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978-1-107-04115-8 - Africa's Development in Historical Perspective

Edited by Emmanuel Akyeampong, Robert H. Bates, Nathan Nunn and James A. Robinson

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AFRICA'S DEVELOPMENT IN HISTORICAL PERSPECTIVE

This edited volume addresses the root causes of Africa's persistent poverty through an investigation of Africa's *longue durée* history. It interrogates the African past through disease and demography, institutions and governance, African economies and the impact of the export slave trade, colonialism, Africa in the world economy, and culture's influence on accumulation and investment. Several of the chapters take a comparative perspective, placing Africa's developments alongside other global patterns. The readership for this book spans from the informed lay reader with an interest in Africa, to academics and undergraduate and graduate students, policy makers, and those in the development world.

Emmanuel Akyeampong is a professor of history and of African and African American Studies at Harvard University. He is the former editor of the *Journal of African History* and of *African Diaspora* and the author or editor of several books, including *Drink, Power and Cultural Change: A Social History of Alcohol in Ghana* (1996); *Between the Sea and the Lagoon: An Eco-Social History of the Anglo of Southeastern Ghana* (2001); *Themes in West Africa's History* (2006); and *Dictionary of African Biography* (six volumes) (2013).

Robert H. Bates is Eaton Professor of the Science of Government at Harvard University. His research focuses on the political economy of development, particularly in Africa, and on violence and state failure. Professor Bates has conducted fieldwork in Zambia, Sudan, Uganda, Kenya, Colombia, and Brazil. He currently serves as a researcher and resource person with the Africa Economic Research Consortium, Nairobi. Among his most recent books are *Analytic Narratives* with Avner Greif, Margaret Levi, Jean-Laurent Rosenthal, and Barry Weingast (1998); *When Things Fell Apart* (Cambridge University Press, 2007); and *Prosperity and Violence* (2009).

Nathan Nunn is a professor of economics at Harvard University. His primary research interests are in economic history, economic development, political economy, and international trade. He is an NBER faculty research Fellow, a research Fellow at BREAD, and a faculty associate at Harvard's Weatherhead Center for International Affairs. He is also currently coeditor of the *Journal of Development Economics*.

James A. Robinson is the David Florence Professor of Government at Harvard University. His main research interests are in political economy, comparative economic development, and economic history with a focus on sub-Saharan Africa and Latin America. He is the coauthor, with Daron Acemoglu, of *Economic Origins of Dictatorship and Democracy*, (Cambridge University Press, 2006), which was awarded the 2007 Woodrow Wilson Foundation Award by the American Political Science Association for "the best book published in the United States during the prior year on government, politics, or international affairs." He edited the book *Natural Experiments in History* with geographer and ecologist Jared Diamond in 2010. His most recent book, also written with Daron Acemoglu, is entitled *Why Nations Fail* and was declared one of the ten best books of 2012 by the *Washington Post*.

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Information on this title: www.cambridge.org/9781107691209

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First published 2014

Printed in the United States of America

A catalog record for this publication is available from the British Library.

Library of Congress Cataloging in Publication data

Africa's development in historical perspective / editors: Emmanuel Akyeampong, Harvard University, Robert H. Bates, Harvard University, Nathan Nunn, Harvard University, James A. Robinson, Harvard University.

pages cm

Includes bibliographical references and index.

ISBN 978-1-107-04115-8 (hardback) – ISBN 978-1-107-69120-9 (pbk.)

1. Economic development – Africa – History. 2. Africa – Economic conditions – History.
3. Africa – Politics and government. I. Akyeampong, Emmanuel Kwaku, editor of compilation. II. Bates, Robert H., editor of compilation. III. Nunn, Nathan, editor of compilation. IV. Robinson, James A., 1960– editor of compilation.

