in selected African countries, seen from a global perspective. A further development of the report published annually is the website _AfricanEconomicOutlook.org_. This presents statistics showing the economic, social and political situation in 47 African countries.

**Printed publications**  
**Published**  
**Web/Format**  
- African Development Report  
  Annually  
  Yes. PDF  
- Compendium of Statistics on Bank Group Operations  
  Annually  
  Yes. PDF  
- Selected Statistics on African Countries  
  Annually  
  Yes. PDF  
- Gender, Poverty and Environmental Indicators on African Countries  
  Bi-annually  
  Yes. PDF  
- ADB Statistics Pocketbook  
  Annually  
  Yes. PDF  
- African Economic Outlook  
  Annually  
  Yes, partly. PDF

**Bank for International Settlements (BIS)** is an international organisation that supports monetary and financial cooperation and serves as a bank for central banks and international organisations. On the website **BIS Statistics**, BIS publishes statistics relating to the international banking system and financial market. The website makes a number of publications available for downloading, among them BIS’ quarterly review, which has an appendix with statistical data. There is also *a list of central banks in the world* with links to their respective websites, on which statistics often can be found.

**Printed publications**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Publication</th>
<th>Published</th>
<th>Web/Format</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>BIS quarterly review</strong></td>
<td>Quarterly</td>
<td>Yes. PDF</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>


**Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD)** collects statistics about economic and social development. The statistics come from the member countries’ central statistics agencies. The Organisation’s website has lots of statistical information that can be downloaded, in particular from the web page **Statistics from A-Z**. On the web page **The OECD and Africa** you can find more specific information about Africa (follow the link ‘A–Z’ from the website’s front page and select ‘Africa’ or use the search function). Statistics about the debt situation in Africa is presented here, with links on to other sources. A particular one of these is the website **AfricanEconomicOutlook.org**, which is a further development of the annual report with the same name, and the database **International Development Statistics Database (IDS)**. The latter covers bilateral and multilateral aid to developing countries.

**SourceOECD** is the OECD’s online library, in which you can find e-books, e-periodicals and interactive statistics databases. Examples of such databases are **OECD.Stat**, which contains the OECD’s complete statistics, and **OECD.Stat. Extracts**, which contains a selection of statistical information. The publications **African Economic Outlook (AEO)** and **Geographical Distribution of Financial Flows to Aid Recipients** can both be downloaded in their entirety from **SourceOECD**. AEO is a study focusing only on Africa, in which the countries are compared country by country. Since 2002, OECD has been publishing this report in collaboration with African Development Bank. It illuminates African economic conditions from a global perspective and includes an appendix with statistics. In the other publication, you can find information about aid and help to developing countries.
OECD and BIS, together with the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund (which is presented later on in the chapter) have compiled their individual statistical information about foreign debts of developing countries on **Joint External Debt Hub** (JEDH), which replaces the earlier **Joint BIS-IMF-OECD-World Bank Statistics on External Debt**. The JEHD database is freely available and makes it easy to compare countries.

### The UN system

The UN and its various bodies both produce and publish statistics. The **United Nations Statistics Division** (UNSD) lists on its website a number of statistical publications divided up according to subject, such as demography, energy, environment, gender, housing and building issues, industry, economics, social issues and trade. It also lists publications that are available electronically. Since 1949, the UNSD has published the **United Nations Statistical Yearbook**, which provides a long list of international statistics covering social and economic conditions, and also activities at national, regional and global level. It covers periods of one to ten years, depending on the availability of statistical data. The information is collected from both national and international sources, and compiled by UNSD. Other frequently requested publications are the **World Statistics Pocketbook** and **Monthly Bulletin of Statistics (MBS)**. The first publication, which is available via the UNSD website, gathers together comprehensive statistics country by country. All the African countries are represented. The second publication, MBS, reports current statistics covering social and economic conditions. It contains more than 50 tables of data, reported by month, quarter and/or year, across a number of varies subjects covering important economic trends and developments. **MBS Online** is also part of this publication, and is an online database based on the printed version, and which is generally updated every month when a new printed edition is published.
The United Nations Statistics Division of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs (DESA) has launched a new Internet-based service, **UNSD Statistical Databases**, where they have gathered together the UN’s various statistical databases in order to facilitate matters for users. Here, around 15 databases are available, among them the above-mentioned **MBS Online**, and also **The Millennium Indicators Database**, which includes 48 tables showing to what extent the Millennium Goals are being achieved, and also **The Social Indicators**, which gives access to statistics about housing, health, education, access to water and sanitation, etc. Further databases compiled by the UN system on population issues in particular can be found here.

**Printed publications**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Published</th>
<th>Web/Format</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>United Nations Statistical Yearbook</strong></td>
<td>Annually</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>World Statistics Pocketbook</strong></td>
<td>Annually</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Monthly Bulletin of Statistics</strong></td>
<td>Monthly</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Electronic resources**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Availability</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>MBS Online</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>The Millennium Indicators Database</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>The Social Indicators</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>


**United Nations Economic Commission for Africa** (UNECA) works with regional integration and promoting international cooperation for Africa’s economic and social development. UNECA compiles and publishes a number of different publications that contain statistics, including a number of series, among them the **Economic Report on Africa**, published annually. It is available on UNECA’s website. Another important publication is the yearbook **African Statistical Yearbook (ASYB)**, in which statistical data for UNECA’s member countries is presented country by country, and also regionally. This publication can also be downloaded from the website. There are also further publications for downloading, dealing with subjects such as demography, population, gender, agriculture and environment, including statistical information.

**Printed publications**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Published</th>
<th>Web/Format</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Economic Report on Africa</strong></td>
<td>Annually</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>African Statistical Yearbook (ASYB)</strong></td>
<td>Annually</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>


**United Nations Conference on Trade and Development** (UNCTAD) promotes the development-friendly integration of developing countries into the world economy and monitors the areas of trade and development, and closely related areas, such as finance, technology, investment and sustainable development. UNCTAD compiles, validates and processes a wide range of statistical data collected from national and international sources.
On 20 October 2010, in celebration of the World Statistics Day, UNCTAD launched **UNCTADstat**, its new data dissemination platform. All of UNCTAD’s online statistical databases, the *Handbook of Statistics*, the *Commodity Prices and Price Indices*, the *Foreign Direct Investment Statistics*, and the *Global Databank on World Trade in Creative Products* have been integrated into UNCTADstat. Through this data dissemination system UNCTAD provides free access to comprehensive statistical time series and indicators essential for the analysis of world trade, investment, international financial flows, and development. The **ICT Analysis Section** of UNCTAD works to measure ICT in enterprises and the ICT sector. The **Measuring ICT Website** provides information on the development of ICT statistics and indicators worldwide, with an emphasis on supporting ICT policies and the information economies in developing countries.

Selected **UNCTADstat** data are also disseminated in various publications available in printed format, and some of these are also available as downloads. The **UNCTAD Handbook of Statistics** provides a comprehensive collection of statistical data relevant to the analysis of international trade, investment and development, for individual countries and for economic and trade groupings. The *World Investment Report* focuses on trends in foreign direct investment (FDI) worldwide and at the regional and country levels, as well as emerging measures to improve FDI’s contribution to development. The **Economic Development in Africa Report** analyses selected aspects of Africa’s development problems and major policy issues confronting African countries. Development and Globalization: Facts and Figures (DGFF) is a brief synopsis of data and information that offers some explanations for new and emerging economic trends. It is published at longer intervals, but is important from a statistical point of view. Information about further publications and downloadable documents can be found on UNCTAD’s website.

### Printed publications

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Publication</th>
<th>Published</th>
<th>Web/Format</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>UNCTAD Handbook of Statistics</strong></td>
<td>Annually</td>
<td>Yes. PDF</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>World Investment Report</strong></td>
<td>Annually</td>
<td>Yes. PDF</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Economic Development in Africa Report</td>
<td>Annually</td>
<td>Yes. PDF</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Development and Globalization: Facts and Figures</td>
<td>Every four years</td>
<td>Yes. PDF</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Electronic resources

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Resource</th>
<th>Web/Format</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Commodity Price Statistics On-line</td>
<td>Yes. Database</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Foreign Direct Investment Database</td>
<td>Yes. Database</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Global Databank on World Trade in Creative Products</td>
<td>Yes. Database</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Measuring ICT for Development</td>
<td>Yes. Database</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>UNCTAD Handbook of Statistics Online</td>
<td>Yes. Website</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) works to reduce famine and malnutrition, and to improve the standards of foods. The organisation also helps its member countries with sustainable development within the agricultural sector. On the FAO’s website under the heading Statistics, a number of online resources have been gathered together. Agro-MAPS is a comprehensive database with statistics covering the use of farmland at sub-national level. AQUASTAT contains comprehensive statistics about water supply within agriculture, with the focus on developing countries. FAOSTAT, the FAO statistical database, is a multilingual database that contains more than one million statistical series from 1961 and onwards, and covers more than 200 countries with statistics on agriculture, food supply, food aid, fishing, forestry, land use and population. CountrySTAT is focused on a small number of countries, several of which are African. It contains statistics on food and agriculture. FAOSTAT-Agriculture provides statistics about crops, livestock, irrigation, land use, artificial fertilisers, use of pesticides and farming machinery. FAOSTAT-Fisheries has statistics about fish production, etc. FAOSTAT-Forestry has statistics about import and export of timber and paper. In Fishery and Aquaculture Statistics, there is statistical data about fishing compiled by the FAO. Forestry Country Profiles contains statistics about forestry and similar issues on a country basis. GLIPHA, the Global Livestock Production and Health Atlas (GLiPHA) is a user-friendly, interactive electronic atlas that provides information about animal husbandry and health. PAAT Information System serves to guide strategic decisions on tsetse and trypanosomiasis control in sub-Saharan Africa, with sustainable agriculture and countryside development as the goal. TERRASTAT has information about land resources with statistics and country and regional level.

As regards printed publications, FAO publishes a large number of titles every year containing statistical information, such as yearbooks, all with the title FAO Yearbook. FAO Statistical Yearbook is one such publication. Further publications available for download can be found on the website.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Printed publications</th>
<th>Published</th>
<th>Web/Format</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>FAO Statistical Yearbook</td>
<td>Annually</td>
<td>Yes. PDF/XLS</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Electronic resources</th>
<th>Web/Format</th>
<th>Availability</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Agro-MAPS</td>
<td>Yes. Database</td>
<td>Free</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AQUASTAT</td>
<td>Yes. Database</td>
<td>Free</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CountrySTAT</td>
<td>Yes. Database</td>
<td>Free</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FAOSTAT</td>
<td>Yes. Database</td>
<td>Free</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FAOSTAT-Agriculture</td>
<td>Yes. Database</td>
<td>Free</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FAOSTAT-Fisheries</td>
<td>Yes. Database</td>
<td>Free</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FAOSTAT-Forestry</td>
<td>Yes. Database</td>
<td>Free</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fishery and Aquaculture Statistics</td>
<td>Yes. Database</td>
<td>Free</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Forestry Country Profiles</td>
<td>Yes. Database</td>
<td>Free</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GLIPHA</td>
<td>Yes. Database</td>
<td>Free</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PAAT Information System</td>
<td>Yes. Database</td>
<td>Free</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TERRASTAT</td>
<td>Yes. Database</td>
<td>Free</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The International Labour Organization (ILO) works out strategies and programmes for promoting human rights, improving working and living conditions and increasing the opportunities for work. ILO issues a long list of publications containing statistics about labour-related issues, among them Yearbook of Labour Statistics, which presents statistical data in time series or by country. The organisation also has a comprehensive website, where a lot of statistics can be found. The Statistics and Databases web page has a number of useful and accessible databases. LABORSTA is a database showing labour statistics, covering variables such as the economic activities of the population (from 1945 onwards), employment, unemployment, salaries and similar. For statistics on child labour, follow the link Statistical Information and Monitoring Programme on Child Labour (IPEC-SIMPOCI) to the website for International Programme on the Elimination of Child Labour (IPEC).

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Printed publications</th>
<th>Published</th>
<th>Web/Format</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Yearbook of Labour Statistics</td>
<td>Annually</td>
<td>No</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Electronic resources**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Web/Format</th>
<th>Availability</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>LABORSTA</td>
<td>Free</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>International Programme on the</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Elimination of Child Labour (IPEC)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>


The World Health Organization (WHO) runs and coordinates international healthcare, and promotes and coordinates research into the prevention of various diseases. Since 1995, WHO has published The World Health Report, which deals with the current world health situation and has an appendix with statistical data. It can be downloaded from the WHO website. WHO publications about Africa are primarily collected on the page Library and Documentation Centre. Here you can browse the menu by subject, or search the library’s databases. Items worth mentioning are The African Regional Health Report, which has an appendix with statistics, and the Annual Report of the Regional Director, which also contains some statistical data. The World Health Statistics Report, which includes statistics covering the health and healthcare sector, is available via WHO-SIS (WHO Statistical Information System) on the organisation’s website. WHO-SIS is now part of Global Health Observatory (GHO) Database, which is WHO’s main portal to statistics on health. This gathers together a broad range of health-related subjects, such as mortality, diseases, risk factors and health costs. Much statistics on the subject can be found on WHO’s website under the heading Data and Statistics, organised both according to the name of the database and by subject.
The **United Nations Population Fund** (UNFPA) helps to establish health programmes, concerned with family planning and sexual and reproductive health, and also with questions pertaining to fast rapid population growth. UNFPA’s publications are practically all available as downloads. The publications UNFPA Annual Report and State of World Population, which contain statistics, are also published in Internet format.

The **United Nations Development Programme** (UNDP) assists countries in building up the capacity for sustainable development and carries out much of its work in Africa. It is a global network for human development, which works towards the improvement of living conditions, and which is active in many different areas. UNDP focuses much of its work on the promotion of democracy, supports initiatives for peace and reconciliation and prevention of crises and fighting the HIV/AIDS epidemic. It also supports environmental programmes, as well as working towards building up communications technology in Africa. Since 1990, UNDP has published the Human Development Report (HDR) which is a written collaboration with independent researchers and contains numerous statistics. The report is available for download. On the Statistics of the Human Development Report web page there is also statistical data from the HDR. The organisation collaborates closely with governments all over the world, and gains access to the national statistics of individual countries. UNDP has compiled various development indexes, among the Human Development Indicators (HDI), which measure human development in terms other than just income. HDI can be found on the above mentioned web page.
The **United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees** (UNHCR) leads and co-ordinates international action to protect refugees and resolve refugee problems. Statistical data is collected on the **UNHCR’s Statistical Website** web page. This contains the **UNHCR Statistical Online Population Database** with information about 150 countries at the national, regional, and global level. The database is continuously updated. Here you can also find the **UNHCR Statistical Yearbook** for download. It includes an appendix with statistical tables. Another important publication is **The State of the World’s Refugees**, which gives a detailed and far-reaching analysis of the miserable conditions the world’s refugees live under. The publication is irregular, with five editions between 1993 and 2006. This also includes an appendix with statistics, which can be downloaded from the website. Reports and other publications with up-to-date statistics for development and changes in terms of people in flight can be found in the catalogue **Statistics Catalogue**. It functions as an archive for all statistics reports. They are all available for download. There is also information about the Millennium Goals on this site.

The **World Food Programme** (WFP) has the task of handing out food during famine catastrophes, and to help build up communities through the “food-for-work” project. The **WFP Annual Report**, which includes an appendix with statistics, is published annually. This report, together with other annually published reports that also include statistical information, is available from the WFP’s website. Here you can also find the **Hunger Stats** database, with figures and facts about world hunger compiled by the WFP.
The United National Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) works to facilitate understanding of great changes in the world and to draw up intellectual and ethical guidelines. The website includes the UNESCDOC Database, which includes downloadable documents. The search function makes it easy to find relevant publications. During the period 1964–1999, UNESCO Statistical Yearbook was published. In 1999, the UIS (UNESCO Institute for Statistics) was formed, and its website publishes comprehensive statistics about education, literacy, culture and communication (book publishing, film, museums, libraries and media), as well as technology and science (national data on staff resources and expenditure on research and experimental development, R&D).

