# State Recognition And Democratization In Sub Saharan Africa

**#state recognition Africa #democratization Sub Saharan Africa #African democracy challenges #political development Africa #post-colonial statehood**

This article explores the complex interplay between a state's international recognition and its domestic process of democratization within Sub-Saharan Africa. It examines how issues of legitimacy and state-building impact the trajectory towards more inclusive and democratic governance, highlighting both the opportunities and significant challenges faced by nascent and established African states.

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### State Recognition and Democratization in Sub-Saharan Africa

Being critical and empirically grounded, the book explores the complex, often counter-balancing consequences of the involvement of traditional authority in the wave of democratization and liberal-style state-building that has rolled over sub-Saharan Africa in the past decade.

### Democracy and Political Change in Sub-Saharan Africa

The book provides readers a set of case studies covering a diverse range of African states in order to identify the major causes of change and the movement towards democracy.

### African States Since Independence

Authors Christensen and Laitin argue that an interplay of geographic, historical, and demographic factors undergird sub-Saharan states' post-independence struggles to eradicate poverty, establish democratic accountability, and quell civil unrest. They set out the founding fathers' challenges in transforming their postcolonial states, many of which are ethnically diverse, geographically diffuse, sparsely populated, and lacking in administrative capacity. With the legacies of the slave trade, partition, Christian missionaries, and extractive colonial institutions complicating their efforts, many African states faced stagnation, authoritarianism, and civil strife. Recent years have seen promising attempts to restore democracy to states under authoritarian rule and to liberalize their economies, suggesting that the region is moving toward a new era. Relying on the best statistical data and richly illustrated with case material, this book is an indispensable source for scholars and policy analysts seeking to understand Africa's post-independence political trajectories.

## Democratization in Sub-Saharan Africa (1989-1992)

State building and democratization in Africa rarely attract the attention they deserve. Few have grappled with the relationship between state building (nation-building) and democratic experiments in Africa. This collection consciously corrects this shortcoming in African political studies. Among the issues raised: Does democracy facilitate state building or does it exacerbate ethnic conflicts? Are certain modalities of democratization more likely to facilitate state-building than others? Has the era of democracy created the need for new state building strategies? Does the objective of state building require significant modifications in the essence and form of democracy? This collection combines theoretical explorations with empirical case studies. It looks at both anglophone and francophone countries of sub-Saharan Africa. While the contributors have written extensively on African issues, there is no consensus among the authors; most argue that integrating ethnic groups that already face discrimination and often are engaged in conflict requires compromise, political settlements, and new terms of incorporation into the state. These compromises, in turn, involve new arrangements in how democracy is perceived and instituted. An important collection for scholars, students, and other researchers involved with African political, social, and economic development.

## Recognition and Democratisation

This volume explores the issues and debates surrounding the ongoing processes of democratization in sub-Saharan Africa, illuminating the central dynamics characterizing Africa's democratic experiments, and considering the connections between democratization and economic, social, and cultural developments on the continent. Reflecting the diverse and rich nature of this field of study, the Handbook of Democratization in Africa features more than thirty contributions structured into six thematic sections: The politics and paths of regime development Institutional dynamics Political mobilization and voting dynamics The politics of identity Social forces from below The consequences of democracy. Chapters offer overviews of the key scholarship on particular topics, including central insights from the latest research, and provide suggestions for those interested in further inquiry. The material includes attention to broad cross-continental patterns, for example with respect to public opinion, political violence, or the role of different institutions and actors. It also includes rich case material, drawing on and highlighting the experiences of a diverse collection of countries. Encouraging a comprehensive view of key concerns and enhancing understanding of particular issues, the Handbook of Democratization in Africa represents a critical resource for experts and students of African politics, democratization, and African studies.

## State Building and Democratization in Africa

Examines the political dimensions of economic policy making in the 1970s and 1980s.

