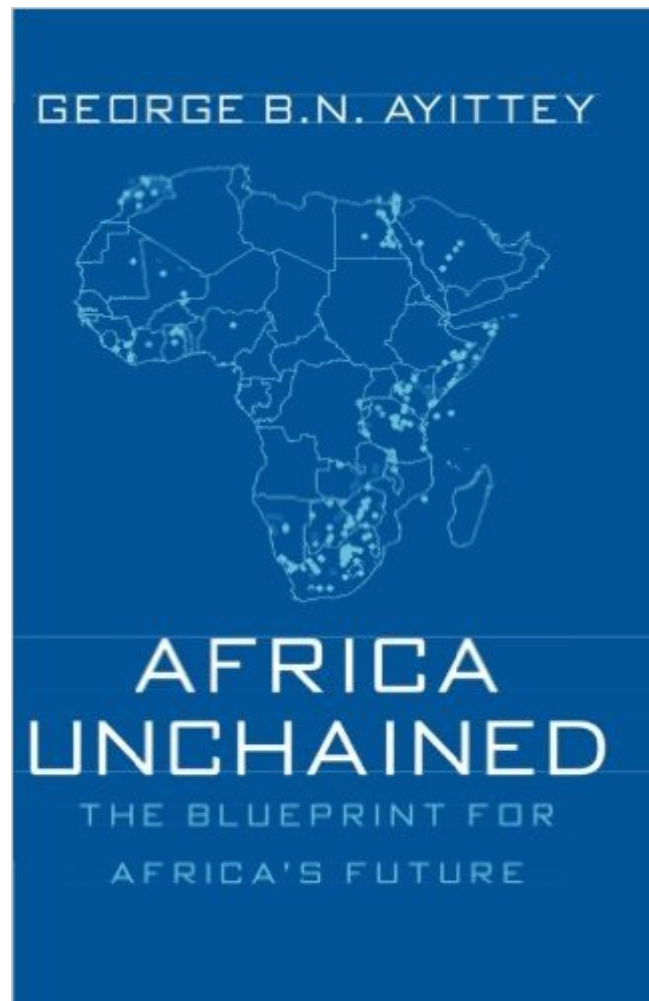# Africa Unchained: The Blueprint For Africa's Future

GEORGE B.N. AYITTEY

# AFRICA UNCHAINED

THE BLUEPRINT FOR AFRICA'S FUTURE

## Synopsis

In Africa Unchained , George Ayittey takes a controversial look at Africa's future and makes a number of daring suggestions. Looking at how Africa can modernize, build, and improve their indigenous institutions which have been castigated by African leaders as 'backward and primitive', Ayittey argues that Africa should build and expand upon these traditions of free markets and free trade. Asking why the poorest Africans haven't been able to prosper in the Twenty-first-century, Ayittey makes the answer obvious: their economic freedom was snatched from them. War and conflict replaced peace and the infrastructure crumbled. In a book that will be pondered over and argued about as much as his previous volumes, Ayittey looks at the possibilities for indigenous structures to revive a troubled continent.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

For too long written off as irrelevant to international affairs except as the stage for proxy conflicts during the Cold War or the recipient for the world's charity, Africa is nonetheless poised to play an increasingly important role in the global community of the 21st century. Within the decade, West Africa alone will provide more than one-fourth of North America's petroleum imports, surpassing the entire Middle East. The continent also boasts the world's fastest population growth: by 2020, there will be an estimated 1.2 billion Africans-more than the combined populations of Europe and North America. Yet despite the dynamic potential implicit in these natural and human resources data, Africa remains the world's economic basket case: per capita GDP is barely $575 while thirty-two of

the thirty-six countries classified by the United Nations Development Program are to be found in Africa.Why this apparent contradiction? Defying the conventional wisdom that has long infantilized Africans by blaming colonial exploitation, superpower rivalries, intergovernmental aid agencies, impersonal market forces-anyone and everyone external to the continent-Dr. George B.N. Ayittey, himself a son of Africa, points his finger at the causes closer to home: the "vampire states" and "coconut republics" whose undemocratic and illegitimate rulers have done more harm to their own people than any external agents. In short, Africa Unchained is an unusually frank truth speaking to power-or rather, a dose of tough love for the tough challenges faced by the nations and peoples of the continent.Unlike many works on Africa, however, Dr. Ayittey's does not end on a pessimistic note.

I saved this book for last (I read in threes and fours to rapidly sense competing and complementary perspectives). The other three:The Challenge for AfricaThe Trouble with Africa: Why Foreign Aid Isn't WorkingDead Aid: Why Aid Is Not Working and How There Is a Better Way for AfricaThis book (Africa Unchained) is really two books in one, and as I conclude this summative review, will suggest to the author a third book needed now to complete the trilogy.BOOK ONE: Chapters 2-7 focus on the problems of the past and are less interesting to me than the author's clear rejection of all tendencies to blame the past, the West, the banks, or anyone other than Africans themselves, for the failure to develop.

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in Asia, Africa, and Latin America (Moon Handbooks Staying Healthy in Asia, Africa & Latin America) Africa's Top Wildlife Countries: Botswana, Kenya, Namibia, Rwanda, South Africa, Tanzania, Uganda, Zambia & Zimbabwe Tourism in Africa: Harnessing Tourism for Growth and Improved Livelihoods (Africa Development Forum) South Africa Lesotho & Swaziland (Lonely Planet South Africa, Lesotho & Swaziland) Southern Africa: South Africa, Botswana, Lesotho, Namibia, Swaziland, Zambia, Zimbabwe (Thornton Cox Guides) Africa as I have known it;: Nyasaland-East Africa-Liberia-Senegal Heartprints of Africa: A Family's Story of Faith, Love, Adventure, and Turmoil (East Africa Series Book 1) Moods of Future Joys: Around the World by Bike Part One: From England to South Africa The City of Tomorrow: Sensors, Networks, Hackers, and the Future of Urban Life (The Future Series)