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Printed publications</th>
<th>Published</th>
<th>Web/Format</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>UNESCO Statistical Yearbook</td>
<td>1964–1999</td>
<td>No</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Electronic resources</th>
<th>Web/Format</th>
<th>Availability</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>UNESCDOC Database</td>
<td>Yes. Database</td>
<td>Free</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>UIS (The UNESCO Institute for Statistics)</td>
<td>Yes. Website</td>
<td>Free</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>


The United Nations Children’s Fund (UNICEF) defends, promotes and protects children’s rights. Every year, UNICEF issues a large number of publications, among them The State of the World’s Children, a report on the well-being of children. Progress for Children, which reports on advances made in the fulfilment of the Millennium Goals, and the UNICEF Annual Report. All three publications include statistics. If you are looking specifically for publications that contain statistical data, you can choose to sort them by subject on the web page for publications. The publications can be downloaded. The organisation has a comprehensive website; in order to find statistics, look under the headings Information by country or What we do. The statistics are presented in conjunction with each country or subject. Further links lead to the Childinfo.org website, which contains statistics from UNICEF, including information from the above-mentioned publications.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Printed publications</th>
<th>Published</th>
<th>Web/Format</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>UNICEF Annual Report</td>
<td>Annually</td>
<td>Yes. PDF</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The State of the World’s Children</td>
<td>Annually</td>
<td>Yes. PDF</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Progress for Children</td>
<td>1–2 times/year</td>
<td>Yes. PDF</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Electronic resources</th>
<th>Web/Format</th>
<th>Availability</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Childinfo.org</td>
<td>Yes. Website</td>
<td>Free</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>


The Joint United National Programme on HIV/AIDS works to prevent the spread of AIDS, provide care and support to those infected or affected by the
disease, and to reduce the vulnerability of individuals and communities against HIV/AIDS. UNAIDS consists of UNDP, UNICEF, UNFPA, UNDCP, ILO, UNESCO, WHO and the World Bank. The annually published *AIDS Epidemic Update* presents the latest estimations of the AIDS epidemic and reviews new research and trends. There are also fact sheets with statistical information about HIV/AIDS in various continents compiled in collaboration with the WHO. UNAIDS publishes a new *Report on the Global AIDS Epidemic* every other year. The report includes available national information and gives overviews and comments on the epidemic. The *UNAIDS Annual Report* includes an appendix with statistics. Reports, fact sheets and other publications, as well as statistical information about HIV/AIDS, are available on the website, in particular under the country profiles.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Printed publications</th>
<th>Published</th>
<th>Web/Format</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>UNAIDS Annual Report</strong></td>
<td>Annually</td>
<td>Yes. PDF</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>AIDS Epidemic Update</strong></td>
<td>Annually</td>
<td>Yes. PDF</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Report on the Global AIDS Epidemic</strong></td>
<td>Bi-annually</td>
<td>Yes. PDF</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>


The *World Bank* publishes *World Development Indicators (WDI)*, which are the bank group’s primary summary of development data. They also publish *Africa Development Indicators (ADI)*, which is a detailed collection of development data from large parts of Africa. *Global Development Finance (GDF)* is the World Bank’s annual study of trends and future prospects for the flow of finance in developing countries. It also contains statistics showing country debts and summarises data for regions and income groups. All three publications are available via the new *The World Bank Data* website. Here, the World Bank offers free access to statistics on subjects such as health, economy and human development. The website is continuously updated and statistical data can be downloaded from databases, reports and pre-formatted tables. Here you can also find the *Country at-a-Glance* tables, which provide a quick summary of a country. However, for comparisons between countries, WDI is recommended. In the so-called *Data Catalog* you can find further sources. As regards publications, the range is great and can be found on the website listed according to country, region, subject, and so on. One publication worth mentioning is *The World Bank Annual Report*, which can be downloaded and which contains statistics.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Printed publications</th>
<th>Published</th>
<th>Web/Format</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Africa Development Indicators (ADI)</strong></td>
<td>Annually</td>
<td>Yes. PDF</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>World Development Indicators (WDI)</strong></td>
<td>Annually</td>
<td>Yes. PDF</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Global Development Finance (GDF)</strong></td>
<td>Annually</td>
<td>Yes. PDF</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>The World Bank Annual Report</strong></td>
<td>Annually</td>
<td>Yes. PDF</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
The **International Monetary Fund** (IMF) publishes statistics about IMF loans, exchange rates and economic conditions primarily in the member countries, and also issues a number of publications. The yearbook *Government Finance Statistics Yearbook* gives detailed information about economic and financial statistics for members of the IMF. It is available for download, but also in database form. IMF regularly publishes the *World Economic Outlook (WEO)*, which focuses on economic development at global, regional and national level. It can be downloaded from the website. The *World Economic Outlook (WEO) Database* includes a selection of macroeconomic data series, found in the appendix of the printed publication. This database can be used to find information about national accounting, inflation, unemployment figures, balance of payments, trade, etc. It is updated twice yearly. On the *Data and Statistics* web page there are further databases within the subject area, several of which are freely available. One of them is *IMF Financial Data by Country*, which summarises the member countries’ relations with the IMF. The periodical *International Financial Statistics (IFS)* has been published monthly since 1948. There is also a yearbook that includes statistical information about financial issues, both at the international and the national level, such as exchange rates, the banking system, money, interest rates, prices, production, and so on. *IFS* is also available as a database, but this is only accessible by agreement. The statistics in *IFS* and *WEO* may differ, primarily because of different factors such as time, focus, method and collection technique.

### Printed publications

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Printed publications</th>
<th>Published</th>
<th>Web/Format</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>International Financial Statistics</td>
<td>Monthly</td>
<td>Yes. Licence</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>International Financial Statistics Yearbook</td>
<td>Annually</td>
<td>Yes. Licence</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Government Finance Statistics Yearbook</td>
<td>Annually</td>
<td>Yes. PDF</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>World Economic Outlook (WEO) Report</td>
<td>Several issues/year</td>
<td>Yes. PDF</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Electronic Resources

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Electronic Resources</th>
<th>Webb/Format</th>
<th>Availability</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Government Finance Statistics (GFS)</td>
<td>Yes. Database</td>
<td>Licence</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>International Financial Statistics Online</td>
<td>Yes. Database</td>
<td>Licence</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>World Economic Outlook (WEO) Database</td>
<td>Yes. Database</td>
<td>Free</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>IMF Financial Data by Country</td>
<td>Yes. Database</td>
<td>Free</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>


The **United Nations Environment Programme** (UNEP) coordinates the UN’s environmental activities, supports developing countries in introducing environ-

---


**Electronic Resources**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>African Population Database Documentation</strong></th>
<th><strong>Webb/Format</strong></th>
<th><strong>Availability</strong></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Yes. Database</td>
<td>Free</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>


**References**


**Internet resources**

Nordic Africa Institute – [http://www.nai.uu.se/](http://www.nai.uu.se/)

*AfricaLit (Nordic Africa Institute’s library catalogue)* – [http://africalit.nai.uu.se/F/](http://africalit.nai.uu.se/F/)


ADB – www.afdb.org/
AFRISTAT – www.afristat.org/
BIS – www.bis.org/
FAO – www.fao.org/
ILO – www.ilo.org/
IMF – www.imf.org/
OECD – www.oecd.org/
UN – unstats.un.org/unsd/
UNAIDS – www.unaids.org/
UNCTAD – www.unctad.org/
UNDP – www.undp.org/
UNECA – www.uneca.org/
UNEP/GRID – http://na.unep.net/
UNESCO – www.unesco.org/
UNFPA – www.unfpa.org/
UNHCR – www.unhcr.org/
UNICEF – www.unicef.org/
WHO – www.who.org/
WPF – www.wpf.org/

Search terms in AfricaLit

The indexing terms used in AfricaLit – Nordic Africa Institute library catalogue – consists of subject words gathered from Macrothesaurus for Information Processing in the Field of Economic and Social Development (Paris/New York: OECD/UN, 1998, 5. ed.) and from UNBIS_Thesaurus (United Nations Bibliographical Information System). The latter is available on the Internet.

For searching statistics, the following subject words are useful: Statistical analysis; Statistical data; Statistical services; Statistical tables; Agricultural statistics; Demographic statistics; Economic statistics; Educational statistics; Employment statistics; Energy statistics; Environmental statistics; Financial statistics; Fishery statistics; Food statistics; Forestry statistics; Health statistics; Housing statistics; Industrial statistics; Labour statistics; Migration statistics; Production statistics; Social statistics; Statistics; Trade statistics; Transport statistics; Vital statistics; Household surveys; Housing censuses; Population censuses; Indicators; Demographic indicators; Development indicators; Economic indicators; Educational indicators; Health indicators; Social indicators; Official documents and others.
Official publications

António Lourenço

Official publications comprise all publications produced under the official auspices of legislative bodies, decision-making and judicial organs, civil service departments, courts of law, independent institutions, committees, people in authority, etc. IFLA (International Federation of Library Associations and Institutions) describes official publications as follows: ”An official publication is defined by the status of the issuing source regardless of the subject matter, content or physical form” (Nurcombe 1997, p. xix). “Official documents” is the general search term for material of this nature in the Nordic Africa Institute’s online library catalogue. *AfricaLit.*

The library began acquiring official publications back in 1962 when the Nordic Africa Institute commenced its activities, since they were considered to constitute fundamental and crucial source material within the field of the social sciences. With time, an acquisitions profile came to be established in line with the library’s subject focus and based on the material’s significance, accessibility and demand. Official publications are essential to social scientific studies on Africa as they are principal information sources for economic, legal, government and political data and are considered to be scientific tools of lasting value.

An important problem to keep in mind regarding official publications from certain African countries is the question of reliability. The reason is that such publications may be used as mouthpieces by governmental powers in order to further their political goals or to give expression to political values during times of crisis. This mainly concerns countries with small volumes of official documents that tend to limit access to information. Thus, even collections of official publications from colonial times should be read with a critical eye. Political instability and catastrophes that repeatedly befall the African continent sometimes make it impossible to gain access to certain official publications. A connection can be made between conflict and war on the one hand and the number of official documents issued on the other. In addition, the economic crisis affecting many African states has left a mark on the way in which public administrations function in those countries. Other problems arise when certain official publications are difficult to obtain as few lists are available for checking newer publications and also because, in the absence of a central government printer, it is sometimes necessary for various sectors of the government administration to publish their own material. Library acquisitions are made via agents, from bookshops, by direct contact with the producers, or through embassies. Today it is possible to procure official publications via email in certain cases, from countries whose central statistical agencies have their own websites.
Thanks to developments in the field of information technology, a radical change has begun to take place. Nowadays, authorities with the important task of disseminating basic decision-making data are choosing with greater frequency to make their official publications available on the Internet. The range, however, is still extremely uneven. Some states, such as South Africa, Tanzania, Mali, and Senegal, offer a rich collection of official publications in full text, many in PDF format; there are other countries that supply only a limited number of official publications in summarized form. Yet it can be anticipated that a basic range of official publications from all of Africa’s countries will be available before long on the Internet in the form of constitutions, censuses, development plans, budgets, economic reports, diverse statistics, and so on. A problem, however, is that this type of material could be removed from the Net as soon as it loses its current interest value. Therefore, the Nordic Africa Institute, with its aim of preserving such publications for future research, must continue to purchase them in the form of paper publications, CD-ROMs and microfiche. Under discussion at present are questions of copyright policy regarding the preservation of important documents only available on the Internet.

On the IFLA’s website Government Information and Official Publications, the debate surrounding government information and official publications can be followed. There is even a special interest group “ATTINA – Access To Information Network – Africa”, whose aim it is to “assess and promote free public access to government information and information about governments, as well as freedom of expression and democracy across the African continent, through libraries and library professionals”.

A large selection of the Nordic Africa Institute library’s collection of official publications can be located in the library catalogue, AfricaLit, and in the Swedish libraries database, LIBRIS. A small number of older publications held by the library are uncatalogued and are kept in storage. It is quite simple to search in AfricaLit. If, for example, one enters “official documents Mali” in the search field “all fields”, a chronological list of official publications from Mali in the library’s catalogue will come up; if one enters “population censuses Kenya”, the search result will be a list of documents on population censuses in Kenya that are available in the library. In recent years the growing number of official publications being catalogued in LIBRIS has led to a considerable increase in the demand for such material. In response to this, the library at the Nordic Africa Institute has begun to lend out publications (on 3 weeks reading room loan), chiefly to Nordic research libraries.

Heavy, dull and monotonous official publications are now being replaced by monograph-type formats that make for easier reading. It is enough to take a quick look at publications to see that there are not only numbers and tables in these publications, but also pictures, colour maps and diagrams, printed on high quality paper. In short, these volumes are easy to handle and pleasant to read.
Principal types of official publications

The library acquires official publications that fall into the following main groups:

1. Parliamentary documents, bills and other related documents: annual and audit reports, official reports of investigations commissions, budget proposals and reports, conference papers, policy documents, etc.
2. Parliamentary debates: the Nordic Africa Institute’s library holds a particularly comprehensive collection of debates from South Africa’s parliament.
3. Constitutions and legislation.
4. Statistics: annual statistics, statistical abstracts, national accounts, economic and financial indicators, as well as statistical data on agriculture, education, housing, health issues, transport, tourism, the environment, gender, labour, migration, trade and industry. Also available are household surveys and statistics concerning household consumption, social conditions, etc.
5. Population censuses: at regional as well as national level. These are probably the most important statistical data.
6. Development plans, both national and local.
7. Policy documents concerning all areas of interest in the field of the social sciences.
8. Research reports.
9. Government gazettes: these are only purchased from a few countries at present, although older collections have been kept and are available for scrutiny in the Nordic Africa Institute Library.

Official publications on the Internet

The two most important websites for official publications on the Internet are African Governments on the Internet and WorldLII. The first website is produced by the UNECA (United National Economic Commission for Africa). Each country can be reached from the start page. From there, you can find links to individual ministries, other public authorities, national banks, media, embassies, and so on. There are also links to strategy documents, planning programmes and projects within the IT sector. WorldLII (World Legal Information Institute) is a good website with many useful links that also include legislation.

Another website of interest is the German African Governments on the WWW, which was created in 1995 and is very user-friendly. In many respects, it is similar to the above-mentioned African Governments on the Internet (unfortunately the last update is dated 2002). Two further websites are Political Resources and The Keele Guide to African Government and Politics on the Internet. They both include some links to official publications.

The World Bank’s web page The World Bank – Countries and Regions includes a comprehensive collection of official publications as full text documents. Search-
ing is done by going to the country in question and selecting 'Publications (&Documents)' or 'Topics (in development)'. Most documents are scanned from original documents. Here you can find various types of statistics, such as household surveys, policy documents, etc. The most interesting collections relate to countries for which it is usually very difficult to find documents, such as Angola, Mali, Benin and São Tomé e Príncipe.

In order to search for information about Algeria, Morocco, Egypt, Libya or Tunisia, scroll through Middle East and North Africa. However, Réunion (France) is not covered by this web page.

*The World Bank – Poverty Assessments – Sub-Saharan Africa* concerns mainly poverty follow-up and measurement.

On the website of the African Development Bank, *African Development Bank* there are collections about subject such as country strategies, gender profiles, economic reports and poverty reduction and follow-up.

The website of the International Monetary Fund, IMF, holds collections of strategies for poverty reduction *Poverty reduction strategy papers* (PRSP). These have been prepared in collaboration with the governments of the individual countries. The documents provide a concrete picture of the macro-economic pre-requisites and various structural and social action programmes to reduce poverty. The database also covers a collection of current statistics within various areas.

The documents are updated every third year. The collections are available for most African countries, with the exception of countries in northern Africa and also Botswana, Gabon, Namibia and Zimbabwe.

*Demographic and Health Surveys* is a website produced by the US Agency for International Development (USAID). Here you can find official documents and statistics relating to population, health and nutrition for most African countries. Statistical collections contain unique data and provide information about subjects such as ethnic groups, education, female circumcision, etc.

For the French-speaking African countries, there are some interesting websites. For example, *Investir en Zone Franc* contains current development plans and statistics for several countries. On *Afristat* there is, for example *Bulletin de Données Conjoncturelles* with statistics and economic cycle indicators for member countries.

Mali now has a fantastic website, *Malikunnafoni*, with all types of statistics.

For Senegal, there is much interesting statistics collected on the website *Agence Nationale de la Statistique et de la Démographie* (ANSD).

Constitutions can also be found on the Internet. Two websites that may be useful are: *Constitution Finder* University of Richmond, School of Law and *International Constitutional Law* (Countries) Universität Bern, Institut für öffentliches Recht.

On *Law Library of Congress* there are links to various websites. In the case a constitution cannot be found on these websites, you can search using a search engine such as Google.
On the Internet, you can also find various parliamentary documents, bills and other documents as well as collections with legislation. On the Inter-Parliamentary Union’s website, there is PARLINE Database with a link collection to practically all African parliaments.

A number of interesting documents can be found on Parliament of the Republic of Uganda, and the website Parliament of South Africa also contains much information.

An interesting collection of White Papers as from 1994 is included on South Africa Government Online. On the website National Treasury there are government budget bills, budget accounts and so on.