HC800.A57255 2014

338.96009–dc23 2014001822

ISBN 978-1-107-04115-8 Hardback

ISBN 978-1-107-69120-9 Paperback

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Emmanuel Akyeampong is a professor of history at Harvard University. He has written on social history and on the history of disease and the environment in West Africa. His more recent work has looked at trade and political economy, interests strengthened by his participation in the Harvard working group on “Understanding African Poverty over the Longue Durée.” His recent articles in this area include: “Africa, the Arabian Gulf and Asia: Changing Dynamics in Contemporary West Africa’s Political Economy,” *Journal of African Development*, 13: 1 (Spring 2011), 73–105; and Emmanuel Akyeampong and Hippolyte Fofack, “The Contribution of African Women to Economic Growth and Development: Historical Perspectives and Policy Implications – Part I: The Pre-colonial and Colonial Periods,” World Bank, Policy Research Working Paper, WPS 6051, April 2012.

Gareth Austin is a professor of international history at the Graduate Institute of International and Development Studies, Geneva. Previous employers include the University of Ghana and the London School of Economics. His research and teaching interests are in African, comparative, and global economic history. His primary research has focused on West Africa, especially Ghana and the precolonial kingdom of Asante. His publications include *Labour, Land and Capital in Ghana: From Slavery to Free Labour in Asante* (2005); “Resources, Techniques and Strategies South of the Sahara: Revising the Factor Endowments Approach to African Economic History,” *Economic History Review*, 61: 3 (2008), 587–624; and (edited with Kaoru Sugihara) *Labour-Intensive Industrialization in Global History* (2013).

Robert H. Bates is Eaton Professor of the Science of Government at Harvard University. During the past decade, he has focused on conflict and state failure and, working with the Africa Economic Research Consortium, on the political economy of the “lost decades” following independence. In

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recent years, he has returned to the study of agricultural policy, focusing on political responses to international price shocks and policy responses to the enfranchisement of rural voters. He spends his summers in Ghana trying to figure out when the absence of violence transforms into the rule of law and peace becomes an institutionalized feature of political order.

Isaías Chaves is a PhD candidate in political science at Stanford University. His past research projects have examined the determinants of electoral fraud in 1920s Colombia and the divergent political consequences of civil war in Sierra Leone and Colombia. His current work in historical political economy studies the domestic political coalitions that drove British imperial expansion after the Great Reform Act. At the same time, he is pursuing projects in American politics that adapt techniques from empirical industrial organization to better understand the strategic behavior of legislators and campaign donors.

William G. Clarence-Smith is Professor of the Economic History of Asia and Africa in the School of Oriental and African Studies at the University of London. His major current research project is on Middle Eastern migrants in the colonial Philippines, who came mainly from “Greater Syria.” This has taken him of late to Manila, Beirut, Madrid, and Washington, DC, and has involved probing the history of the global trade in embroidery and lace. He also works on tropical commodities and the manufacturing related to them, not only cotton, but also rubber, palm oil, hot beverages, masticatories, and large livestock. A third part of his research concerns the interplay between Islamic law and social history, notably in regard to slavery, sexuality, and technological change.

Christopher Ehret is Distinguished Research Professor in the Department of History at the University of California at Los Angeles. His research over the past four decades has dealt with a wide variety of African historical and cultural topics and a wide range of time periods. A major methodological focus in this work has been to develop the tools and techniques for reconstructing history, especially early African history, from the evidence of language and for correlating the evidence of language with other types of historical evidence. One long-running theme in his research has been the origins and early history of agriculture in Africa. A second major focus has been on understanding the ways cross-cultural interactions have shaped the courses of long-term social, cultural, and economic change across the continent. Recently he has embarked on a new course of research into the *longue durée* histories of African kinship systems, and he has also

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undertaken collaborative work with geneticists and biological anthropologists on the possibilities of correlating their findings with those of linguistics and archaeology.

Stanley L. Engerman is John H. Munro Professor of Economics at the University of Rochester. He is best known for his quantitative historical work along with Nobel Prize-winning economist Robert Fogel. His coauthored books include *Time on the Cross: The Economics of Slavery* (1974) with Robert Fogel and *Economic Development in the Americas since 1500: Endowments and Institutions* (2012) with Kenneth L. Sokoloff.