## Routledge Handbook of Democratization in Africa

This book emphasizes the symbiotic relation between the practice of human rights and democracy. In short, human rights practice furthers democracy, and the successful implementation of both promotes stability and economic development necessary for the prospects for progress in the sub-Saharan region of Africa in the twenty-first century.

## Democracy, Governance, and Economic Policy

This book explores why democratization processes in Sub-Saharan Africa have made so little progress despite more than two decades of multi-party politics on the subcontinent. By applying multiple linear regression analyses to a new data set on multi-party elections in Sub-Saharan Africa, the study investigates the relationship between political mobilizations and electoral competitiveness. It finds that the more societal groups engage in political mobilizations, such as protests and strikes, the more competitive elections become. Based on these results, the author argues for a change in the policies of international democracy assistance programs. The study's findings suggest that efforts to promote democracy would likely be more successful if international donors focused their support on organizations that have active constituencies and are willing to use their mobilization capacity to address ruling elites with political or socio-economic grievances.

## Examining Human Rights Issues and the Democracy Project in Sub-Saharan Africa

It is two decades since the 'third wave' of democratization began to roll across sub-Saharan Africa in the early 1990s. This book provides a very timely investigation into the progress and setbacks over that period, the challenges that remain and the prospects for future democratization in Africa. It commences with an overall assessment of the (lack of) progress made from 1990 to 2010, exploring positive developments with reasons for caution. Based on original research, subsequent contributions examine various themes through country case-studies, inclusive of: the routinisation of elections, accompanied by democratic rollback and the rise of hybrid regimes; the tenacity of presidential powers; the dilemmas of power-sharing; ethnic voting and rise of a violent politics of belonging; the role of 'donors' and the ambiguities of 'democracy promotion'. Overall, the book concludes that steps forward remain greater than reversals and that typically, though not universally, sub-Saharan African countries are more democratic today than in the late 1980s. Nonetheless, the book also calls for more meaningful processes of democratization that aim not only at securing civil and political rights, but also socio-economic rights and the physical security of African citizens. This book was originally published as a special issue of Democratization

## Political Mobilizations and Democratization in Sub-Saharan Africa

This book examines the relationship between development economics, social protection and democratization in the specific context of Sub-Saharan Africa. Moving existing theories of transformation into a new terrain, it sheds light on the exclusive origins of dictatorship and democracy.

## Political Opposition and Democracy in Sub-Saharan Africa

This book shows that democratization in sub-Saharan Africa can be successful, even if the government remains dominated by one major political party. If an institutionalized and strong opposition party - even when too weak to take power - challenges the dominant government party, the quality of democracy improves substantially. The comparative study demonstrates that competitive opposition parties in dominant party systems are rooted in the historical legacy of political cleavages related to de-colonization that precede the third wave of democratization of the 1990s and have survived the instability of post-independence political developments to the present day. The study covers 19 African countries and 55 elections overall, including four in-depth case studies of Botswana, Lesotho, Ghana and Mali. It offers scholars and practitioners of electoral democracies and competitive authoritarian regimes a novel view on the role of party systems in processes of democratization. It makes an important contribution to the general literature on state building intertwined with democratization and representation in old and new democracies.

## Democratization in Sub-Saharan Africa

This book provides the first comprehensive overview of Africa's history of democracy, grappling with important questions facing Africa today.

## Democratization in Africa: Challenges and Prospects

Questions surrounding democracy, governance, and development especially in the view of Africa have provoked acrimonious debates in the past few years. It remains a perennial question why some decades after political independence in Africa the continent continues experiencing bad governance, lagging behind socioeconomically, and its democracy questionable. We admit that a plethora of theories and reasons, including iniquitous and malicious ones, have been conjured in an attempt to explain and answer the questions as to why Africa seems to be lagging behind other continents in issues pertaining to good governance, democracy and socio-economic development. Yet, none of the theories and reasons proffered so far seems to have provided enduring solutions to Africa's diverse complex problems and predicaments. This book dissects and critically examines the matrix of Africa's multifaceted problems on governance, democracy and development in an attempt to proffer enduring solutions to the continent's long-standing political and socio-economic dilemmas and setbacks.