Tanzania has two websites, The Official Tanzania National Website and Tanzania Online, which also have a lot of content.

National statistics agencies

In the Nordic Africa Institute Library’s link collection, A Guide to Africa on the Internet, compiled by the library, you can find links to the central statistics agencies of various countries under the heading ‘Links sorted according to region or country – (Statistics)’. Development is rapid, and new links are continuously being added; currently over 46 countries are represented.

Apart from pure statistical publications, such as Mid-year Population Estimates, 2009 and Statistics in Brief, 2009, the website Statistics South Africa also includes a number of publications on various subjects such as Measuring Poverty in South Africa, Women and Men in South Africa, Youth of South Africa, etc.


The website Uganda Bureau of Statistics is also worth visiting. Apart from various current statistical publications, you can also find the latest census, Uganda 2002 Population Census and Statistical Abstract 2009, etc.

Instituto Nacional de Estatística in Moçambique publishes the latest census, Census 2007.

On the World Bank’s website, there is a collection of almost all National Statistical Offices (North Africa and Sub-Saharan Africa).

National banks

The collections with official publications also include a number of publications from national banks that are of interest. In the link collection A Guide to Africa on the Internet you can find links to the national banks of various countries (Banks). For some countries, such as Sierra Leone and Liberia, you can find
economic statistics and data collections with economic indicators. Angola also has data collections with economic indicators and other types of statistics under *Banco Nacional de Angola* that are not easy to find.

For French-speaking west Africa, there are links to national banks in *Banque Centrale des États de l’Afrique de l’Ouest* (BCEAO).

For Cameroon, Central African Republic, Congo, Gabon, Equatorial Guinea and Chad, there are links in *Banque des États de l’Afrique Centrale* (BEAC). For more links, see also the wiki *List of Central Banks* and *Central Bank Websites*.

The chapter about *Statistics* has more information about National statistics agencies and National banks.

### References


### Internet resources

*African Governments on the Internet* [www.uneca.org/aisi/nici/africagovinternet.htm](http://www.uneca.org/aisi/nici/africagovinternet.htm)

*WorldLII* [http://www.worldlii.org/cgi-bin/gen_region.pl?region=250](http://www.worldlii.org/cgi-bin/gen_region.pl?region=250)


*Political Resources* [http://www.politicalresources.net/africa.htm](http://www.politicalresources.net/africa.htm)

*The Keele Guide to African Government and Politics on the Internet* [http://www.keele.ac.uk/depts/por/afbase.htm](http://www.keele.ac.uk/depts/por/afbase.htm)


Demographic and Health Surveys http://www.measuredhs.com/countries/start.cfm
Investir en Zone Franc http://www.izf.net/espce_general/

Malikunnafoni http://www.malikunnafoni.com/
Agence Nationale de la Statistique et de la Démographie (ANSD) http://www.ansd.sn/
Afristat http://www.afristat.org/
The Official Tanzania National Website http://www.tanzania.go.tz/
Tanzania Online http://www.tzonline.org/
National Treasury http://www.treasury.gov.za/
Alleviation of poverty

Constitutions

Constitution Finder http://confinder.richmond.edu/
International Constitutional Law http://www.servat.unibe.ch/icl/

Parliaments

Web Sites of National Parliaments www.ipu.org/english/parlweb.htm
PARLINE Database http://www.ipu.org/parline-e/parlinesearch.asp

National statistics agencies


National banks

Banque Centrale des États de l’Afrique de l'Ouest http://www.bceao.int/
Banque des États de l’Afrique Centrale http://www.beac.int/
Central Bank Websites http://www.bis.org/cbanks.htm
The History of Africa

Tore Linné Eriksen

Introduction

The history chapter in the previous edition of Studying Africa included books published up to 2004. Since then, the literature on the history of Africa has grown considerably in both scope and quality, and many new themes have appeared. This is the starting point for the chapter that follows, which is devoted to books on the history of Africa published between 2004 and the middle of 2010.

The following selection aims at broadening the perspective by giving more prominence to books which explore Africa in global history; that is, the historical relations of the continent around the Mediterranean, the Indian Ocean and the Atlantic Ocean, in addition to providing examples of the rapidly growing body of literature on the African diaspora. An attempt has also been made to emphasise books by African historians, where the many West African historians at American universities in particular have been prominent contributors.

There is a gradual transition into the next chapter, which deals with politics, economics and society. A number of general surveys cover long periods of time and extend into the current period, and books about topical themes often contain excellent historical background chapters. For this reason, the reader is advised to consult both chapters.

General surveys

Since the publication of Studying Africa in 2005, two of the most frequently consulted surveys of African history have appeared in revised editions: John Iliffe’s Africans. A history of a continent (2007) and Erik Gilbert & Jonathan R. Reynolds’ Africa in world history. From prehistory to the present (2008). The same applies to the Norwegian historian Jarle Simensen’s Afrikas historie (2009). An ambitious work of reference with a profusion of entries is Encyclopedia of Africa (Gates & Appiah 2010), which also extends into our own times and covers a considerably wide range of topics. With younger readers as its target group, Africa (Murray 2007) covers history, culture and geography from the earliest times to the present day. A very useful reference work about women in African history up to the present is The A to Z of women in Sub-Saharan Africa (Sheldon 2010). Among the more recent surveys aimed at the university and college market that can also be read to great advantage outside the academic world, in addition to the works mentioned above by Iliffe and Gilbert & Reynolds, there is particular

History after independence is narrated with many details both in a professional historical style by Paul Nugent in *Africa since independence* (2004), and in a more journalistic style by Martin Meredith in *The state of Africa* (2005).

**Historiography**

A broad survey of the literature that provides different perspectives on history and history writing (that is, what is known in academic jargon as historiography) in sub-Saharan Africa can be found in Randi Ronning Balsvik’s *Afrika i et historiografisk perspektiv* (2004). A similar structure has been chosen in Knut S. Vikor’s *Magreb – Nordafrika etter 1800* (2007). Donald A. Xerxa conducted interviews with historians of Africa in *Recent themes in the history of Africa and the Atlantic world* (2008). African historical research has also been presented and discussed in *Silences on African history* (Depelchin 2005), *Writing African history* (Philips 2005), *The practice of history in Africa. A history of African historiography* (Alagoa 2006), *Society, state and identity in African history* (Baru Zewde 2008), *Recasting the past* (Peterson & Macola 2009) and *Emergent themes and methods in African history* (Falola & Paddock 2009). A very extensive collection of articles devoted to one of the most productive historians of Africa is *Toyin Falola. The man, the mask, the muse* (Afolabi 2010), whilst the prominent historian Philip D. Curtin reflects over the discipline and his own experiences in *On the fringes of history* (2005). The leading historian Adu Boahen from Ghana has collected many of his influential contributions to African history in *Africa in the twentieth century. The Adu Boahen reader* (Falola 2004).
Themes

There is no lack of exciting individual themes being described from a longer historical perspective, such as urban growth. Good examples of this are Bill Freund’s *The African city. A history* (2007) and *African urban spaces in historical perspective* (Salm & Falola 2009). Migrations, cultural encounters and regional identities are elucidated in a large number of articles in *Movements, borders, and identities in Africa* (Falola & Usman 2010). John Iliffe has also published a detailed study of the place of honour and the concept of honour in African history: *Honour in African history* (2004), whilst food and the production of food is depicted, amongst others, in *Maize and grace. Africa’s encounter with a new world crop, 1500–2000* (McCann 2005) and *Stirring the pot. A history of African cuisine* (McCann 2009). The fact that Africa is a continent which, both historically and currently, is exposed to a whole range of diseases is clear not least from two books about the history of malaria: *The making of a tropical disease. A short history of malaria* (Packard 2007) and *Humanity’s burden. A global history of malaria* (Webb 2009). How seaports in both Northern and Southern Africa fell victim to plague at the beginning of the last century is described in *Plague ports. The global urban impact of bubonic plague, 1894–1901* (Echenberg 2007). A detailed study of animals, humankind and their environments through the ages is found in *Ivory’s ghost. The white gold of history and the fate of elephants* (2009).


Social-historical perspectives have continued to inspire a great deal of new history research in Africa, but, as most of these books are rooted in local communities or individual states, they will be mentioned in the regional sections below (for general surveys, see above). The same applies to detailed studies dealing with environmental history in various areas. Also, a large number of books with a gender perspective will be dealt with in the sections covering specific periods or regions, with the exception of an impressive series with sources and texts written by African women over a long period of time, published under the collective title *Women writing Africa*. The four publications are *The Southern region* (Daymond 2003), *West Africa and Sahel* (Sutherland-Addy & Diaw 2005), *The Eastern region* (Lihamba 2007) and *The Northern region* (Nowaira 2008).

War and conflicts

Another subject covered in several books is the role played by wars and armies in African history; see for example, *African armies. From honour to infamy* (Edgerton 2006), *Daily lives of civilians in wartime Africa* (Laband 2006), *African
military history (Lamphear 2007), Fighting for Britain. African soldiers in the Second World War (Killingray & Plaut 2010) and Distant drums. The role of colonies in British imperial wars (Jackson 2010). Africa as a combat zone during the First World War, not least in the former German colonies, is described in detail in The first world war in Africa (Strachan 2004), The forgotten front 1914–1918 (Anderson 2004) and Tip & run. The untold tragedy of the great war in Africa (Paice 2008). Relations between Africa and the USA in a historical perspective are explored by Robert A. Waters in Historical dictionary of United States-Africa relations (2009), whilst John Kent concentrates on the UN, the Congo and decolonisation in America, the UN and decolonization (2010).

Religion

As demonstrated in the previous edition of Att studera Afrika, there is also abundant literature about religions and missionary work through the ages. New additions to our knowledge of the long history of Islam in Africa are Muslim societies in Africa (Robinson 2004) and Africa’s Islamic experience (Mazrui 2009), whilst Christian missionary activity is treated in Religion versus empire? British protestant missionaries and overseas expansion, 1700–1914 (Porter 2004), Missions and empire (Etherington 2005), White men’s god. The extraordinary story of missionaries in Africa (Ballard 2008) and –from a female perspective – in The communion of women (Prevost 2010). The relationship between missionary work and imperialist expansion is described in detail in Missions, states, and European expansion in Africa (Koreieh & Njoku 2007). Jewish history over more than 2,000 years is described by Richard Hull in Jews and Judaism in African history (2009).

Historical dictionaries of Africa

In recent years, several new books have also appeared in the series Historical dictionaries of Africa, indispensable works of reference for those intending to study a single country. Among the most recent examples are Ethiopia (Shinn & Ofcansky 2004), Ghana (Owusa-Ansah 2005), Madagascar (Allen & Covell 2005), Morocco (Park & Boum 2006), Libya (St. John 2006), Gabon (Gardinier 2006), Burundi (Eggers 2006), Algeria (Naylor 2007), Zambia (Simon 2007), Mali (Imperato & Imperato 2008), Gambia (Hughes 2008), Botswana (Morton et al. 2008), Mauritania (Pazzanita 2008), The Democratic Republic of Congo (Kisangani & Bobb 2009), Nigeria (Falola & Genova 2009) and Cameroon (Mbuh 1010).

Historical periods

Early history

If we turn to the very earliest history or prehistory, which is primarily the field of archaeologists, four general surveys are hugely recommended: Forgotten Africa.
An introduction to its archaeology (Connah 2004), African archaeology (Phillipson 2005). African connections. An archaeological perspectives on Africa and the wider world (Mitchell) and The first Africans (Barham & Mitchell 2008). A short and well illustrated presentation is given in Seven wonders of Ancient Africa (Woods & Woods 2009), whilst The A to Z of ancient and medieval Nubia (Lobban 2010) is a rich work of reference about an early Sudanese civilisation. There is a wealth of specialist literature about the origins of humans (homo sapiens) and the migration out of Africa that falls outside this survey, but an excellent place to start is Alice Roberts’ popular scientific work The incredible journey. The story of how we colonised the planet (2009), which is based on an award-winning BBC TV series.

In the series Dictionaries of civilizations there is a separate volume entitled Africa (Bargna 2009), with very well illustrated – if somewhat fragmentary – information about early civilisations and cultures. A central work of reference in a new edition is Robert O. Collins’ The A to Z of pre-colonial Africa (2010). A solid documentation on how Africa and Africans were subject to racist disparagement in the region around the Mediterranean several thousand years ago is given in The first Ethiopians. The image of Africa and Africans in the early Mediterranean world (Van Wyk Smith 2009). The period called “the Middle Ages” in European history is outlined in The African & The Middle Eastern world, 600–1500 (Pouwels 2005), whilst Rulers, warriors, traders, clerics. The Central Sahara and the North Sea 800–1500 (Haour 2007) is an exciting comparison between two different parts of the world. The great empires in West Africa in the same period are scrutinised in Empires of medieval Africa. Ghana, Mali, and Songhay (Conrad 2009). The important trading town and the Islamic seat of learning Timbuktu in today’s Mali, which reached its apex in the 15th and 16th centuries, has been described in several new books; see, for example, Timbuktu, The Sahara’s fabled city of gold (De Villiers & Hirtle 2007) and the magnificent volume The hidden treasures of Timbuktu. Historic city of Islamic Africa (Hunwick & Boye 2008). The first encounters between Europeans and indigenous peoples around the world are documented from contemporary sources in the First encounters. Native views on the coming of the Europeans (Leavitt 2010).

The long-lasting historical links across the Sahara have been concisely described and analysed by Ralph A. Austen in Trans-Saharan Africa in world history (2010), while a new standard work on the slave trade across the Sahara is John Wright’s The Trans-Saharan slave trade (2007). Bridges across the Sahara (Ahmida 2009) is a collection of articles on the effects of the trade in the 19th and 20th centuries, whilst trading and Islamic networks in the 19th century are the subject of On Trans-Saharan trails (2009).

The colonial period

The History of Africa 75

A turbulent history (2009) is highly welcome. An account of Africa’s history over the past hundred years which is both detailed and rich in perspectives is provided by Richard Reid in A history of modern Africa. From 1800 to the present (2009), which will undoubtedly become a standard work. One of the very best introductions to the African colonial period as a whole is to be found in the collection of articles Dark webs (Falola 2005). An often-used textbook concentrating on the partition of Africa by colonial powers has appeared in a new edition: The scramble for Africa (Chamberlain 2010). A new and exhaustive work on the Zambezi expedition in the middle of the 19th century and the controversy it aroused in Great Britain is Zambesi. David Livingstone and expeditionary science in Africa (Dritsas 2010). Exploration, rivalry and imperialism are also vividly described in two new biographies: Stanley. The impossible life of Africa’s great explorer (Jeal 2007) and Paths without glory, Richard Francis Burton in Africa (Newman 2010).

There are also several chapters on Africa in the colonial period in Kolonialismens sorte bog (Ferro 2004), whilst the history of the Africans and their descendants around the world is described as part of the British Empire in Black experience and the empire (Morgan & Hawkins 2004). Light is shed on Portugal’s long colonial dominion in David Birmingham’s Empire in Africa. Angola and its neighbours (2006). In How colonialism preempted modernity in Africa (2010) Olufemi Taiwo provides an innovative work which argues that the colonial period signifies a blockage – and distortion – of modernisation and growth rather than a boost. Africa and the West. A documentary history (Worger et al. 2010) a rich collection of documents in two volumes, is indispensable to those who wish to study the relationship between Africa and the Western world from the 15th century to the present day. The links between colonialism and the dominant form of “knowledge” about Africa are discussed in Ordering Africa. Anthropology, European imperialism and the politics of knowledge (Tilley & Gordon 2007). The use by colonial powers of concepts such as “rights” and “liberty” as a means of legitimising imperialism and foreign rule, mainly based on examples from Nigeria, are incisively analysed by Bonny Ibhawoh in Imperialism and human rights (2007). Genocide and war crimes during the colonial period are considered from a comparative perspective both in Genocide. A comprehensive introduction (Jones 2009) and The Oxford handbook of genocide studies (Bloxham & Moses 2010), whilst a historiographical overview is offered in the article “Folkemord i et komparativt koloniperspektiv: et riss av en fagdebatt” (Eriksen 2009).

Not surprisingly, Africa occupies an important place in the comprehensive literature on the British Empire, as, for example, in several chapters of John Newsinger’s The blood never dried. A people’s history of the British empire (2006), Settlers and expatriates (Bickers 2010) and Migration and empire (Harper & Constantine 2010). Among recent overviews, Britannia’s empire, written by the South African Bill Nasson (2004), The British empire. From sunrise to sunset (Levine 2007), The empire project (Darwin 2009) and Understanding the British empire (Hyam 2010) should also be mentioned. Two most interesting studies of cocoa produc-
tion and trade, the British chocolate industry and imperialism are *Chocolate on trial. Slavery, politics and the ethics of business* (Sate 2005) and *Chocolate, women and empire* (Robertson 2009).