Linda Heywood is a professor and the director of African American Studies at Boston University. In November 2011, Heywood published an article entitled “Angola, the Violence Years: Civilian Casualties,” and she has just completed her book *Queen Njinga of Angola/Matamba: A Biography*. During the summer of 2011, she spent three weeks in Angola working in the archives, where she collected materials for her Njinga project. She also visited the locations in Malange, Angola, where the people called Njingas live. There she conducted video interviews with the “king of the Njingas” and other officials who all claim to be the direct descendants of the Njinga dynasty and her followers. Heywood was allowed to visit the place where Njinga and other members of the Ndongo ruling elite are supposed to be buried. She was told that she was only the third outsider accorded this honor. Heywood has now turned her attention to the second part of the Njinga project, entitled “The Remaking of Njinga: Angola, Portugal and the African Diaspora.”

Joseph E. Inikori is a professor of history at the University of Rochester. He was previously chairman of the Department of History, Ahmadu Bello University, Zaria, Nigeria. One of the pioneers of the study of Atlantic World history, he has published extensively on Atlantic World economic history. His most recent book in the field, *Africans and the Industrial Revolution in England: A Study in International Trade and Economic Development* (Cambridge University Press, 2002), won the 2003 American Historical Association's Leo Gersho Award for “the most outstanding work in English on any aspect of the field of 17th- and 18th-century western European history,” and also the 2003 African Studies Association's Herskovits Award. The book has been entered in the American Council of Learned Societies Ebook Project “dedicated to selecting and creating an electronic collection of important scholarly monographs that are expected to have continuing relevance in the field of history.” His lifetime

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achievement honors include The Distinguished Africana Award from the African New World Studies Program, Florida International University (2007) and the Distinguished Africanist Award from the New York State African Studies Association (2008).

Patrick Manning is Andrew W. Mellon Professor of World History and director of the World History Center at the University of Pittsburgh. For many years, he has analyzed historical African populations, especially as they were influenced by enslavement, and he is near completion of a collaborative work with Scott Nickleach on African population from 1650 to 1950. He has written widely on migration in world history, most recently in *The African Diaspora: A History through Culture* (2009). His current project is a collaborative project, with historical linguist Christopher Ehret, on the history of migration and social change in early human communities (ca. 100,000–5,000 years ago) as seen through historians' reading of the evidence on language, genetics, archaeology, climate, plants, and animals.

Nathan Nunn is a professor of economics at Harvard University. Professor Nunn's research has focused on empirically examining the determinants of the long-term economic development of societies both within Africa and across the globe. His research traces the impacts of large historical events like Africa's slave trades, missionary activities in Africa, the transfer of food crops during the Columbian Exchange, plantation slavery in the Americas, historical state formation, historical conflict, and technology adoption. His ongoing research seeks to better understand exactly why many historical events have impacts that are persistent and continue to influence economic development today.

Ayodeji Olukoju is a professor of history at the University of Lagos and vice-chancellor, Caleb University, Lagos, Nigeria. He is the author of *The "Liverpool" of West Africa: The Dynamics and Impact of Maritime Trade in Lagos* (2004) and *Culture and Customs of Liberia* (2006). His other publications on maritime, social, economic, urban, and African history have appeared as authored and edited books, chapters in books, and articles in high-impact specialist and African journals. He serves on the boards of the *Journal of African History* and *History in Africa: A Journal of Method*. His latest contributions include "Food and Food Production" in Thomas Spear (ed.) *Oxford Bibliographies in African Studies* (2013) and a chapter on Lagos in Miguel Suarez Bosa (ed.), *Atlantic Ports and the First Globalisation, c. 1850–1930* (Cambridge Imperial and Post-Colonial Studies Series, Macmillan-Palgrave, 2014, chapter 6).