## Permanent Emergency Welfare Regimes in Sub-Saharan Africa

In northwest Namibia, people's political imagination offers a powerful insight into the post-apartheid state. Based on extensive anthropological fieldwork, this book focuses on the former South African apartheid regime and the present democratic government; it compares the perceptions and practices of state and customary forms of judicial administration, reflects upon the historical trajectory of a

chieftaincy dispute in relation to the rooting of state power and examines everyday forms of belonging in the independent Namibian State. By elucidating the State through a focus on the social, historical and cultural processes that help constitute it, this study helps chart new territory for anthropology, and it contributes an ethnographic perspective to a wider set of interdisciplinary debates on the State and state processes.

## Democratisation in Sub-Saharan Africa

During the first 25 years of independence, the African state was largely driven from within by the ambition to establish political order in a world where national sovereignty over issues of development was not in question. The theme of this book is that more is at stake today than in the past.

## The Quality of Democracy in Africa

What is the extent to which democracy, good governance, liberal citizenship and development are negotiated and shaped in sub-Saharan African countries in the context of the 'globalised world'? Is this a characteristic of the current historical era alone? Do global ideas about politics and development in sub-Saharan Africa take on new meanings in light of local circumstances and visions? The works presented in this volume offer context-based analyses that contribute to showing how local practices of citizenship, democracy and development in sub-Saharan Africa have been 'working the system' of global ideas on good governance policies and development, and how this 'system' also builds on the way in which, historically, local narratives are presented to actors in the international context. Democracy and good governance are considered the universally shared paradigms shaping policy prescriptions and development practices in the context of the current 'globalised' world. Space for negotiating these recipes at the local level is considered to be particularly narrow, especially in sub-Saharan Africa, but it is also believed that international paradigms are reshaped into peculiar forms when implemented under local circumstances. From the early 1990s onwards, these processes have drawn the attention of academics, as well as the wider public, but rarely is their historical dimension taken into account: the Africa-world nexus in politics and development is not a characteristic of the current 'global world' alone, as is too often assumed. Adding an historical perspective to the analysis of the multilevel interconnections between local power relations, the politics of colonial and independent rule and the global discourses of democracy, citizenship and development will contribute to a sound theoretical stance in addressing what is considered the main feature of current times, globalisation and its flows. That is what this volume tries to accomplish. It does so by developing three themes in particular: the trajectory of the colonial and independent nation-state and its impact on the local and national politics of citizenship, identity and development; the way global ideas on development are converted into practice, or how they are interpreted and negotiated at local level; and issues of belonging and identity in relation to concepts and practices of political control. Case studies will include Portuguese colonialism, Mozambique, Tanzania, Zimbabwe, Senegal (Casamance) and Uganda.

## Democracy, Governance, and Economic Policy

Each country in southern Africa has a unique history but in all of them socio-economic inequalities and high poverty levels weaken the governments' legitimacy and represent a challenge to models of economic development. One key issue appears to be the solution of the land question. This vital concern affects both citizenship and democracy in the political systems of the region, yet no government has shown the capacity or commitment to solve it. In this volume leading European, American and African scholars explore in detail the relationship between state, land and democracy. They examine the historical background of asset allocation and its impact on questions of nationality, the definition of citizenship, human rights and the current political and economic processes in southern Africa.

## Democratization in Sub-Saharan Africa 1992-1995

The global movement toward democracy, spurred in part by the ending of the cold war, has created opportunities for democratization not only in Europe and the former Soviet Union, but also in Africa. This book is based on workshops held in Benin, Ethiopia, and Namibia to better understand the dynamics of contemporary democratic movements in Africa. Key issues in the democratization process range from its institutional and political requirements to specific problems such as ethnic conflict, corruption, and role of donors in promoting democracy. By focusing on the opinion and views of African intellectuals, academics, writers, and political activists and observers, the book provides a unique perspective regarding the dynamics and problems of democratization in Africa.