Even if the history of German colonialism was cut short by the treaties following its defeat in the First World War, it has been the object of extensive research in recent years. Most of the literature is, of course, in German, but among books available in English we find *The devil’s handwriting* (Steinmetz 2007), *Germany’s colonial past* (Ames et al. 2005), *The German colonial experience* (Knoll 2010) and *German colonialism* (Langbehn 2010). In all these books Namibia occupies a central position. (For literature dealing specifically with the German genocide in Namibia at the beginning of the 20th century, see the section on Southern Africa below.) Italy’s colonialism has also been considered, with special emphasis on Ethiopia, Eritrea and Libya, in the collection of articles *Italian colonialism* (Ben-Ghiat & Fuller 2005).

**Decolonisation**

The end of colonialism in Africa is described in several works which more generally cover the process of decolonisation, of which two central works are *The Routledge companion to decolonization* (Rothermund 2006) and *Decolonization and its impact. A comparative approach to the end of the colonial empires* (Shipway 2007). Whilst most historical accounts of decolonisation devote considerable attention to the international power game and changes in relative global power, such as in *Crisis of empire. Decolonization and Europe’s imperial states, 1918–1975* (Thomas et al. 2008), Jonathan Derrick in *Africa’s ‘agitators’. Militant anti-colonialism in Africa and the West, 1918–1939* (2008) emphasises the role played by African activists even in the interwar period. In *Ending British rule in Africa* (2009) Carol Polsgrove tells the story of a group of Africans and intellectuals of African origin from the Caribbean who, through their activities in London at the end of the Second World War, thought the unthinkable: the end of British colonial rule.
African history in a global perspective

Slavery

African history can obviously not be written or understood without taking the continent’s links with other continents into consideration, and, if we think of the history of Africans, should also be focused on the seminal ways in which Africans and their descendants have left their mark on history far beyond their own continent. This perspective characterises several of the general surveys that are mentioned above (not least Mitchell 2005 and Gilbert & Reynolds 2008). The Atlantic slave trade is, of course, the most obvious example of African integration into the capitalist world system and is explored in a rich body of literature. A standard work in a new edition is The Atlantic slave trade (Herbert Klein 2010), while other good introductions are to be found in Captives as commodities. The Atlantic slave trade (Lindsay 2008) and The atlas of slave trade (Walvin 2005). Africa also claims considerable space in Swedish historian Dick Harrison’s impressive and highly readable three-volume work Slaveri. En världshistoria om afrihet (2010). Based on an updated database, a number of new articles about the slave trade have been collected in Extending the frontiers (Eltis & Richardson 2008), whilst the slave trade across both across the Atlantic and the Sahara from areas under Islamic influence in West and Central Africa is discussed in Paul E. Lovejoy’s Slaves at the frontiers of Islam (2004). The British slave trade based on West Africa is studied in The grand slave emporium. Cape Coast castle and the British slave trade (St. Clair 2007) and Reconfiguring slavery. West African trajectories (Rossi 2009), whilst Ouidah: The social history of a West African port, 1727–1829 (Law 2005) is a detailed study of a major slave port and the critical role played by African traders. How a sensitive and controversial theme such as slavery and the slave trade is regarded in today’s Ghana (including by Afro-Americans and tourists) is discussed in Routes of remembrance. Refashioning the slave trade in Ghana (Holsey 2008). The slave trade both across the Atlantic and Indian Oceans is considered in several chapters in Many middle passages. Forced migration and the making of the modern world (Christopher et al. 2007).

The slave trade is seen from an African perspective in Anne C. Bailey’s African voices of the Atlantic slave trade (2005), whilst the slaves’ own resistance is covered in a comparative perspective in Fighting the slave trade. West African strategies (Diouf 2004), Slave revolts (Postma 2008) and Slavery and resistance in Africa and Asia. Bonds of resistance (Alpers et al. 2009). The most recent research into slavery internally in Africa is brought together in African systems of slavery (Spaulding & Besnick 2010). In the struggle for abolition of the slave trade and slavery in the British colonies towards the end of the 18th century, Olaudah Equiano played a central role. This former slave, who lived in Great Britain for many years, is also the writer of the highly influential autobiography: The interesting narrative of the life of Olaudah Equiano, Gustavus Vassa, the African (new ed. 2003). Equiano the African (Carretta 2005) is a historical biography, whilst
Olaudah Equiano & the Igbo world (Koreih 2009) is an exciting collection of articles focusing on his West African roots. The importance of Africans in the struggle for abolition of the slave trade and slavery is covered in Abolitionism, and imperialism in Britain, Africa and the Atlantic (Peterson 2010).

The Atlantic


The Indian Ocean

As a large part of Africa also borders the Indian Ocean, there is much information about African history to be obtained in surveys such as The Indian Ocean (Pearson 2003), Indian Ocean in world history (Kearney 2004) and A hundred horizons. The Indian Ocean in the age of global empire (Bose 2008). The fact that it is impossible to write the history of eastern and southern Africa without emphasising relations with India during the early colonial period is an important point made by Thomas R. Metcalf in Imperial connections (2007). Edward A. Alpers has collected his own studies on the same subject in East Africa and the Indian Ocean (2009), while Cross currents and community networks. The history of the Indian Ocean world (Ray & Alpers 2007) is a collection of a wide range of articles. Valuable additions to this literature are also John Halwey’s India in Africa. Africa in India. Indian Ocean cosmopolitanism (2008) and a study of the significance of Hinduism as a result of Indian emigration to Africa within the framework of the British Empire: New homelands. Hindu communities in Mauritius, Guyana, Trinidad, South Africa, Fiji and East Africa (Younger 2009). A new work about maritime trading links around the Indian Ocean, with Zanzibar as its main focus, is Abdul Sheriff’s Dhow cultures of the Indian Ocean. Cosmopolitanism, commerce and Islam (2010).
Diaspora

The links between Africa and the history of peoples of African descent around the world – the African diaspora – is also an independent field of research that is rapidly expanding. The latest surveys have been provided by Patrick Manning: *The African diaspora. A history through culture* (2009) and Frederick Knight: *Working the diaspora. The impact of African labor on the Anglo-American world, 1650–1850* (2010), whilst M. A. Gomez has written *Reversing sails. A history of the African diaspora* (2005) as well as edited *Diasporic Africa. A reader* (2006). Another perspective on the diaspora is given in *Slavery. Islam and diaspora* (Mirzai 2009). As regards other African contributions to world history, where the focus is on agricultural production and the dissemination of plant crops, a great deal of material is to be found both in *Deep roots. Rice farmers in West Africa and the African diaspora* (Fields-Black 2008) and *In the shadow of slavery. Africa’s botanic legacy in the Atlantic world* (Carney 2009). The history of Africans in Europe from ancient times right up to our own times is told in the important two-volume work *Africans in Europe* (2009), whilst Africans in Europe during the Renaissance forms the theme of *Black Africans in renaissance Europe* (Earle & Lowe 2005). The lives of African slaves in the “New World” is told in detail in *The slavery reader* (Heuman & Walvin 2003), *Inhuman bondage. The rise and fall of slavery in the new world* (Davis 2006) and *African slavery in Latin America and the Caribbean* (Klein & Vinson 2007). Two areas that supplied a great number of slaves are described in detail, with an emphasis on slavery, resistance, culture and relations to their homeland, in *The Yoruba diaspora in the Atlantic world* (Falola & Childs 2004) and *The Akan diaspora in the Americas* (Konadu (2010). A comprehensive collection of articles treating the same theme from a gender perspective is *Gendering the African diaspora. Women, culture, and historical change in the Caribbean and Nigerian hinterland* (Byfield et al. 2010). A wealth of new information about the role of Africans in Asia is brought together in *Uncovering the history of Africans in Asia* (Jayasuriya & Anginit 2008).

Regions and individual countries

North Africa

The history of the northern part of the African continent has recently been covered by Phillip Naylor in an excellent survey; *North Africa. A history from the antiquity to the present* (2009). A good overview in a brief format is given by Barnaby Rogerson in *A traveller’s history of North Africa* (2008), whilst Egypt and other parts of North Africa are included in a new edition of the standard work *A concise history of the Middle East* (Goldschmidt & Davidson 2006). Economic history is comprehensively treated in Charles Issawi’s *An economic history of the Middle East and North Africa* (2005), whilst Ruth M. Beitler and Angelica R. Martinez have collected studies with a women’s perspective in
Women’s roles in the Middle East and North Africa (2010). Eugene Rogan’s *The Arabs. A history* (2009) is a well-written survey which also covers Egypt and other parts of North Africa. A perspective on social movements and popular resistance during the 15th century and onwards is provided in *Subaltern protest. History from below in the Middle East and North Africa* (Cronin 2007). A new historical reference work is *Cities of the Middle East and North Africa* (Dumper & Stanley 2006).


Among books dealing with other countries in the region are *Morocco. From empire to independence* (Pennell 2009) and *A history of modern Tunisia* (Perkins 2004). Algeria’s history is also dealt with in several new books, such as *Modern Algeria. The origins and development of a nation* (Ruedy 2005) and *History and the culture of nationalism in Algeria* (McDougal 2008), whilst the Algerian Berber people are the theme of an informative reference work: *A to Z of the Berbers (Imazighen)* (2009). The point that conflicts of mass violence in Algeria in the 1990s have to be understood against the background of the colonial period is forcefully made in *Violent modernity. France in Algeria* (Hannoum 2010).

Libya’s history has in recent years been enriched with several surveys, such as *Libya. From colony to independence* (St. John 2008), *A history of modern Libya* (Vandewalle 2006, *The making of modern Libya* (Ahmida 2009), *A history of Libya* (Wright 2010), for example, and – more specifically concerned with the contemporary period – *The origins of the Libyan nation* (Baldinetti 2010). Drawing on materials from several centuries, *Forgotten voices* (Ahmida 2009) is concerned with the history of those who most often are overlooked.
West Africa

For those interested in the history of West Africa, an excellent place to start is Themes in West African history (Akyeampong 2006), which is primarily written by West African historians. Our understanding of the role of Islam in West African history has also been enriched by West-Africa, Islam and the Arab world (Hunwick 2007). Origins of African political thinking (July 2004) is a good introduction to African political thinking with the 18th century in West Africa as its point of departure. Also highly recommended in this regard are Telling stories, making histories. Women, words, and Islam in nineteenth-century Hausaland and the Sokoto (Bivins 2007) and Fighting the greater Jihad. Amadu Baba and the founding of the Muridyya of Senegal, 1853–1913 (Babou 2007). A historical perspective on US relations with West Africa is provided in The United States and West Africa (Jallo & Falola 2008). A comparative perspective on West African urbanisation is adopted in A history of urban planning in two West African capitals (Bigon 2009).

The large body of literature concerned with Nigeria has recently been enriched by Toyin Falola and Matthew M. Heaton in A history of Nigeria (2008), whilst the former has also documented the violent nature of colonial occupation in Colonialism and violence in Nigeria (2009). Nigeria’s pre-colonial and colonial history is also the theme of two Festschrifths to Toyin Falola: Precolonial Nigeria (Ogundiran 2005) and The foundations of Nigeria (Oyebade 2004). An innovative work showing the active participation of many Africans in disseminating “Western civilisation” in Nigeria is Andrew E. Barnes’ Making headway. The introduction of Western civilization in colonial Northern Nigeria (2009), whilst Olufemi Vaughan sheds new light on an important historical subject in Nigerian chiefs. Traditional power in modern politics, 1890s–1990s (2006). An important contribution to the history of both slavery and urbanisation is Kristin Mann’s Slavery and the birth of an African city. Lagos 1760–1900 (2007), whilst the slow development of slavery in Nigeria is the theme of E. A. Afigbo’s The abolition of the slave trade in Southeastern Nigeria, 1885–1959 (2006). The history of the Igbo people in Nigeria is treated in depth in Igbo history and society. The essays of Adiele Afigbo (Falola 2006) and Constructions of belonging. Igbo community and the Nigerian state in the twentieth century (Harneit-Sivers 2006). Colonial meltdown. Northern Nigeria in the great depression (Ochuni 2009) is one of the few examples of a detailed study of the effects of the economic crisis in Africa in the interwar years, whilst economic developments over the final decades before independence are explored in great details in Economic reforms and modernization in Nigeria, 1945–1965 (Falola 2004). Economic and social change in rural areas in a long-term perspective form the theme of The land has changed. History, society and gender in colonial Eastern Nigeria (Koreih 2010), and the history of urbanisation is at the centre of Nigeria’s urban history (Tijani 2006). A gender perspective on Nigerian history is offered in Igbo women and economic transformation in Southeastern Nigeria, 1900–1960 (Chuku 2005) and in the rich
collection of articles *Yoruba women, work, and social change* (McIntosh 2009), whilst an account of the Yoruba people – who number approximately 40 million in Africa and in the diaspora – is given in *A history of the Yoruba people* (Akintoye 2010). A number of studies of Nigerian history have been collected in *Nigerian history, politics and affairs. The collected essays of Adiele Afigbo* (Falola 2005).

Walter Rodney’s classic *A history of the Upper Guinea Coast, 1545 to 1800* (2009) is now available in a new edition, whilst G. Ugo Nwokeji is mainly concerned with the role played by the merchant class in the organisation of the slave trade in the Bight of Biafra in *The slave trade and culture in the Bight of Biafra* (2010). Gambia’s history over almost 200 years is presented in *A political history of Gambia* (Hughes & Perfect 2008). The significance of colonialism for food, occupation and agriculture is discussed in detail in *A workman is worthy of his meat. Food and colonialism in the Gabon estuary* (2009). With *Labour, land and capital in Ghana. From slavery to free labour in Asante, 1807–1956* (2005) Gareth Austin has summarised a lifetime of research on the transition from slavery and the economic history of an important area.


An original study of the popular struggle for independence is Elizabeth Schmidt’s *Mobilizing the masses. Gender, ethnicity, and classes in the national movement in Guinea, 1939–1958* (2005), whilst her *Cold war and decolonization in Guinea, 1946–1958* (Schmidt 2007) looks at Guinea from an international perspective. The Guinean experience is also discussed by Jay Straker in *Youth, nationalism, and the Guinean revolution* (2009). How globalisation has affected Africa over the long term has been shown in a new edition of Donald R. Wright’s excellent *The world and a very small place in Africa. A history of globalization in Niumi, the Gambia* (2010). Relations between the USA and West Africa are the theme of *The United States and West Africa* (Jallo & Falola 2008), whilst the close links between the USA and Liberia during the Cold War are covered by D. Elwood Dunn in *Liberia and the United States during the cold war* (2009).

**Central and East Africa (including Sudan)**

A good place to start for those who want a concise overview of the history of East Africa is the new edition of Robert Maxon’s *East Africa. An introductory history* (2009). Pre-colonial history has received several valuable contributions, such as *Carriers of cultures. Labor on the road in the nineteenth-century East Africa* (Rockel 2006), *Slavery on the Great Lakes in East Africa* (Medard & Doyle 2007) and *War in pre-colonial Eastern Africa. The politics & meaning of state-level con-
flicts in the nineteenth century (Reid 2007). Christine Saidi has provided a most welcome gender perspective on early history in Women’s authority and society in early East-Central Africa (2010).


The recent history of Sudan is presented in an overview by Robert O. Collins in A history of modern Sudan (2008), whilst The Nubian past (Edwards 2004) builds on archaeological knowledge to tell the history of the area over 2,000 years, and cultural diversity is illustrated by Culture and customs of Sudan (Essien & Falola 2008). A new standard work in its field is R. S. O’Fahey’s The Darfur sultanate. A history (2008), whilst Sara Beswick follows the history of the Dinka people all the way back to the 14th century in Sudan’s blood memory. The legacy of war, ethnicity, and slavery in South Sudan (2004). The campaign conducted by the colonial authorities against female circumcision (or genital mutilation) is described from similar perspectives in Civilizing women. British crusades in colonial Sudan (Boddy 2007), whilst the same theme is elucidated in a more general way in Female circumcision and the politics of knowledge (Nnaemeka 2005).

