

Politics, economics and society

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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*

neoliberal world order (2006), Ray Bush's *Poverty & neoliberalism. Persistence and reproduction in the Global South* (2007), Graham Harrison's *Neo-liberal Africa. The impact of global social engineering* (2010) and Stefan Andreasson's *Africa's development impasse* (2010). A brief guide with the same critical perspective is Gerald Caplan's *The betrayal of Africa* (2008).

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* (Geschier 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 Amílcar Cabral* (Lopes 2009) and *Africa's liberation. The legacy of Nyerere* (Chachage & Cassam 2010).

A brief introduction to the social science research agenda is given by Fantu Cheru in *Africa's development in the 21st century* (2008). In two comprehensive volumes Paul Tiambe Zeleza has brought together articles which address research questions relevant for a wide range of disciplinary and thematic perspectives in *The study of Africa. Vol. I. Disciplinary and interdisciplinary encounters* (2006) and in *The study of Africa. Vol. II. Global and transnational engagements* (2007). Examples are also drawn from Africa in a book dealing with fascinating – and often ignored – topics in *Shadows of war. A social history of silence in the twentieth century* (Efratet et al. 2010). *Afrika. 23 afrikaner om vägval och utmaningar* (Magnusson 2010) is a collection of short contributions from African contributors about African politics and social conditions.

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 soccerescapes. 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 Joelien Pretoris discusses development in Africa in the light of Samuel Huntington's theories of democracy in *African politics. Beyond the third wave of democratization* (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 & Tapscott 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 2008) 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

The issues of democracy and human rights are closely intertwined, and the African human rights regime – with its starting point in the charter which came into effect in 1986 – is discussed both comprehensively and critically in a new edition of Malcolm D. Evans' *The African charter on human and people's rights* (2008) and in Kofi O. Kufuor's *The African human rights system. Origins and evolution* (2010), in addition to the collection of articles *Africa's long road to rights* (Abbas 2007). The position of minorities is discussed in the collection of articles *Minorities and the state in Africa* (Mbanaso & Korieh 2010), whilst potential conflicts between justice and peace in transitional societies are elucidated in *Peace versus justice? The dilemmas of transitional justice in Africa* (Sriram 2010).

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. Kapplop om makt and 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

of various major powers to Africa, such as *The United States in Africa* (Copson 2007), *China in Africa* (Alden 2007) and *Britain in Africa* (Porteous 2008). US strategies in Africa, not least in the “war against terror”, are analysed by David J. Francis in *U.S. strategy in Africa* (2010) as well as in the articles collected in *Securing Africa. Post -9/11 discourses on terrorism* (Smith 2010). In *The dark Sahara* (2009) Jeremy Keenan argues that US involvement in Algeria and in the Sahel region in fact promotes terrorism and instability. French interests in Africa are critically examined by Bruno Charbonneau in *France and the new imperialism* (2008), whilst Japanese-African relations are the object of two new books: *Japan and Africa* (Lehman 2010) and *Japan-Africa relations* (Lumumba-Kasongo 2010). A useful overview of relations between Africa and the EU is *The European Union's Africa policies* (Sicurelli 2010).

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* (Manji & 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 & Príncipe (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* (Bøås & 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* (Huysse & Salter 2008).

Karin Dokken adopts an empirically based security perspective in *African security politics redefined* (2008) as do editors Paul T. Zeleza and Alfred Nhema in a central two-volume work, *The roots of African conflicts* (2008a) and *The resolution of African conflicts* (2008b). A number of studies of youth, politics and conflict in Africa are brought together in *Vanguard or vandals?* (Abbink & van Kessel 2005). *Peace & conflict in Africa* (Francis 2008) and *War and peace in Africa* (Falola & Njoku 2010) are two other valuable collections of articles. African mechanisms for resolving conflicts and institutional norms are discussed in *Africa's new peace and security architecture* (Engel & Porto 2010), whilst the role of the African Union (AU) is treated more specifically in *The African Union* (Badejo 2008). David Keen's important work *Complex emergencies* (2008) takes most of its examples from Africa.

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).