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Jean-Philippe Platteau is a professor of economics at the University of Namur. Most of his work has examined the understanding of the role of institutions in economic development, and the processes of institutional change, especially under the joint impact of population growth and market penetration. The influence of noneconomic factors and various frontier issues at the interface between economics and sociology are a central focus of his research projects, hence his continuous interest in other social sciences than economics and his continuous emphasis on the potential contributions of sociology to the field of economics in general, and to economic development in particular. Recently, he has embarked upon two ambitious research projects. The first one deals with the transformation of farm-cum-family structures when land becomes more scarce and market integration increases. Field data of the panel type are collected in central Mali for the purpose of testing theoretical predictions. The second project concerns the interaction between the statutory law and the custom when the lawmaker wants to fight oppressive social norms and both informal and formal judges act strategically. Fieldwork in relation to the latter project is being carried out in Senegal, Guinea Bissau, and Guinea Conakry.

Richard Reid is a professor of African history at the School of Oriental and African Studies, University of London. He has recently completed a project dealing with long-term conflict in the Horn of Africa, which resulted in *Frontiers of Violence in Northeast Africa* (Oxford University Press, 2011). His thinking on African warfare more broadly has now been distilled into *Warfare in African History* (Cambridge University Press, 2012). While he continues to ponder the links between war and development in the making of modern Africa, he has also begun to travel in a slightly different direction, namely research on the role of historians and historical consciousness in African state and society during the nineteenth and twentieth centuries, using the case study of Uganda.

James A. Robinson is David Florence Professor of Government at Harvard University. He is currently on sabbatical in Colombia researching the origins of paramilitarism and how and why some paramilitary groups created state-like structures while others did not. He is also collecting data on elite networks in Haiti to investigate how elite control of the economy influences the development of the society. He has just finished an empirical project on the consequences of indirect rule for development in rural Sierra Leone and has been in the DRC, Uganda, and Rwanda researching the roots of delayed political centralization in Africa.

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John Thornton is a professor of history and African American Studies at Boston University. He is primarily an Africanist, with a specialty in the history of West Central Africa before 1800. His work has also carried him into the study of the African Diaspora, and from there to the history of the Atlantic Basin as a whole, also in the period before the early nineteenth century.

David N. Weil is the James and Merryl Tisch Professor of Economics at Brown University. Most of Professor Weil's research examines long-run economic growth. Among the topics he has studied are technology transfer, population growth, accumulation of physical and human capital, and the transition from the Malthusian equilibrium to modern economic growth. Much of his recent work has looked at how population health affects the level of income in a country and how demographic changes such as declining fertility and population aging impact growth. In his latest completed research, he and his coauthors explore techniques for measuring economic growth using satellite observations of light that is visible at night. This method can be applied both in countries where standard national income accounts data are of low quality and to subnational or supranational regions for which no other data are available.

Warren C. Whatley is a professor of economics at the University of Michigan. His research interests include the economic history of Africans and African Americans – primarily African American workers in the twentieth century north and south of the United States, and the impact of the transatlantic slave trade and colonialism on African political and economic development. His articles have appeared in the *Quarterly Journal of Economics*, the *Journal of Economic History*, and the *Journal of Labor Economics*, among others. He is currently writing a book on the transatlantic slave trade and the political and economic development of West Africa.

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This edited volume, *African's Development in Historical Perspective* comes out of the initiative of a working group on “Understanding African Poverty over the Longue Duree,” funded by the Weatherhead Center for International Affairs at Harvard University. The working group organized a conference in Ghana in the summer of 2010, co-hosted by the International Institute for the Advanced Study of Cultures, Institutions and Economic Enterprise (IIAS), under the then director Professor Irene Odotei. We acknowledge the tireless assistance of Jaronica Fuller at Harvard and Sharon Okantey, Ebi Kanga Landry, and others from IIAS (Ghana), who made the Ghana conference a great success. We also express our deepest appreciation to all the scholars who participated in the Accra conference, and whose presence made this one of the most stimulating intellectual events ever.