The history of Tanzania is constantly being enriched with new literature. Among several examples of history written for an environmental and local perspectives are Highland sanctuary. Environmental history in Tanzania’s Usambara mountains (Conte 2004), Wielding the ax. State forestry and social conflict in Tanzania, 1820–2000 (Sunseri 2009) and Imagining Serengeti. A history of landscape memory in Tanzania from the earliest times to the present (Shetler 2007). Two recent books also shed new light on the complex history of Dar es Salaam: Histories from an emerging African metropolis (Brennan et al. 2007) and African underclass. Urbanisation, crime & colonial order in Dar es Salaam, 1919–61 (Burton 2005). Other historical studies, focusing on the relationship between local communities and state, are In search of a nation. Histories of authority and dissidence in Tanzania (Maddox & Giblin 2005), A history of the excluded. Making family a refuge from state in twentieth-century Tanzania (2005) and Practicing history in Central Tanzania. Writing, memory and performance (Maddox & Kongola 2005).

In Emancipation without abolition in German East Africa, c. 1884–1914 (2008) Jan-Georg Deutsch describes the 19th-century slave trade and the lives of slaves, as well as resistance during German colonial rule. Perhaps the most widespread
revolt in African colonial history is explored through a collection of case-studies in Maji-Maji. Lifting the fog of war (Giblin & Monson 2010), whilst the brutal warfare of the then German colonial power and the resistance of the Hehe people towards the end of the 19th century is described in detail in “To devour the land of Mkwawa”, Colonial violence and the German-Hehe war in East Africa, c. 1884–1914 (Pizzo 2010). Zanzibar’s central position both before and during the colonial era is the theme of Erik Gilbert’s Dhows & the colonial economy of Zanzibar 1860–1970 (2004). An interesting study of international politics and development aid deals with the Chinese-built railway between Zambia and Tanzania: Africa’s freedom railway (Monson 2009). The area of the Ugandan kingdom of Bunyoro is described from an environmental-historical perspective from the end of the pre-colonial period to the end of the 1950s in Crisis & decline. Population & environment in Western Uganda 1860–1955 (Doyle 2006), whilst Cultivating success in Uganda. Kigezi farmers & colonial policies (Carswell 2007) tells how a district in Uganda resisted specialisation of production for export, and instead retained a more balanced, environmentally friendly and sustainable type of agriculture. A corrective to notions about Uganda as an idyll of “milk and honey” as regards environmental and medical history during the colonial period is provided by the Finnish historian Jan Kuhanen in Poverty, health and reproduction in early colonial Uganda (2005), whilst a gender perspective on women’s work in Uganda is presented in Women, work and domestic virtue in Uganda 1900–2003 (Kyomuhende & McIntosh 2006).

The position of women in Kenya and their struggle to achieve better conditions is described and analysed in African womanhood in colonial Kenya, 1900–50 (Kanogo 2005), Worries of the heart. Widows, family, and community in Kenya (Mutongi 2007) and Land, food, freedom. Struggles for the gendered commons in Kenya, 1870–2007 (Brownhill 2009). The links between colonialism and racism are comprehensively treated in Race and empire. Eugenics in colonial Kenya (Campbell 2007). A very controversial theme in historical research is the “Mau-Mau” uprising in Kenya in the 1950s, which form the focus of a number of new books. Britain’s Gulag. The brutal end of empire in Kenya (Elkins 2005) and Histories of the hanged. Britain’s dirty war in Kenya and the end of empire (Anderson 2005) are mostly devoted to British brutality, whilst both S. M. Shamsul Alam’s Rethinking the Mau Mau in colonial Kenya (2007) and Daniel Branch’s Defeating Mau Mau, creating Kenya (2010) discuss the uprising in its complexity, and elucidate the various attitudes held within the Kikuyu population. The social background of the uprising is explored in The social context of the Mau Mau movement in Kenya (Macharia & Kanyua 2006), whilst Kenya, the Kikuyu and Mau Mau (Smith 2005) clearly demonstrates that there is still historical research that pursues the myths and arguments of the colonial powers. The argument that the struggle of the British to keep control in Kenya also had a Cold War bias is made in Britain, Kenya and the cold war. Imperial defence, colonial security, and decolonization (Percox 2004). Nugiwa Thiong’o, the well-known writer of fiction, derives a great deal of his material
from the days of the war in the 1950s in his fascinating memories *Dreams in a time of war. A childhood memoir* (2010). The relationship between the colonial masters, the local population and the natural environment is the theme of *Black poachers, white hunters. A social history of hunting in colonial Kenya* (2005), whilst a perspective of gender and legal history, the so-called “double patriarchy”, that is to say the combination of local male power and the intervention of the colonial power, is adopted in *Girl cases. Marriage and colonialism in Gusiland, Kenya 1890–1970* (Brett & Shadle 2006). Norwegians in Kenya both before and during the 1950s are given their history in Kristin Alsaker Kjerland’s *Nordmenn i det koloniale Kenya* (2010). The same writer is also co-editor of a collection of studies with a wider aim: *Kolonitid. Nordmenn på eventyr and big business i Afrika and Stillehavet* (2009).

A very exciting study of agriculture, food and power is to be found in the Malawian historian Elias C. Mandala’s *The end of Chidyerano. A history of food and everyday life in Malawi, 1860–2004* (2006), whilst the basis of political resistance to both colonial rule and the authoritarian regime of Hastings Banda is discussed in Joey Powers’ *Political culture and nationalism in Malawi* (2010). A concise introduction to the history of Madagascar from the first settlements in the fifth century to the present day is given in *Madagascar. A short history* (Randriania & Ellis 2009), whilst its economic history from 1750 up to colonisation is covered by *An economic history of imperial Madagascar 1750–1895* (Campbell 2008).

Whereas several earlier books have documented the brutality of the colonisation of the Congo, this picture is now being complemented by a detailed study of forced labour and the plundering of natural resources under the direction of the British company of Lord Leverhulme in the period right up to the Second World War: *Lord Leverhulme’s ghosts. Colonial exploitation in the Congo* (Marchal 2008). The history of the role of Norwegians under King Leopold’s reign of terror in the Congo is told in *Nordmenn i Kongo* (Godøy 2010). Jan Vansina has elucidated pre-colonial social conditions in central Africa in a number of books, and has followed these up with a series of new studies and new editions: *How societies are born. Governance in West Central Africa before 1600* (Vansina 2004), *Antecedents to modern Rwanda. The Nyiginya kingdom* (Vansina 2004), *Paths in the rainforest* (Vansina 2006) and *Being Kuba. The Kuba experience in rural Congo 1880–1960* (Vansina 2010). Another pioneer of pre-colonial history, David Newbury, has collected a number of his influential studies in *The land before the mist. Essays on identity and authority in precolonial Congo and Rwanda* (Newbury 2009).

**Southern Africa**

**South Africa**

South Africa is undoubtedly the African country that is best provided with excellent and up-to-date historical surveys, new research and perceptive histori-
cal discussions. A number of contributions from recent years range from short introductory texts to more substantial works, all of high professional quality, at the same time as there are a number of monographs available which provide a wealth of perspectives. Three good places to gain an overview are A concise history of South Africa (Ross 2008), South Africa in world history (Berger 2009) and – briefest of all – Dinosaurs, diamonds and democracy, A short, short history of South Africa (Wilson 2009). A more comprehensive and well illustrated work of history, with a large number of South African writers as contributors, is New history of South Africa (Giliomee & Mbenga 2009), whilst The Cambridge history of South Africa most likely will become the standard academic text for many years to come. The first of two volumes edited by Carolyn Hamilton et al. (2010) has appeared so far, covering the period from earliest times to 1885. A more journalistic account is offered by R. W. Johnson in South Africa. The first man, the last nation (2004), whilst Charles H. Feinstein provides an overview of the economic history of the area in An economic history of South Africa (2004). The rise and fall of the apartheid system is the subject of two recent historical studies: The rise, fall, and legacy of apartheid (Louw 2004) and The rise and fall of apartheid (Welsh 2009). The military history of the area from the first colonial conquest to the apartheid period and on into the contemporary period is the subject of Timothy Stapleton’s A military history of South Africa (2010). A regional perspective on the resistance to colonisation in South Africa, Swaziland, Zimbabwe and Namibia is given in Grappling with the beast. Indigenous Southern African responses to colonialism, 1840–1930 (Limb 2010), whilst the impact of slavery and its formal abolition is covered by Slavery, emancipation and colonial rule in South Africa (Dooling 2008). Different perspectives on South Africa history writing and the “collective memory” are given in Liberals, Marxists and nationalists. Competing interpretations of South African history (Lipton 2007) and History making and present day politics. The meaning of collective memory in South Africa (Stolten 2007).

The period often referred to as “modern history” – that is, from the beginning of the 19th century – is concisely covered in a new edition of Nigel Worden’s The making of modern South Africa (2007), whilst Arab MacKinnon deals with the same period, but with a focus on cultural and political conditions, in The making of South Africa (2004). A well-written and journalistic account focusing on the important period around the turn of the last century is Martin Meredith’s Diamonds, gold and war. The making of South Africa (2007). A thorough and detailed study in environmental history from the Transkei is Nature and colonial change (Tripp 2006), whilst Representing Africa. Landscape, exploration and empire in Southern Africa, 1780–1870 (McAleer 2009) deals with the ways in which British artists, scientists and travellers presented southern Africa. A gender perspective on migration and settlements during apartheid is given in African women under apartheid (Lee 2009), whilst the women’s struggle in several different periods is described in Women in South African history (Gasa 2007). The long and bitter
struggle between the Xhosa-speaking local population and European colonisers is dealt with in great detail by Richard Price in *Making empire. Colonial encounters and the creation of imperial rule in the nineteenth-century Africa* (2008). An exciting attempt to bring out African intellectual personalities in the form of five portraits is *African intellectuals in 19th and early 20th century South Africa* (Ndletyane 2007). Earlier comparative studies of the USA and South Africa have now been supplemented by *Cultures of violence. Lynching and racial killing in South Africa and the United States* (Evans 2009).

That the significance of the Zulu leader Shaka in the early 19th century is a highly contentious subject in South African history is eminently shown by Dan Wylie in his *Myths of iron. Shaka in history* (2006), whilst *Zulu. The heroism and tragedy of the Zulu war of 1879* (Greaves 2009) and *Crossing the buffalo* (Greaves 2009) deal with the Anglo-Zulu War of 1879. The widespread uprising in 1906 which ended the period of colonial conquest in South African history is the theme of Jeff Guy’s *Remembering the rebellion. The Zulu uprising of 1906* (2006), whilst *Zulu identities. Being Zulu, past and present* (Carton et al. 2008) discusses what it means “to be a Zulu” both in the past and at the present time. Two major wars have each been given a detailed reference work: *Historical dictionary of the Anglo-Boer war* (Pretorius 2009) and *Historical dictionary of the Zulu wars* (Laband 2009). Several books also direct attention to the story of the Khoikhoi woman Sara Baartman, who became famous as “the Hottentot Venus”, and was sent to London as a display exhibit in the early 19th century; see, for example, *African queen. The real story of Hottentot Venus* (Holmes 2005) and, in much greater detail as regards her story in her home country, *Sara Baartman and the Hottentot Venus* (Crais & Scully 2009). Indian immigration in the second half of the 19th century is dealt with in *Inside Indian indenture. A South African story 1860–1914* (Desai & Vahed 2010). Closer to our own times, several books have appeared discussing the apartheid system, the struggle for freedom, and the fall of apartheid, such as Alex Thomson’s *South African politics since 1948* (2008) and Jack Spence & David Welsh’s *Ending apartheid* (2010).


**Other countries in southern Africa**

There are fewer new surveys of other areas of southern Africa. An important exception is *Becoming Zimbabwe* (Raftopoulus & Mlambo 2009), in which a
number of Zimbabwean historians and social scientists explore the main features of the country’s history from the pre-colonial period to 2008. A good detailed study is *Invisible hands. Child labor and the state in colonial Zimbabwe* (Grier 2006), whilst the incendiary question of power and land distribution is dealt with by Jocelyn Alexander in *The unsettled land. State-making & the politics of land in Zimbabwe, 1893–2003* (2006). Another controversial issue, from as far back as the pre-colonial period and through changing regimes, is control over the River Zambezi separating Zambia and Zimbabwe, which is discussed in *Crossing the Zambezi* (McGregor 2009). A perspective on the early social history of Harare is provided in *African urban experiences in colonial Zimbabwe* (Yoshikuni 2007)), whilst Bulawayo’s history between 1893 and 1960 is covered in *Bulawayo burning* (Ranger 2010).

Important aspects of Zambia’s political history from the colonial period onward is provided by Bizeck J. Phiri in *A political history of Zambia* (2005), whilst a perceptive study of mining, foreign big business and the colonial state is *Copper empire* (Butler 2007). For the first time, Kenneth Kaunda’s rival as the ”father” of the Zambian nation has been given a biography: *Liberal nationalism in Central Africa. A biography of Harry Mwaanga Mkumbula* (Macolo 2010), whilst a perspective from politics and environmental history is provided on the important inland fisheries of Zambia and Congo in *Nachituti’s gift. Economy, society, and environment in Central Africa* (Gordon 2006). *Butterflies & barbarians. Swiss missionaries & systems of knowledge in South-East Africa* (Harris 2007) discusses the tension between two contrasting knowledge systems in Mozambique, whilst the growth of local and regional identities in Mozambique and Zimbabwe is the theme of Elizabeth MacGonagle’s *Crafting identities in Zimbabwe and Mozambique* (2007). German colonial policy and genocide in Namibia in the early 20th-century is discussed within a general framework of global and comparative genocide studies, in *Det tjunde århundrets første fol kemord. Namibia 1903–1908* (Eriksen 2007), *Genocide in German South-West Africa* (Zimmerer & Zeller 2008) and *The Kaiser’s holocaust. Germany’s forgotten genocide and the colonial roots of Nazism* (Olusoga & Erichsen 2010). Two important books at the intersection between local history and environmental history have been written by Emmanuel Kreike: *Re-creating Eden. Land use, environment, and society in Southern Angola and Northern Namibia* (2004) and *Deforestation and reforestation in Namibia. The global and local contradictions* (2010). The history of the San people (previously often called “Bushmen”) is told by Elizabeth Marshall Thomas in *The old way. A story of the first people* (2006). Colonisation and resistance in Lesotho has been given a thorough presentation by Elizabeth Eldredge in *Power in colonial Africa. Lesotho 1870–1960* (2007), whilst the growth of Botswana as a modern nation state has been described, placing Seretse Khama at the centre, in *Colour bar. The triumph of Seretse Khama and his nation* (Williams 2006). The first Botswanan president is also one of the three prominent African statesman whose portraits are given in *We shall not fail. Values in the na-
tional leadership of Seretse Khama, Nelson Mandela and Julius Nyerere (Mungazi (2005)).

References


http://www.hsrcpress.ac.za/product.php?productid=2186


Sheldon, Mathleen (2010). *The A to Z of women in Sub-Saharan Africa*. Lanham, MD: Scarecrow Press. (Published in 2005 as *Historical dictionary of women in Africa*).


Preamble

This chapter, too, should be read against the background of the 2005 edition of Studying Africa, and should therefore be regarded as a supplement covering books which have been published over the last few years. The selection is based on the same criteria as the previous chapter on African history. In that chapter one will also find a number of books – especially general accounts – that take the reader up to the present situation.

Introductions

There are several illuminating introductions to politics, economics and social conditions in Africa, often in the form of textbooks for undergraduate students at universities and colleges. A good place to start is Tom Young: Africa. A beginner’s guide (2010), which is a brief, highly readable, and thought-provoking introduction. Another book that serves the same purpose is The political economy of Africa (Padayachee 2010). Highly recommended within the same field are also Understanding contemporary Africa (Gordon & Gordon 2006), Vincent Khapoya’s The African experience (2009) and Alex Thomson’s An introduction to African politics (2010), which have all appeared in new editions. A wide range of perspectives are also offered in Goran Hyden’s African politics in comparative perspective (2006), Heather Deegan’s Africa today. Culture, economics, religion, security (2009) and Reframing contemporary Africa. Politics, culture and society in the global era (Soyinka-Airewele & Edozie 2010). The Danish diplomat Klaus Winkel has written Hvorfor er det svært så Afrika? (2007), which has many interesting descriptions, but is rather weak on analytical explanations. Updated information and critical analyses are provided in the indispensable yearbook Africa yearbook: Politics, economy and society South of the Sahara (Mehler et al. 2010).