## Democracy in Africa

Explores various aspects of chiefly authority in South Sudan from its historical origins and evolution under colonial, postcolonial and military rule, to its current roles and value in the newly independent country.

## Democracy, Good Governance and Development in Africa

A Theory of African Constitutionalism asks and seeks to answer why we need a new theoretical framework for African constitutionalism and how this could offer us better theoretical and practical tools with which to understand, improve, and assess African constitutionalism on its own terms. By locating constitutional studies in Africa within the experiences, interactions, and contestations of power and governance beginning in precolonial times, the book presents the development and transformation of African constitutional systems across time and place, along with the attendant constitutional designs and practices ranging from the nature and operation of the African state to its vertical and horizontal government structures, to its constitutional rights regime. This title offers both a theoretically and comparatively rich, historically and contextually informed, and temporally and spatially extensive account of the nature, travails, and incremental successes of African constitutionalism with detailed case studies from Nigeria, Ethiopia, and South Africa. A Theory of African Constitutionalism provides scholars, policymakers, governments, and constitution builders in Africa and beyond with new insights for reimagining the purpose, substance, and scope of constitutions and constitutionalism.

## Imagining the Post-Apartheid State

Sub-Saharan Africa faces many development challenges, such as its size and diversity, rapid urban population growth, history of colonial exploitation, fragile states and conflicts over land and natural resources. This collection, contributed from different academic disciplines and professions, seeks to support the UN Habitat New Urban Agenda passed at Habitat III in Quito, Ecuador, in 2016. It will attract readers from urban specialisms in law, geography and other social sciences, and from professionals and policy-makers concerned with land use planning, surveying and governance. Among the topics addressed by the book are challenges to governance institutions: how international development is delivered, building land management capacity, funding for urban infrastructure, land-based finance, ineffective planning regulation, and the role of alternatives to courts in resolving boundary and other land disputes. Issues of rights and land titling are explored from perspectives of human rights law (the right to development, and women's rights of access to land), and land tenure regularization. Particular challenges of housing, planning and informality are addressed through contributions on international real estate investment, community participation in urban settlement upgrading, housing delivery as a partly failing project to remedy apartheid's legacy, and complex interactions between political power, money and land. Infrastructure challenges are approached in studies of food security and food systems, urban resilience against natural and man-made disasters, and informal public transport.

## The African State in a Changing Global Context

This book shows that powerful hereditary chiefs do not undermine democracy in Africa but, on some level, facilitate it.

## Working the System in Sub-Saharan Africa

Travelling models are a concept that offers to examine the translation of conflict management models into differing practices of ordering in African countries.

## The Winds of History

This text brings together expert practitioners and scholars in African politics, law, and conflict and peacebuilding to examine the expanding international efforts to promote rule of law in countries emerging from violent conflict, focusing specifically upon experiences in Africa.

## State, Land and Democracy in Southern Africa

This book offers an innovative approach to migration by exploring Somali youths' tahriib, their 'journey into the unknown'. When young Somali men and women refer to the 'unknown', they recognize the uncertainty of their journeys. This uncertainty is partly due to the laws and policies that restrict the right to cross national boundaries and define their movements as illegal. Based on fieldwork conducted with Somali youth, mainly from Somaliland, the book details their perceptions of the journey and their practices on the way. The author shows how they position themselves in a constantly changing world before and during the so-called migration crisis that began in 2015. A vital part of tahriib is the constant search for information on possible routes ahead, a search that intensifies as the journey progresses. Specific policy responses, such as biometric registration, influence practices of gathering and sharing information. They have implications for the creation and shattering of hope and the experience of time en route. The book demonstrates that tahriib is ultimately about spending one's time wisely and about creating and maintaining hope in what may seem hopeless situations.