Anyone seeking updated information and up-to-the-minute perspectives should consult three annual reports prepared by the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD), the UN Economic Commission for Africa (ECA), and African Development Bank (ADB). The most recent editions are *African Development Report 2008/2009* (ADB 2009), *Economic report on Africa 2010* (ECA/AUC 2010) and *Economic development in Africa report 2010* (UNCTAD 2010). The role of the UN Economic Commission for Africa and African Development Bank is analysed by Kwame Akonor in *African economic institutions* (2010), whilst the World Bank’s great – and often damaging – power in Africa is critically discussed by Graham Harrison in *The World Bank and Africa. The construction of government states* (2007), by David Williams in *The World Bank and social transformation in international politics* (2008), and by Vanessa Wijngaarden in *The World Bank and the representation of Africa* (2010). Informative discussions of economic developments in South Africa’s economy, as well as China’s/India’s role in Africa, are included in *Southern engines of global growth* (Santos-Pauling & Wan 2010). The significance of the World Trade Organisation (WTO) in Africa and Africa’s role in the WTO are examined by Richard E. Mshomba in *Africa and the World Trade Organization* (2009) and by Donna Lee in *Africa in the World Trade Organization* (2010), whilst a number of critical articles about world trade are collected in *From slave trade to ‘free trade’. How trade undermines democracy and justice in Africa* (Burnett & Manji 2007). Economic challenges in reconstruction after conflict are considered in the edited volume *Reconstructing economic governance after conflict in resource-rich African countries* (Wohlmuth & Urban 2007).

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* (Wohlmuth 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

et al. in *Everyday corruption and the state. Citizens and public officials in Africa* (2006).

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 & Salm 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).

The agricultural strategies of the World Bank are analysed – and criticised – by Kjell Havnevik et al. in *African agriculture and the World Bank. Development or impoverishment?* (2007), whilst Ambreena Manji discusses the important question of power and land reform in *The politics of land reform in Africa* (2006). The same subject is considered in *Land and sustainable development in Africa* (Amanor & Moyo 2008) and – from a global perspective – in *Reclaiming the land* (Moyo & Yeros 2005). Sam Moyo also provides a brief survey of important research questions in *African land questions, agrarian transitions and the state. Contradictions of neo-liberal land reforms* (2008), whilst Christian Lund has closely studied land tenure and local resources in *Local politics and the dynamics of property in Africa* (2008). A more optimistic perspective, based on case studies of successful agricultural projects is offered by several authors in *Successes in African agriculture. Lessons for the future* (Haggblade & Hazell 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 *Qaddafi'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 *African world war. 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 "Congolese" wars: *From genocide to continental war. The 'Congolese' 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*

reality (2007), and in Norwegian by Per E Fosser in *Kongo. Landet verdens helst vil glemme* (2007).

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* (Rusabagina 2007) is a personal account that formed the background to the film *Hotel Rwanda*, whilst *A thousand hills* (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 Ioan Lewis, one of the foremost scholars of the region: *Understanding Somalia and Somaliland* (2008). Three interesting edited volumes are *Somali at the crossroads* (Osman & 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* (Hoehne & 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

aid in a conflict situation is provided by David J. Keen in *Benefits of famine. A political economy of famine and relief in Southwestern Sudan, 1983–9* (2008). Kerstin Lundell gives a timely documentation of foreign oil interests in Sudan, with a clear Swedish connection, in *Affärer i blod och olja* (2010).

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.

In neighbouring Kenya, political conflicts and a failing democracy within the framework of a multi-party system in particular have attracted attention. Among recent books in this category are *Kenya. The struggle for democracy* (Murunga & Nasong'o 2007), *Kenya's quest for democracy* (Mutua 2008), *Reforming contemporary state. The politics of history, conflict and reconciliation in Kenya* (Bosire 2010), and *Kenya's uncertain democracy. The election crisis 2008* (Kagwanja & Southall 2010). The exposure of corruption and misuse of power is at the heart of a bestselling journalistic account book by Michaela Wrong: *It's our turn to eat. The story of a Kenyan whistleblower* (2009). *Unbowed. One woman's story* (2007) is Nobel prize-winner Wangari Maathai's personal story, whilst *Raila Odinga. An enigma in Kenyan politics* (Badejo 2006) is a personal portrait with a broader perspective.

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 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?* (Padayachee 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 tell 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. MacMaharaj* (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-visiting 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 Makgala 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-*

tory (2007), and by Assis Malaquias in *Rebels and robbers. Violence in post-conflict Angola* (2007), whilst Karl Maier's *Angola. Promises and lies* (2007) is an important book in a new edition and Adebayo O. Oyebade's *Culture and customs in Angola* (2007) focuses on cultural and political developments. The contentious issue of land reform and property rights in Namibia is critically assessed through reports and interviews in Erika von Wietersheim's *This is our land* (2008).

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).

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