General overviews

Radical perspectives on the development of African society – based on empirical studies – inform several new books, such as Patrick Bond’s Looting Africa. The economics of exploitation (2006), James Ferguson’s Global shadows. Africa in the

A broad spectrum of issues relevant for an understanding of the continent as a whole is also taken up by Todd J. Moss in African development (2007), Stephen Chan in Grasping Africa. A tale of tragedy and achievement (2007) and Pierre Englebert in Africa. Unity, sovereignty and sorrow (2009), among others. Two books by Pádraig Carmody cover the same ground: Neoliberalism, civil society and security in Africa (2007) and Globalization in Africa. Recolonization or renaissance? (2010). Comprehensive elucidation is also provided in a number of collections of articles, for example, Violence, political culture and development in Africa (Kaarsholm 2006), Africa’s development in the twenty-first century (Konadu-Agyemang 2006), Africa in the 21st century (Mazama 2007), Africa in the post-decolonization era (Bissell 2008), Readings in modernity in Africa (Geschiere 2008), Neo-liberalism and globalization in Africa (Whilstah 2009), Self-determination and national unity. A challenge for divided nations (Deng 2009), Africans and the politics of popular culture (Falola & Aqwuele 2009) and Perspectives on Africa. A reader in history, culture and representation (Grinker 2010). An innovative contribution that “diagnoses” Africa, as if it were a question of a doctor-patient relationship, is Sterling Johnson: Suffering and smiling (2008). The potentials and barriers for achieving a union of all the African states is discussed by E. Ike Udandu in Confronting the challenges and prospects in the creation of a United States of Africa in the 21st century (2010).

In The challenge for Africa (2009) Nobel prize-winner Wangari Maathai reflects on the continent’s future based on her experiences in Kenya, as does one of Africa’s most prominent authors, Ngugi wa Thiong’o in Something torn and new. An African renaissance (2009). In two recent books, the legacies of two of Africa’s foremost nationalist leaders and political thinkers are analysed: Africa’s contemporary challenges. The legacy of Amilcar Cabral (Lopes 2009) and Africa’s liberation. The legacy of Nyerere (Chachage & Cassam 2010).

For a wider audience

Whilst most of the books discussed so far are written with an academic audience in mind, there is no lack of more journalistic accounts which provide information, insight and food for thought for a broader readership. This is particularly the case when the works are written by serious observers who have closely followed African development over a long period of time, and who are interested in creating more than just sensational headlines. Among the best books in this category are Richard Dowden’s *Africa. Altered states, ordinary miracles* (2008), Robert Guest’s *The shackled continent. Africa’s past, present and future* (2004), Charlagne Hunter-Gault’s *New news out of Africa. Uncovering Africa’s renaissance* (2006), and Tomm Kristiansen’s *Afrika –en vakker dag* (2006). (Martin Meredith’s extensive narrative about Africa after independence – *The state of Africa* – has been placed in the history chapter). In *På väg till presidenten* (2010) Swedish journalist Stig Holmqvist recalls his experiences of journeys and studies in Africa over 40 years, with particular emphasis on East Africa.

It should also be mentioned that the Football World Cup competition in South Africa in 2010 gave rise to several fascinating books about the history of African football and its current challenges; see Ian Hawkey’s *Feet of the chameleon. The story of African football* (2009), Steve Bloomfield’s *Africa united. How football explains Africa* (2010) and Peter Alegi’s *African soccerscapes. How a continent changed the world’s game* (2010).

The African state

Patrick Chabal has provided an original contribution showing how difficult it is to grasp the complexity of African development using conventional – that is, Western – political concepts in *Africa. The politics of suffering and smiling* (2009). Together with Jean-Pascal Daloz, he has also written a perceptive study with the same perspectives: *Africa works. Disorder as political instrument* (2005). In the same category is Jean-Francois Bayart with a new edition of his classic study *The state in Africa. The politics of the belly* (2009). Another influential analyst is Robert H. Bates, who has recently published *When things fall apart. State failure in late-century Africa* (2008). The question of how the African state functions – and how it may be understood – is also the main subject addressed in *Beyond state failure and collapse* (Kieh 2007), *A new paradigm of the African state* (Muio & Martin 2009) and the collection of articles *Failed and failing states. The challenges to African reconstruction* (Ndulo & Grieco 2010). The functioning of the state apparatus in facilitating capitalist expansion is discussed critically by Yeah Mentan in *The state in Africa. An analysis of historical trajectories of global capitalist expansion and domination in the continent* (2010).
Democracy, governance and political parties

The complex nature of democracy and democratisation in Africa is addressed in a wide range of articles in *Turning points in African democracy* (Mustapha & Whitfield 2009) and *Democracy in Africa. Progress and retreat* (Diamond & Plattner 2010). John W. Forje has contributed two books on the same topic: *State-building and democracy in Africa* (2009a) and *Here the people rule. Political transitions and challenges for democratic consolidation in Africa* (2009b), whilst Joelen Pretorius discusses development in Africa in the light of Samuel Huntington’s theories of democracy in *African politics. Beyond the third wave of democratisation* (2008). A more radical perspective is adopted by Issa G. Shivji in *Where is Uhuru? Reflections on the struggle for democracy* (2009), by Browen Manby in *Struggles for citizenship in Africa* (2009), and by scholars contributing to *Liberal democracy and its critics in Africa* (Lumumba-Kasongo 2005) and *The fate of Africa’s democratic experiences* (Villaon & VonDoepp 2005). Issues related to ethnicity and political development are examined in *Ethnicity and democracy* (Berman 2004), whilst the relationship between politics, identity, power, democracy, and poverty is explored in *Power and nationalism in Africa* (Falola & Hassan 2008) and *Democratic reforms in Africa* (Ndulo 2006). National parliamentary elections are described and analysed in *Votes, money and violence. Political parties and elections in Sub-Saharan Africa* (Basedau 2007) as well as in *Turning points in African democracy* (Mustapha & Whitfield 2010).

A wide range of important issues is addressed by Staffan I. Lindberg in *Democracy and elections in Africa* (2006), who is also the editor of *Democratization by elections* (Lindberg 2009). The UN Economic Commission for Africa presents its biannual *African governance report*, the most recent being published in 2009 (ECA 2009).

A separate volume on Africa is now included in a series of books presenting political parties across the globe: *Political parties and democracy in Africa and Oceania* (Sindjourn 2010). Political activities rooted in Islam are discussed by a wide range of scholars in *Interpreting Islamic political parties* (Salih 2009) and *Islam and Muslim politics in Africa* (Soares & Otayek 2007). Under the aegis of International IDEA, with its headquarters in Stockholm, a large number of case studies are summarised in the report *Political parties in Africa* (Salih & Nordlund 2007). The role and functions of parliaments are analysed in *African parliaments. Between government and governance* (Salih 2006) and *Legislative power in emerging African democracies* (Barkan 2009). *Legacies of power. Leadership change and former presidents in African politics* (Southall & Melber 2006) discusses various consequences of changes of president, whilst the question of whether “traditional authorities” at the community and regional levels have been given renewed importance is raised in *State recognition and democratization in Sub-Saharan Africa* (Buur & Kyed 2007).

The question of political participation and “citizenship” is an important subject addressed in a series of books from Zed Books, offering studies from all...
over the Third World. Examples from Africa are mainly drawn from South Africa, Nigeria, Kenya and Angola in *Inclusive citizenship* (Kabeer 2005), *Spaces for change* (Cornwall & Coelho 2006), *Citizenship and social movements* (Thompson & Tapsott 2010), *Mobilization for democracy* (Coelho & von Lieses 2010), and *Globalizing citizens* (Gaventa & Tandon 2010).

**Social movements and NGOs**

The most recent and best survey of social movements, with a number of African case studies, is *Movers and shakers* (Ellis & van Kessel 2009). Social movements and NGOs are also examined in *Against global capitalism. African social movements confront neoliberal globalization* (Prempeh 2006), *Silences in NGO discourse. The role and future of NGOs in Africa* (Shivji 2007), and *NGOs, Africa and the global order* (Pinkney 2009). The political significance of trade unions in the struggle for democracy is a central feature in several collections of articles; see in particular *Trade unions and the coming of democracy in Africa* (Kraus 20008) and *Trade unions and party politics. Labour movements in Africa* (Beckman 2010), whilst Gérard Kester explores workplace conditions in *Trade unions and workplace democracy in Africa* (2007). Student activism is described and analysed by Leo Zeilig in *Revolt and protests. Student politics and activism in Sub-Saharan Africa* (2007), whilst the role of intellectuals is discussed by African researchers in two collections of articles from CODESRIA: *African intellectuals. Rethinking politics, language, gender and development* (Mkandawire 2005) and *Intellectuals and African development* (Beckman & Adeloti 2006). The political effects of the offensive by the evangelical churches is described in *Evangelical Christianity and democracy in Africa* (Ranger 2008).

**Human rights**


**Gender perspectives**

Gender perspectives on power and politics also characterise several books dealing with Africa as a whole. Three comprehensive collections of articles provide a broad overview: *Readings in gender in Africa* (Cornwall 2005), *African gender studies* (Oyewumi 2006), and *Power, gender and social change in Africa* (Ndulu &
Grieco 2009), whilst the struggle for women’s rights is addressed in a number of studies collected in *Grace, tenacity and eloquence. The struggle for women’s rights in Africa* (Burnett 2007). Women’s movements and their struggle for democracy are also examined in *Women in African parliaments* (Bauer & Britton 2006), *African women’s movements. Transforming political landscapes* (Tripp et al. 2008), and *Democracy and the rise of women’s movements in Africa* (Fallon 2008). A gender perspective on politics and democracy based on case studies from a number of African countries is provided in *Governing women* (Goetz 2008). Several studies rich in detail can also be found in the collection of articles *Women’s movements in the global era* (Basu 2010). An interesting case study from Cape Verde is *Cape Verdean women and globalization* (Carter 2009), whilst articles concerned with feminist perspectives on knowledge have been collected in *African feminist politics of knowledge. Tensions, challenges, possibilities* (Arnfred & Adomako 2010).

**International affairs and African conflicts**

An excellent introduction to African international affairs is Ian Taylor’s *The international relations of Sub-Saharan Africa* (2010). A good survey is also provided by Philippe Hugon in *African geopolitics* (2009), whilst *Africa in world politics* (Harbeson & Rotchild 2008) is a classic collection of articles in a new edition. *Sub-Saharan Africa* (2010)is a separate volume in a series of books on “hot spots”, in which Toyin Falola and Adebayo O. Oyebade deal with both international, regional and national conflicts in the period after decolonisation. Africa is also discussed together with other regions in “the South” in *The South in world politics* (Alden et al. 2010), where a central argument is that significant changes in global relations of power are taking place. *A new scramble for Africa* (Southall & Melber 2009) and *Arena Afrika. Kappløp om makt og ressurser* (Johnstad & Ommundsen 2009) are two topical collections of articles relating to the imperialist scramble for investments and natural resources in Africa. *Blood on the stone* (Smillie 2010) deals in detail with corruption, greed, ethnic and global rivalries in four “diamond wars” in Africa – Sierra Leone, Angola, Congo, and Liberia, whilst *Oil, diamonds, and human rights in the marketplace* (Muvingi 2008) looks at international actions to halt violence and conflicts arising from the struggles and oil exploitation and mining in Sierra Leone, Angola and Sudan.

Olayiwola Abegunrin applies a pan-African perspective to international relations in *Africa in global politics in the twenty-first century* (2009), whilst the importance of the UN for Africa – and Africa’s importance for the UN – is highlighted in *From global apartheid to global village* (Adebayo 2009). The role of states that stand out by reason of their size is also an interesting topic, as discussed by several contributors to *Big African states. Angola, DRC, Ethiopia, Nigeria, South Africa* (Clapham 2006). There is still a great deal of insight to be gained from the role of the big Western powers in *Africa and the North* (Engel & Olsen 2005). A highly recommended series of books examines the relationships

**China in Africa**

Chinese expansion in the African continent and Chinese-African relations are topical issues that have increasingly attracted attention in recent years. Anyone requiring a brief overview is recommended to start with the above-mentioned book by Chris Alden (2007) and with Ian Taylors *China’s new role in Africa* (2009). *The rise of China and India in Africa* (Fantu Cheru and Obi 2010) is an up-to-date and stimulating collection of articles, which also includes India. The relationship between China and Africa is also closely examined in *The dragon’s gift* (Brautigam 2009), *China safari* (Michel & Beuret 2009), *China’s African challenge* (Reine 2009), *The new presence of China in Africa* (van Dijk 2009) and *China-African development relations* (Dent 2009). Several collections of articles address the same topic; see amongst others *African perspectives on China in Africa* (Manjji & Marks 2007), *China’s new role in Africa and the South* (Guerrero & Manji 2008), *China returns to Africa* (Alden et al. 2008) and *China and Africa* (Strauss & Saavedra 2010).

**Oil: exploration and exploitation**

The importance of the African continent as a major oil producer and exporter is a question which must be addressed from many angles and perspectives, as it involves international power struggles, the scramble for finite resources, and the politics of African states. As a result of the rising export of oil and greater influence of major foreign companies (among others Norwegian Statoil), a considerable body of empirical and theoretical studies has emerged in recent years. Among general and readable introductions, John Ghazvinian’s *Untapped. The scramble for Africa’s oil* (2007), Nicholas Shaxson’s *Poisoned wells. The dirty politics of African oil* (2007) and – not least – Duncan Clarke’s *Crude oil* (2008) are highly recommended. An informative collection of articles in Norwegian, with several African contributors, is *Oljespill. Jakt på Afrikas svarte gull* (Jorde 2007). Valuable information about several African oil producers can also be found in *The politics of the global oil industry* (Falola & Genova 2005). *Oil and governance*
deals with Chad, Angola, Gabon and Sao Tomé & Principe (Alexander & Gilbert 2010), whilst the expansion of Asian companies in Nigeria and Angola is examined in *Thirst for oil* (Vines et al. 2009). We will return to studies that are more specifically devoted to individual countries in the regional sections below.

**Peace and conflict**

Regarding conflicts, conflict solutions, and security policy in the African continent, there have been many important contributions in recent years. Apart from the books listed in the regional sections below, Guy Arnold’s *The A to Z of civil wars in Africa* (2007) is a useful reference work. Augustine Ohanwe makes a crucial point that the opportunities for solving individual conflicts have improved after the end of the Cold War in *Post-cold war conflicts in Africa. Case studies of Liberia and Somalia* (2009). Many collections of articles, such as *Security, reconstruction and reconciliation* (Ndulo 2006), *African guerrillas. Raging against the machine* (Boás & Dunn 2007), *Writers, writing on conflict and war in Africa* (Ndibe & Hove 2009), *African security governance* (Cawthra 2009), and *Conflict of securities* (Abubakar et al. 2010) are also worth consulting. *The curse of Berlin* (Adebajo 2010) is a historically informed study which devotes most attention to conflicts in Africa after the Cold War. Bjørn Møller’s *Religion and conflict in Africa* (2006), focusing particularly on East Africa, is a comprehensive introduction to religion, politics, and conflict in Africa, with a number of examples from history as well as from our own times. A substantial report on reconciliation after internal conflicts, with examples from, amongst others, Rwanda, Burundi and Sierra Leone is *Traditional justice and reconciliation after violent conflicts. Learning from African experience* (Huyse & Salter 2008).


**Migration and globalisation**

Migration is another significant issue in the study of Africa’s place in the global system; see, for instance, *Africa on the move* (Tienda et al 2006), *The human cost of African migration* (Falola & Afolabi 2009), *Globalisation and transnational migrations* (Adebayo & Adesina 2009), and *International migration within, to*
and from Africa in a globalised world (Adepoju 2010). The fact that Africa is not merely a passive recipient of globalisation, but instead develops its own ideologies and local cultures in the encounter with foreign impulses is an important point made in Situating globality (van Binsbergen & van Dijk 2004).