## Democratization in Africa

Drawing on field-based data and experiences from the practice of democratic decentralization and local governance over the last three decades in Ghana, this book examines whether and how democratic decentralization and local governance reforms in developing countries have produced the anticipated development outcomes. In seventeen related contributions, the authors present four relevant focal themes, including conceptual and historical trajectories of decentralization and local governance; institutional choice, democratic representation, and poverty reduction; local governance, resource capacity, and service delivery; and non-state actors, local governance and sustainable development. The book blends perspectives of scholars, practitioners, and policy-makers to provide a holistic analysis of linkages between decentralization, local governance, and sustainable development efforts, presenting a novel and useful guide for science, policy, and practice of bottom-up governance and development. It provides relevant lessons and experiences for scholars, policy-makers, and development practitioners in Africa in particular and developing countries in general.

## Dealing with Government in South Sudan

Includes bibliographical references and index.

## A Theory of African Constitutionalism

Botswana has been portrayed as a major case of exception in AfricaOCoas an oasis of peace and harmony with an enduring parliamentary democracy, blessed with remarkable diamond-driven economic growth. Whereas the OC failureOCO of other states on the continent is often attributed to the prevalence of indigenous political ideas and structures, the author argues that BotswanaOCOs apparent success is not the result of Western ideas and practices of government having replaced indigenous ideas and structures. Rather, the postcolonial state of Botswana is best understood as a unique, complex formation, one that arose dialectically through the meeting of European ideas and practices with the symbolism and hierarchies of authority, rooted in the cosmologies of indigenous polities, and both have become integral to the formation of a strong state with a stable government. Yet there are destabilizing potentialities in progress due to emerging class conflict between all the poor sections of the population and the privileged modern elites born of the expansion of a beef and diamond-driven political economy, in addition to conflicts between dominant Tswana and vast other ethnic groups. These transformations of the modern state are viewed from the long-term perspectives of precolonial and colonial genealogies and the rise of structures of domination, propelled by changing global forces."

## Land Issues for Urban Governance in Sub-Saharan Africa

An unprecedented overview of anthropological and political science research on vigilantism in Africa which makes an important and innovative contribution to current discussions on the relationship between violent self-justice andstate and non-state agencies.

## The Paradox of Traditional Chiefs in Democratic Africa

Can 'traditional' leaders and institutions help to build more legitimate, accountable and effective governments in polities or 'states' under (re)construction? This book investigates the fascinating case of "Somaliland", the 20-year old non-recognized state which emerged from Somalia's conflict and state collapse.

## Travelling Models in African Conflict Management

Today a billion people, including about 340 million of the world's extreme poor, are estimated to live in 'fragile states'. This group of low-income countries are often trapped in cycles of conflict and poverty, which make them acutely vulnerable to a range of shocks and crises. This engaging book defines and clarifies what we mean by fragile states, examining their characteristics in relation to "weak" and "failed" states in the global system, and explaining their development from pre-colonial times to the present day. It explores the connections between fragile statehood and violent conflict, and analyses the limitations of outside intervention from international society. The complexities surrounding 'successes' such as Costa Rica and Botswana - countries which ought to be fragile, but which are not - are analysed alongside the more precarious cases of the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Afghanistan and Haiti. Absorbing and authoritative, Fragile States will be an invaluable resource for students and scholars of international relations, security studies and development.

## Peacebuilding and Rule of Law in Africa

Drawing on nine case studies, this book offers a comparative ethnography of the contested powers that shape democratization in Ethiopia. Focusing on the competitive 2005 elections, the authors analyze how customary leaders, political parties and state officials confronted each other during election time.

## Tahriib – Journeys into the Unknown

Democratic Decentralization, Local Governance and Sustainable Development