

International Studies 302
Adjustment and Transition:
The Political Economy of Sub-Saharan Africa
Fall 2003

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McCook 216
x 2431

Purpose: This course examines the state of African affairs at the turn of the millennium, particularly the occurrence of democratic transitions in some cases and state collapse in others. We will begin with analysis of the nature of structural adjustment during the 1980s and then link that experience to various transitions that have occurred since 1990. Particular focus will be on the interplay of global, regional, and local dynamics during those transitions.

Learning Goals: A clear understanding of the complexities underlying the politics and economics of the African Continent. By the end of the semester, everyone in the class will have a sufficient understanding of African political economy to write an op-ed piece for the Hartford Courant.

Principles:

- *Integrity* – we will conduct ourselves with authenticity, sincerity and wholeness.
- *Failure Leads to Success* – failures provide us with opportunities for learning, therefore, there are no failures, only outcomes and feedback.
- *Speak with Good Purpose* – we will speak in a positive sense, be responsible for honest and direct communication and avoid gossip and harmful communications.
- *This Is It* – we will focus our attention on the present moment and give each task our best effort.
- *Commitment* – we will follow through on promises and obligations and do whatever it takes to get the job done.
- *Ownership* – we will take responsibility and be accountable for our actions.
- *Flexibility* – we will be open to change and try a new approach if it helps us get to the desired outcome.
- *Balance* – we will keep our mind, body and spirit in alignment.

Policies:

- I expect you to be in class. If you must miss a class for a valid reason, please inform me beforehand either via email or telephone call. You may not miss more than two classes.
- Punctuality is important. Class begins at 2:40pm sharp. Please inform me beforehand if you must be late.
- All written assignments will be submitted electronically via the ‘digital drop box’ feature of Blackboard. They should be formatted as follows:
 - 1 “ margin all around
 - Double spaced
 - Times Roman font, 12pt size
 - Parenthetical references with bibliography – (Jones 1999, p. 23).
- Assignments are due at midnight on the designated day.

- Please read the sections regarding intellectual honesty in your student handbook. *Plagiarism is a serious academic offense!*

You will complete the following assignments:

- A map quiz = 5%.
- Three 1500-word papers = 75% (25% each) (due dates: October 3, October 31 and November 23).
- Class participation preparation and attendance = 20%

COURSE INFORMATION

Course Outline:

Sept. 5 Orientation & Introduction

Historical Overview

Sept. 7 Race and Colonialism
Readings: Omi&Winand

Sept. 12 Pre-colonial Patterns - Macro View
Readings: Freund, ch. 2-4
MAP QUIZ

Sept. 14 Precolonial Patterns - Micro View
Readings: Achebe

Sept. 19 Conquest & Colonial Rule - Historical Patterns
Readings: Freund ch. 5-7

Sept. 21 Colonial Rule - Analytical Approaches
Readings: Thomson, ch. 2, Mamdani

Sept. 26 Decolonization & Independence
Readings: Freund, ch. 9-10, Thomson, ch. 3, 8

Oct. 3 Student Presentations
First Project Due!

Adjustment and Development

Oct. 5 Understanding African Economics
Readings: Arrighi, Spreadsheet Exercises

Oct. 7 Structural Adjustment
Readings: Freund, ch. 12, Thomson, ch. 9

- Oct. 12** Open session
- Oct. 17** Case Study - Nigeria
Readings: Biersteker, Walker, Walker
- Oct. 19** Case Study - Mozambique
Readings: Cramer, Hanlon, Hanlon
- Oct. 24** Adjustment and the IFIs
Readings: Ponte, World Bank, UNECA, Baylies
- Oct. 26** Alternatives to Adjustment & African Initiatives
Readings: Ake, De Waal, Melber
- Oct. 31** Student Presentations
Second Project Due!