Aid and development cooperation

As a consequence of the considerable dependence of many African countries on foreign aid, it is to be expected that both positive and negative aspects of development cooperation have been the subject of a growing body of literature. An excellent place to start is Göran Hydén’s new book Bistånd och utveckling. Afrika: Givarnas stora utmaning (2010), which provides a well-balanced overview of a complex issue. In recent years there has been a clear tendency for books with a critical – often dismissive – position to receive the greatest attention. Several well-known books in this category are written by economists who largely regard aid in its present form – together with poor systems of government and state control instead of the “freedom” of the market – as the main reason for the lack of progress on the African continent: The white man’s burden (Easterly 2006), The bottom billion (Collier 2007), and Dead aid. Why aid is not working and how there is another way for Africa (Moyo 2008). In a mixture of news reporting and polemic, Bengt Nilsson argues in Sveriges afrikanska krig (2009) that Swedish aid in fact contributes to both corruption and the prolonging of wars. There are also many examples of criticism from the other side of the ideological spectrum, in which it is argued that many forms of Western aid contribute to maintaining foreign dominance, “structural adjustment”, and the power of national elites. Among prominent contributions from this position are Giles Bolton’s Africa doesn’t matter. How the West has failed the poorest continent and what we can do about it (2008), Jonathan Glennie’s The trouble with aid. Why less could mean more for Africa (2008) and Yash Tandon’s Aid and dependence (2009). The same perspective is reflected in Aid to Africa. Redeemer or coloniser? (Abbas & Niyiragara 2009). Conflicting views on development aid are collected in Aid to Africa (Miller 2009). The literature on aid and development cooperation also includes The trouble with Africa (Calderisi 2007), and Smart aid for African development (Joseph & Gilliers 2008). Several chapters are concerned with Africa from a comparative perspective in Foreign aid for development (Mavrotas 2010). Hans Holmén’s Snakes in paradise (2010) offers a critical and thoughtful view of the role of NGOs within the “aid industry”, whilst an important point made by many contributions in The politics of aid. African strategies for dealing with aid donors (Whitfield 2008) is that African states are not passive recipients, but have their own strategies and vested interests when aid policies are being formulated. The idea that development aid may have positive effects in particularly vulnerable and weak states is argued in Aid that works (Manor 2006). Peter Gill examines how much – or indeed how little – of the great aid effort in Ethiopia in
the mid-1980s is of lasting value in *Famine and foreigners. Live Aid and Ethiopia* (2010).

**Economic achievements and problems**

A significant part of the literature listed above has to do with chiefly economic matters, often under the designation “political economy”. But there are also a large number of books that concentrate more explicitly on economic development, and which are mostly written by professional economists, such as a comprehensive two-volume work with both general overviews and national case studies: *The political economy of economic growth in Africa, 1960–2000* (Ndulu 2007). Two substantial edited volumes that focus on the same subject are *Growth and development in Africa* (Seck & Bisari 2009) and *Back on track* (Seck & Boko 2010). Textbooks on Africa’s geography also offer a wealth of useful information about economic structures, production, and resources, such as two standard works both appearing in new editions; see Benjamin Stock: *Africa South of the Sahara. A geographical interpretation* (2004) and Samuel Aryeetey-Attoh et al.: *Geography of Sub-Saharan Africa* (2010).


*Beyond the ‘African tragedy’* (Smith 2006) examines Africa from a develop-
ment and globalisation perspective. The vulnerability of African exporters of raw materials within a trading system that favours rich countries and transnational corporations is analysed in *Globalization and restructuring of African commodity flows* (Fold & Larsen 2008), whilst Antoinette Handley explores the links between trade, industry, and the state, with examples from four African countries, in *Business and the state in Africa* (2008). The power of large foreign companies involved in mining in Africa and the need for public regulation are both analysed in Roger Moody’s *Rocks & hard places. The globalization of mining* (2007) and in the edited volume *Mining in Africa* (Campbell 2009). A wealth of information on oil and gas extraction is also found in *Oil and gas in Africa* (ADB 2009). Other economic sectors are given attention in *Meeting the information challenge* (Grieco et al. (2006), *The hydropolitics of Africa. A contemporary challenge* (Kitoussou 2007), *Africa’s finances. The contribution of remittances* (Bardouille 2007), and *Africa, transport and the Millennium Development Goals* (Brieco et al. 2009).

**Poverty and inequality**

Poverty and the prospects for poverty reduction are explored from a comparative perspective in several new and comprehensive collections of articles: *New growth and poverty alleviation strategies in Africa* (Wohlmut 2008), *Inside poverty and development in Africa* (Rutten et al. 2009), *Poverty in Africa* (Beasley 2009), *The poor under globalization in Africa, Latin America and Africa* (Nissanke & Thorbacke 2010), and *The comparative political economy of development. Africa and South Asia* (Harris-White & Heyer 2010), whilst Roger Throw & Scott Kilam critically examine conflicting explanations of African poverty in *Enough. Why the world’s poorest starve in an age of plenty* (2009). Several writers also put forward proposals for improving social welfare measures in *Social protection in Africa* (Ellis et al. 2009). Whilst many writers have explained development problems by focusing their attention on social chaos, crime, and corruption, several of the contributors in *Law and disorder in the postcolony* (Comaroff & Comaroff 2006) argue that these characteristics have to be understood in the context of globalisation, the market economy, and other features of development which “criminalise” poverty. A plea for poverty reduction through free trade and economic liberalism is made in *Africa unchained* (Ayittay 2006). Opportunities for – as well as obstacles to – development within the framework of the African Union (AU) and the African NEPAD initiatives are discussed in *The African Union and new strategies for development in Africa* (Adejumobi & Olukoshi 2008) and in *Future Africa. Prospects for democracy and development under NEPAD* (Rukato 2010). The African problems in achieving the UN’s millennium goals form the focus in *Millennium Development Goals. Achievements and prospects for meeting the targets in Africa* (Nwonwu 2008). Corruption as a problem for development is examined by, among others, Giorgi Blundo

Rapidly increasing population in big cities, urbanisation, and living conditions are addressed in a number of books; see, for example, *Reconsidering informality* (Hansen & Vaa 2004), *Urbanization and African cultures* (Falola & Sālm 2005), *For the city yet to come* (Simone 2005), *Crisis and creativity* (Konings & Foeken 2006), *Cities in contemporary Africa* (Murray & Myers 2007), *Postcolonial African cities* (Demissie 2008), *African cities* (Locatelli & Nugent 2009) and *African informal workers* (Lindell 2010), whilst perspective informed by historical and anthropological research is offered by Stefan Goodwin in *Africa’s legacies of urbanization* (2006).

**Land, resources and climate**

In a continent where the great majority still live in rural areas and are dependent on agricultural production, access to land, water, and natural resources are fundamental issues. Here, too, we often find the source of conflicts, as shown in collections of articles such as *Conflicts over land and water in Africa* (Derman 2007) and *The struggle over land in Africa. Conflicts, politics and change* (Anseeuw & Alden 2010), as well as *Natural resources and conflicts in Africa. The tragedy of endowment* (Alaos 2007). A brief overview is also provided by Johan Holmberg in *Natural resources in Sub-Saharan Africa. Assets and vulnerabilities* (2010). Fred Nelson provides an environmental perspective on rights and access to land in *Community rights, conservation and contested land* (2010).


There are reasons to expect a great number of books concerned with Africa in “the global greenhouse” and the effects of climate change on people and the environment in the years to come. Meanwhile, Camilla Toulmin’s *Climate change in Africa* (2009) is a good place to start. A compelling description of how the climate crisis has already affected people’s lives and the basis of production in South Africa is given by Leonie Joubert in *Boiling point. People in a changing*
climate (2008), whilst strategies for adaptation are discussed on the basis of a number of empirically rich local studies in Adapting to climate change in Southern Africa (Pearson 2010).

AIDS, health and politics

HIV/AIDS is a major health and social problem in a number of African countries, and many books devote great attention to social, cultural, economic and political aspects. A good place to start is a survey written by prominent historian John Iliffe: The African aids epidemic. A history (2006). Other introductions include Ann Whiteside: HIV/AIDS. A very short introduction (2008) and Toyin Falola & Matthew M. Heaton: HIV/AIDS, illness and African well-being (2007). Among other books on the same subject are Aids and power. Where there is no political crisis – yet (de Waal 2006), The invisible cure. Africa, the West and the fight against AIDS (Epstein 2007), AIDS and governance (Poku 2007) and The politics of AIDS. Globalization, the state and civil society (Follér & Thörn 2008). A number of informative and personal accounts from people who themselves have been affected are told directly in Stephanie Nolen’s 28 Stories of AIDS in Africa (2007). A gender perspective emphasizing the vulnerability of African women is given in Gender and HIV/AIDS (Boesten & Poku 2009) and in African women’s unique vulnerabilities to HIV/AIDS (Fuller 2008).

The cultural and political context – largely based on South African case studies – is discussed in AIDS, South Africa and the politics of knowledge (Youde 2007) and in HIV/AIDS in Sub-Saharan Africa (Baxen & Breidlid 2009), whilst the story of how people, organisations, and local authorities have joint forces in Botswana to reduce the risk of illness is told with great empathy by Unity Dow and Max Essex in Saturday is for funerals (2010). A new book linking the extent of AIDS to the IMF’s undermining of public health services and the struggle against illness is Rick Rowden’s The deadly ideas of neo-liberalism (2009), whilst Sophie Harman shows in The World Bank, civil society and HIV/AIDS (2010) that the World Bank programmes in this field also have a market-oriented agenda.

Northern Africa

For historical reasons, much of the literature for parts of northern Africa is in French and Arabic, and therefore falls outside this account. The same applies to a number of countries in West Africa (see below). It is also quite common for general surveys to treat countries in North Africa and the Middle East in the same volume. This is, for instance, the case in a widely used textbook now in its sixth edition: The government and politics of the Middle East and North Africa (Long 2010). Examinations of political developments in countries such as Egypt, Mauritania, Morocco, Tunisia, and Algeria are found in Political parties
and democracy. The Arab world (Ibrahim & Lawson 2010). The same geographical area is dealt with in two comprehensive collections of articles which look at development from a gender perspective: Gender and diversity in Middle East and North Africa (Salieh 2010) and Women in the Middle East and North Africa (Sadiqi & Ennaji 2010), whilst attention is focused on economic conditions in Industrial policy in the Middle East and North Africa (Galal 2007) and Economic performance in the Middle East and North Africa (Sayan 2010). Covering the area between Morocco and Afghanistan, Dispossession and displacement (Chatty & Finlayson 2010) discusses forced migration and refugees. The political situation in North Africa (the Maghreb) is explored by a number of prominent scholars in The Maghrib in the new century (Maddy-Weitzman & Zisenwine 2007) and in North Africa. Politics, region, and the limits of transformation (Zoubir & Amirah-Fernández 2008).

Algeria, Morocco, Tunisia, Egypt, Libya and Western Sahara

James Le Sueur has recently written a concise and clear introduction to recent developments in Algeria in Algeria since 1989: Between terror and democracy (2010). The colonial roots of political and social conflicts are analysed by Martin Evans & John Phillips in Algeria. Anger of the dispossessed (2007) and by J. N. C. Hill in Identity in Algerian politics (2009), whilst Miriam R. Lowi discusses the country’s oil policies in Oil wealth and the poverty of politics (2009). Political and cultural activism is studied from an anthropological perspective in the edited volume Berbers and others (Hoffman & Miller 2010).

A recent study of Morocco is James N. Sater’s Morocco. Challenges to tradition and modernity (2010). A perspective on growth, stability and authoritarian rule in Tunisia is provided by Christopher Alexander in Tunisia (2010), whilst the country’s relations with the EU are thoroughly examined in Europe and Tunisia (Powel & Sadiki 2010). Two books that focus on social developments and Libyan international politics are Luis Martinez’ The Libyan paradox (2006) and Yehudit Ronen’s Qaddifi’s Libya in world politics (2008).

A comprehensive and topical examination of Egypt is found in the edited volume Egypt. The moment of change (El Mahdi & Marfleet 2009). The significance of the Muslim Brotherhood is discussed by Mohammed Zahid in The Muslim Brotherhood and Egypt’s successions crisis. The politics of liberalization and reform in the Middle East (2009) and with a perspective far beyond Egypt by Barry Rubin in The Muslim Brotherhood (2010). The Norwegian historian Bjørn Olav Utvik has contributed a detailed study of “Islamic economics” in The pious road to development (2006), whilst another Norwegian historian, Terje Tvedt, has edited a collection of articles on cooperation and conflict between states that form part of the Nile basin: The river Nile in the post-colonial age (2010).

Morocco’s illegal occupation of Western Sahara and the compliance of the world community are discussed in several books; see, for example, End game in Western Sahara (Shelley 2004) and Western Sahara (Zunes & Mundy 2010),
whilst a brief overview of the natural resources of the area is provided in *The Western Saharan conflict* (Olsson 2006).

**Western Africa**

A considerable part of the literature about politics in West Africa is, of course, in French and therefore falls outside this digest. Victor T. Le Vine’s *Politics in francophone Africa* (2007), however, is a concise introduction in English. Two studies of conflicts and regional cooperation are *Globalization and politics of the Economic Community of West African States* (Edi 2007) and *Governance and crisis of the state in Africa. The context and dynamics of the conflicts in West Africa* (Akude 2009). For an interesting collection of articles with a regional perspective, see *Political Islam in West Africa* (Miles 2007).

There are also many valuable books concerned with individual West African countries, such as three books focusing on Ghana: *Reconstructing the nation in Africa* (Amoha 2007), *Ghana. One decade of the liberal state* (Boafo-Arthur 2007), and *Politics of social change in Ghana* (Talton 2010). *African market women. Seven life stories from Ghana* (Clark 2010) is a detailed study of the central position occupied by market women and the challenges they face. In *Development economics in action* (2010), Tony Killick provides a detailed history of economic developments in Ghana from independence up to 2008. The political system in Sierra Leone is described by William Reno in *Corruption and state politics in Sierra Leone* (2008), whilst David Keen concentrates on the country’s deep-seated internal conflicts in *Conflict and collusion in Sierra Leone* (2005), and Myriam Denoy goes into greater detail about the Revolutionary United Front in *Child soldiers* (2010). The conflicts in Liberia are considered in *War to peace transition* (Omeje 2008). In *Voicing the voiceless* Walter Gam Neik makes an important contribution to a neglected area of research in Cameroon by focusing on ordinary people instead of the elite. An intriguing study of what is often called “civil society” in Cameroon is Piet Koning’s *Neoliberal bandwagonism* (2009). Political manipulation by the Ivory Coast elite is also emphasised as one of the most important explanations for deep and long-lasting conflicts in Mike McGovern’s *Making war in Cote d’Ivoire* (2010). The disastrous famine in Niger in 2005, which was overshadowed by Asian tsunami in the international media, is described in *A not-so natural disaster* (Crombe & Jézéquel 2009) with a focus on the attempts by Médecins Sans Frontières to attract international attention.

**Nigeria**

As Africa’s most populous state, it is to be expected that there exists a vast amount of literature concerned with present-day Nigeria, in addition to the several books listed in the previous chapter which provide a general account of Nigerian history, taking their readers up to the contemporary period. Usman A.
Tar offers a critical examination in *The politics of neoliberal democracy in Africa* (2008), whilst the widespread corruption is discussed in *A culture of corruption* (Smith 2007) as well as in *Corruption in Nigeria* (Oji & Ojo 2010). By way of analysing the important elections of 2007, a pessimistic analysis of the future prospects for democracy is offered in *Nigeria’s stumbling democracy and its implications for Africa’s democratic move* (Okafor 2008). Ethnicity, nation, and state are important subjects treated in *Breakdown and reconstitution* (Bah 2005), whilst *The Yoruba in transition. History, values and modernity* (Falola & Genova 2006) offers an illuminating perspective of one of the country’s most populous ethnic groups. Toyin Falola also discusses the breakdown of both religious politicisation and secular ideologies in *Violence in Nigeria* (2009), whilst the country’s foreign policy after the Cold War is analysed in the collection of articles *Gulliver’s trouble* (Adebayo & Mustapha 2008). The complex issue of social networks and the informal economy is analysed by Kate Meager in *Identity economics, social networks and the informal economy in Nigeria* (2010).

Nigeria’s oil policy and the role of large foreign companies occupy a prominent position in several books more generally concerned with oil in Africa (see above), but there are also several writers who concentrate more explicitly on Nigeria. An excellent example of this is a lucidly written account by Michael Peel: *A swamp full of dollars. Pipelines and paramilitaries at Nigeria’s oil frontier* (2009). Among other books dealing with the same topic which deserve to be mentioned are *Shell Petroleum Development Company, the state and underdevelopment of Nigeria’s Niger delta* (Omoweh 2005), *The next Gulf. London, Washington and oil conflict in Nigeria* (Rowell et al. 2005), *High stakes and stakeholders. Oil conflict and security in Nigeria* (Omeje 2006), *Oil and politics in the Gulf of Guinea* (de Oliveira 2007), *When citizens revolt* (Okonta 2008), and *Development as conflict* (Agbonifo 2009). In *Course of the black gold* (2008), photojournalist Ed Kashi documents the destruction in Nigeria as a result of oil extraction over a period of 50 years.

