Informal Institutions and Citizenship in Rural Africa

Risk and Reciprocity in Ghana and Côte d'Ivoire

This book challenges previous assumptions about institutions, social capital, and the nature of the African state by investigating the history of political and economic change in villages on either side of the Ghana–Côte d'Ivoire border. Prior to European colonial rule, these Akan villages had very similar political and cultural institutions. By the late 1990s, however, Lauren M. MacLean found puzzling differences in the informal institutions of reciprocity and indigenous notions of citizenship. Drawing on extensive village-based fieldwork and archival research, MacLean argues that divergent histories of state formation not only shape how villagers help each other but also influence how local groups and communities define citizenship and then choose to engage with the state on an everyday basis. She examines the historical construction of the state role in mediating risk at the local level across three policy areas: political administration, social service delivery, and agriculture, highlighting the importance of the colonial and postcolonial state in transforming informal institutions.

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To Jason, Jasper, Skylar, and Benjamin
Informal Institutions and Citizenship in Rural Africa

Risk and Reciprocity in Ghana and Côte d’Ivoire

LAUREN M. MACLEAN
Indiana University
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<tr>
<td>CAISSTAB</td>
<td>Caisse de Stabilisation et de Soutien des Prix des Productions Agricoles</td>
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<tr>
<td>CPP</td>
<td>Congress People’s Party</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GOCI</td>
<td>Government of Côte d’Ivoire</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GOG</td>
<td>Government of Ghana</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>IFAD</td>
<td>International Fund for Agricultural Development</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>IMF</td>
<td>International Monetary Fund</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FPI</td>
<td>Front Populaire Ivoirien</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NDC</td>
<td>National Democratic Congress</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NGO</td>
<td>Nongovernmental Organization</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NPP</td>
<td>New Patriotic Party</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PAMSCAD</td>
<td>Programme of Actions to Mitigate the Social Costs of Adjustment</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PDCI</td>
<td>Parti Démocratique de la Côte d’Ivoire</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PNDC</td>
<td>Provisional National Defense Council</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>RDR</td>
<td>Rassemblement pour la Démocratie Républicaine</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SAP</td>
<td>Structural Adjustment Program</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>USAID</td>
<td>United States Agency for International Development</td>
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