Political Transitions and Democracy

- Nov. 2** States and Power
Readings: Thomson, ch. 7, 10
- Nov. 7** Class & Ethnicity Revisited
Readings: Thomspson, ch. 4-5
- Nov. 9** Transitions
Readings: Thomson, ch. 11, Osaghae, Heilbrunn
- Nov. 16** Democracy and Democratization
Readings: Saul, Desai & Pithouse
- Nov. 18** The African Union
Readings: Makoah, Muchie
- Nov. 23** Student Presentations
Third Project Due!

Persistent Problems

- Nov. 30** Civil War - Darfur
Readings: Flint & De Waal
- Dec. 2** War - The DRC
Readings: International Crisis Group
- Dec. 7** The HIV/AIDS Pandemic
Readings: UNAIDS readings
- Dec. 9** African Prospects - Panel Discussion

Readings

Books:

- Achebe, C. *Things Fall Apart*. Portsmouth: Heinemann, 1965.
- Flint, J. & A. De Waal. *Darfur. A Short History of a Long War*. Zed Press, 2005.
- Freund, B. *The Making of Contemporary Africa*. Boulder: Lynne Rienner, 1998.
- Thomson, A. *An Introduction to African Politics*. New York: Routledge, 2000.

Articles:

- Ake, C. *Democracy and Development*. Washington: Brookings, 1996, ch. 5.
- Arrighi, G. "The African Crisis." *New Left Review* 15 (2002).
- Baylies, C. "'Political Conditionality' and Democratization." *Review of African Political Economy*, 65 (1995).
- Biersteker, T. *Reaching Agreement with the IMF*.
- Cramer, C. "Privatization and Adjustment in Mozambique: a 'Hospital Pass'?" *Journal of Southern African Studies*, 27 (2001).
- Desai, A. and R. Pithouse. "But we were Thousands." Durban: CCS, 2003.
- De Waal, A. "What's New in the 'New Partnership for Africa's Development?'"
- Hanlon, J. "Power Without Responsibility: the World Bank & Mozambican Cashew Nuts." *Review of African Political Economy*, 83 (2000).
- Hanlon, J. "Mozambique wins long battle over Cashew Nuts and Sugar." *Review of African Political Economy*, 28 (2001).
- Heilbrunn, J. "Social Origins of National Conferences in Benin and Togo." *Journal of Modern African Studies* 31 (1993).
- International Crisis Group. *The Scramble for the Congo*. IGC Report 25, 2000.
- Makoa, F. "African Union: New Organization, Old Ideological Framework." *Strategic Review for Southern Africa* 26 (May 2004).
- Mamdani, M. "Historicizing Power and Responses to Power. Indirect Rule and its Reform." *Social Research*, 66 (1999).
- Melber, H. et al. *The New Partnership for Africa's Development - African Perspectives*. Uppsala: Nordiska Afrikainstitutet, 2002.
- Muchie, M. "African Integration and Civil Society: The Case of the African Union." *Transformation* 61 (2006).

- Omi, M. and H. Winant. *Racial Formation in the United States*. New York: Routledge 1994, ch. 4.
- Osaghae, E. "The Study of Political Transitions in Africa." *Review of African Political Economy*, 64 (1995).
- Ponte, S. "The World Bank and 'Adjustment in Africa.'" *Review of African Political Economy*, 66 (1994).
- Saul, J. "'For Fear of Being Condemned as Old Fashioned': Liberal Democracy vs. Popular Democracy in Sub-Saharan Africa." *Review of African Political Economy*, 73 (1997).
- UN Economic Commission for Africa. *Statistics and Policies*. Addis Ababa: UNECA, 1989.
- Walker, E. "Structural Change, the Oil Boom and the Cocoa Economy of Southwestern Nigeria, 1973-1980s." *Journal of Modern African Studies*, 38 (2000).
- Walker, E. "'Happy Days are Here Again:' Cocoa Farmers, Middlemen Traders and the Structural Adjustment Program in Southwestern Nigeria, 1986-1990s." *Africa Today*, 47 (2000).
- World Bank. *Africa's Adjustment and Growth in the 1980s*. Washington: World Bank, 1989.