**Central Africa: Congo and Rwanda/Burundi**

A great number of books on central Africa concentrate – not surprisingly – on regional and international conflict zones. Two good surveys, both written by prominent historians, are Rene Lemarchand’s *The dynamics of violence in Central Africa* (2008) and Gérard Prunier’s *Congo, the Rwandan genocide, and the making of a continental catastrophe* (2008). Gérard Prunier has also contributed a volume concentrating on Congo, where one of the main points made is that foreign interests have always been so great that it is difficult to talk of “Congoese” wars: *From genocide to continental war. The ‘Congoese’ conflict and the crisis of contemporary Africa* (2009). The problems of achieving international peace settlements are discussed in *The trouble with the Congo* (Autesserre 2010). Congo is also examined in depth by David Renton et al. in *The Congo. Plunder & resistance* (2007), by Thomas Turner in *The Congo war. Conflict, myth and
There is no lack of new books – and new editions of previous publications – dealing with the genocide in Rwanda. Two indispensable studies are Linda Melvern’s *Conspiracy to murder* (2006) and *A people betrayed. The role of the West in Rwanda’s genocide* (2009). The shared responsibility of the international community is critically explored by Jared A. Cohen in *One hundred days of silence* (2006), which largely deals with the USA, whilst Andrew Wallis looks at the role of France in *Silent accomplice. The untold story of France’s role in the Rwandan genocide* (2006). Straus Scott sheds new light on the origins of the genocide in *The order of genocide. Race, power, and war in Rwanda* (2006), and the role of the Christian churches is described in Timothy Longman’s *Christianity and genocide in Rwanda* (2010). *An ordinary man. The true story behind Hotel Rwanda* (Rusesabagina 2007) is a personal account that formed the background to the film *Hotel Rwanda*, whilst *A thousand bills* (Kinzer 2008) is a tribute to Rwanda’s president, Paul Kagame. One of the few books written by a Rwandan about the genocide and later attempts at reconstruction and reconciliation is *Sub-Saharan Africa’s development challenge* (Kimanuka 2009). The role of the media during the genocide – both inside and outside Rwanda – comes under critical scrutiny in *The media and the Rwandan genocide* (Thompson 2007). Attention is also focused on Rwanda and Darfur in a number of books in the field of genocide studies, such as in *Folkemordenes svarte bok* (Hagtvet 2008) and *Blood and soil. A world history of genocide and extermination from Sparta to Darfur* (Kiernan 2008). Three more recent books, which deal with Burundi in particular, are *Gender and genocide* (Daley 2006), *Life after violence. A people’s history of Burundi* (2008), and *Burundi. The biography of a small African country* (2008).

**Eastern Africa**

“Eastern Africa” is a very wide and vague concept, but often covers the whole area from the Horn of Africa south to Malawi. This bibliography also includes the Sudan in this category.

**Somalia and Somaliland**

In the Horn of Africa we begin with Somalia and Somaliland, which – like other conflict zones – have received a great deal of attention in recent years. A good background is provided in a new book by Iqan Lewis, one of the foremost scholars of the region: *Understanding Somalia and Somaliland* (2008). Three interesting edited volumes are *Somali at the crossroads* (Osmann & Souare 2007), *State collapse and post-conflict development in Africa. The case of Somalia 1960–2001* (Mohamoud 2008), and *Milk and peace. Drought and war* (Hoehe & Luling 2010). Two new contributions are Afyare A. Elmi’s *Understanding the Somali
conflagration. Identity, Islam and peacebuilding (2010), and Martin M. Murphy’s book on piracy off the coast and its links to religion and politics in the interior: Somalia, the new piracy? (2010). The reasons for Somaliland’s relative success in a region marked by destructive conflicts are discussed by Mark Bradbury in Becoming Somaliland (2008), whilst Kenneth R. Rutherford deals with the intervention in Somalia in Humanitarianism under fire (2008).

Ethiopia and Eritrea

Ethiopia and Eritrea are also examined in several new books, which focus on international relations as well as internal developments. Among a number of important books which deserve to be mentioned are Kjetil Tronsvoll’s War and the politics of identity in Ethiopia. The making of enemies and allies in the Horn of Africa (2009), and Gebru Tareke’s The Ethiopian revolution and war in the Horn of Africa (2009). Several collections of articles are also available, such as Ethnic federalism. The Ethiopian experience in comparative perspective (Turton 2006) and Borders and borderlands as resources in the Horn of Africa (Feyissa & Hoehne 2010). In Eritrea. A dream deferred (2009), Gebru Tareke subjects developments after independence to a critical analysis, whilst the country’s foreign policy and regional role are dealt with in Eritrea’s external relations (Reid 2010). Michaela Wrong provides a detailed journalistic portrait of Eritrea in I didn’t do it for you (2005).

Sudan and Darfur

Turning to the Darfur conflict, three classic accounts with a historical perspective have recently appeared in updated editions: Darfur. The long road to disaster (Burr & Collins 2008), Darfur. A short history of a long war (Flint & de Waal 2008), and Darfur sorrows. The forgotten history of a humanitarian disaster (Daly 2010). Simplified accounts of genocide and one-sided presentations are analysed (and criticised) by both Gérard Prunier in Darfur. The ambiguous genocide (2005) and Mahmood Mamdani in Saviors and survivors. Darfur, politics and the war on terror (2009). Among many new studies providing a survey of Sudan are Jok Madut Jok’s Sudan. Race, Religion and violence (2007), Ibrahim Elnur’s Contested Sudan. Politics, war and reconstruction (2009), Francis M. Deng’s New Sudan in the making (2009), and Richard Cockett’s Sudan. Darfur, Islamism and the world (2010). Much information is also provided by several authors in Darfur and the crisis of governance in Sudan (Hassan & Ray 2009). In Guerrilla government (2005) Øystein Rolandsen deals with Southern Sudan in the 1990s, whilst in Presidentens mann. Oppdrag Sør-Sudan (2009), Norwegian journalist Tomm Kristiansen gives his views on the current situation based on his experiences as a communications adviser to the authorities in South Sudan after it gained greater autonomy. In The scramble for Africa. Darfur – intervention and the USA (Fake & Funk 2008) it is argued that US interests in the area are linked to oil and other economic resources. A detailed case study of the problematic aspects of aid and emergency

**Uganda, Kenya and Tanzania**

If we move further south, Uganda's distinctive political system is analysed from a comparative perspective by Giovanni Carbone in *No-party democracy* (2008) and by Aili Mari Tripp in *Museveni's Uganda. Paradoxes of power in a hybrid regime* (2010). The Ugandan election system is also described in detail in *Electoral democracy in Uganda* (Kiiza et al. 2008). Ben Jones argues in *Beyond the state in rural Uganda* (2008) that more insight is gained if politics is studied independent of what is happening at the state level. Tim Allen explains in *Trial justice* (2006) why the insurgent and terror movement, the Lord's Resistance Army, in north Uganda is rightly brought before the International Criminal Court (ICC), and updates his analysis with a broader perspective in *The Lord's Resistance Army: Myth and reality* (2010). The attempts to reduce poverty are described in *Poverty alleviation policy in Uganda since 1986* (Sverrisson 2005), whilst the role of social movements is discussed in *NGOs, poverty reductions and social exclusion in Uganda* (Namara 2009). *Women's land rights and privatization in East Africa* (Daley & Englert 2009) is based on case studies from several countries.


A wide-ranging research collaboration between Tanzania and Scandinavian scholars has resulted in a timely book on central aspects of Tanzania's economy and politics: *Tanzania in transition. From Nyerere to Mkapa* (Havnevik & Isinki 2010), whilst Knud Vilby's *Independent Tanzania. Challenges since Uhuru* (2009) is a more journalistic account based on his long-term engagement with Tanzania. A radical criticism of developments over the past decade has been provided by the prominent Tanzanian lawyer and social scientist Issa G. Shivji in *Let the people speak. Tanzania down the road to neo-liberalism* (2009a). The same writer also offers a model for how to analyse economic systems in societies like Tanzania in *Accumulation in an African periphery* (Shivji 2009b).
Southern Africa

A good introduction to Southern Africa, with an emphasis on political and economic issues is given by Jonathan Farley in *Southern Africa* (2008), whilst Janice Love concentrates more on international relations in *Southern Africa in world politics* (2006). Even if the book is a few years old, there is still a great deal of information and interesting perspectives to be found in *Politics in Southern Africa. State and society in transition* (Bauer & Taylor 2005). In two collections of essays, John S. Saul critically examines the unfulfilled hopes of a radical change of course after independence: *The next liberation struggle* (2005) and *Decolonization and empire* (2008). A regional perspective focusing on xenophobia, poverty, and obstacles to immigration is adopted by Francis Nyamnjoh in *Insiders and outsiders. Citizenship and xenophobia in contemporary Southern Africa* (2006) and by several contributors to *Surviving on the move. Poverty and development in Southern Africa* (Crush & Frayne 2010).

South Africa

As demonstrated in the previous chapter concerned with African history, South Africa clearly stands out in terms of the amount of valuable books. Since many years have now passed since the fall of the apartheid regime, it is also to be expected that more light is shed on the difficult – and according to critics, far too slow – transition into a more just society. A brief survey of economics and politics is provided by Anthony Butler in *Contemporary South Africa* (2009). Much relevant and updated information can be found in the annual edition of *State of the Nation*, (Kagwanja & Kondlo 2009), whilst a stimulating overview of the first 10 years after 1994 is provided by many scholars in *The development decade?* (Padayachy 2006). Among several well-written books for a general audience are R. W. Johnson: *South Africa’s brave new world. The beloved country since the end of apartheid* (2009), Andrew Feinstein: *After the party. Corruption, the ANC and South Africa’s uncertain future* (2009) and Alec Russell: *After Mandela. The battle for the soul of South Africa* (2009). An interesting reference work is *New South African keywords* (Shepherd & Robins 2009).

A critical account of crucial issues relating to ideology is provided in several books, such as William M. Gumede’s *Thabo Mbeki and the battle for the soul of the ANC* (2007), Mueni wa Muiu’s *The pitfalls of liberal democracy and late nationalism in South Africa* (2009), Mark Gevisser’s *A legacy of liberation. Thabo Mbeki and the future of the South African dream* (2009) and Xolela Mangcu’s *The democratic moment. South Africa’s prospects under Jacob Zuma* (2010). In addition, there are several comprehensive collections of articles; see, for example, *The Zuma administration. Critical challenges* (Kondlo & Maserumule 2010) and *Testing democracy. Which way is South Africa going?* (Misa-Drexter & February 2010). In *Chiefs in South Africa* (2005) Barbara Oomen shows that “traditional” leaders and local cultural traditions in many ways seem to have strengthened
their position after the fall of the apartheid system.

*Soweto inside out* (Roberts & Thloloe 2004) provides a journalistic and socio-historical perspective on an important urban area. “Mega-events” such as the Football World Cup in 2010 have also attracted a great deal of attention; the collection of articles in *The race to transform* (Desai 2010) succeeds in placing South African sport in a social and political perspective. A fascinating tale of the great significance of the game of football for dignity and survival among political prisoners on Robben Island is *More than just a game. Football vs. apartheid* (Korr & Close 2008).

James L. Gibson concludes his three volume work on the transition from apartheid with a study showing how little has been done as regards the redistribution of land: *Overcoming historical injustices. Land reconciliation in South Africa* (2009). The land issue is also critically examined in *Dispossession and access to land in South Africa* (Yanou 2009) and *Land, memory, reconstruction and justice* (Walker et al. 2010). Social movements and the popular struggle from below are discussed in several edited volumes, such as *Voices of protest* (Ballard 2006), *Women activism in South Africa* (Britton 2008) and *From revolution to rights. Social movements, NGOs & popular politics after apartheid* (Robins 2009). The role of the trade union movement – and of expectations that are not fulfilled – is analysed by Sakhela Buhlungi in *A paradox of victory* (2010). *The poverty of ideas* (Dikeni & Gumede 2010) argues that South African intellectuals have failed in their role as public intellectuals and committed social activists after the fall of apartheid. A revealing book about the close collaboration between Israel and South Africa during apartheid, which also involves discussions of nuclear weapons, has not surprisingly attracted considerable attention: *The unspoken alliance* (Polakow-Suransky 2010).

**Biographies**

No African (or scarcely any other person alive today) has attracted as much attention as Nelson Mandela. His latest book, *Conversations with myself* (2010), is a seminal contribution to a growing body of literature that includes interviews, letters, newly discovered primary sources, personal notes and photographs. Arguably the best biography so far has appeared in an updated edition to coincide with the Football World Cup in South Africa in 2010: *Nelson Mandela. A biography*, written by Martin Meredith (2010). A leading South African scholar, Tom Lodge, offers a more analytical and critical version in *Nelson Mandela. A critical life* (2006), whilst Elleke Boehmer provides a concise account in *Nelson Mandela. A very short introduction* (2008), and in *Young Mandela* (2010), David J. Smith is particularly interested in the private life of Mandela, his importance for the transition to armed struggle, and the central role of white communists. The story of one of the most important trials in South African history (the Rivonia trial of 1964) has been told in great detail by one of the defence lawyers in *The state vs. Mandela* (Joffe 2007), whilst the book behind the major film about
Mandela and the South African rugby series in the World Cup finals of 1995 has the title *Invictus. Nelson Mandela and the game that made the nation* (Carlin 2010).

In recent years more books have emerged that tells the story of other leaders in the South African liberation struggle; among the most prominent examples are *Memoirs* (Kathrada 2004), *Oliver Tambo* (Callinicos 2006), *Shadows of difference. Mac Maharaj* (O’Malley 2007), *Oliver Tambo remembered* (Jordan 2007), *Hani. A life too short* (Smith & Tromp 2009) and *The mission. A life for freedom in South Africa* (Goldberg 2010). Two new books are devoted to Steve Biko and his significance: *Biko lives. Contesting the legacies of Steve Biko* (Mngxitana 2008) and *Celebrating Steve Biko. We write what we like* (van Wyck 2010).

Other countries in southern Africa

New books concerned with countries in the region other than South Africa are more scarce. There are, however, several titles which critically examine president Robert Mugabe’s personal power and his repressive regime in Zimbabwe. such as Heidi Holland’s *Dinner with Mugabe. The untold story of a freedom fighter who became a tyrant* (2008) and Martin Meredith’s updated edition of *Mugabe. Power, plunder, and the struggle for Zimbabwe* (2007). Unlike accounts more focused on individuals, John L. Moore widens the perspective by focusing on internal and external pressures in the direction of market liberalism in *Zimbabwe's fight to the finish* (2008), whilst *Zimbabwe’s land reform* (Scoones et al. 2010) argues that the Zimbabwean land reform is not the unmitigated disaster many people seem to believe. An autobiographical memoir of the struggle for Zimbabwe’s independence is Fay Chung’s *Re-visitng the second Chimurenga* (2006), whilst the important election of 2008 is thoroughly analysed by Eldred V. Masunungure in *Defying the winds of change* (2009).

The notion of Botswana’s political and economic miracle is critically scrutinised by Kenneth Good in *Diamonds, dispossession & democracy in Botswana* (2008), as well as by Christian John Mkgala in *Elite conflicts in Botswana* (2006) and by Motsoni Marobela in *Political economy of Botswana public sector management* (2010). *The state, development and the role of local economic systems in Southern Africa* (Laudemiro 2008) is a comparative study of Botswana and Mozambique, whilst *From enslavement to environmentalism* (Hughes 2008) is a detailed study of a region on the border between Mozambique and Zambia focusing on the ways in which the lives of ordinary peasants have been affected by colonialism as well as neo-liberalism in more recent years. In *Do bicycles equal development in Mozambique* (Hanlon & Smart 2009) the question raised is how many really benefit from the growth in recent years in Mozambique, whilst development and dependence on foreign aid are examined in *Foreign aid, governance and institutional development in Mozambique* (Awortwi & Nurunga 2007). The deep-seated conflicts in another former Portuguese colony are also brought into perspective by Patrick Chabal and Nuno Vidal in *Angola. The weight of his-

Vera Chirwa vividly tells her story as a freedom fighter and opposition leader in Malawi in *Fearless fighter. An autobiography* (2007). Malawi also provides the background for Harri Englund’s in-depth study of poverty and the discourse on rights: *Prisoners of freedom. Human rights and the African poor* (2006). A good overview of Zambia’s post-independence history is provided in the edited volume *One Zambia, many histories* (Gewald 2008), whilst *Institutions and ethnic politics in Africa* (Posner 2005) focuses more specifically on identities and political development. The significance of the mineworkers’ struggle for better living conditions and democracy is explored by Miles Larmer in *Mineworkers in Zambia* (2008), whilst social conditions are assessed by Mdwanga Noyoo in *Social politics and human development in Zambia* (2010).

References


Feyissa, Dereje & Markus Virgil Hoehne (ed.) (2010). *Borders and borderlands as resources in the Horn of Africa*. Oxford: James Currey


http://www.hsrcpress.ac.za/product.php?productid=2231&freedownload=1


http://www.hsrcpress.ac.za/product.php?productid=2273&freedownload=1


Basingstoke: Palgrave Macmillan.


