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978-1-107-49626-2 - The Political Economy of Economic Growth in Africa, 1960–2000: Volume 2:
Country Case Studies

Edited by Benno J. Ndulu, Stephen A. O’Connell, Jean-Paul Azam, Robert H. Bates, Augustin K. Fosu,
JanWillem Gunning and Dominique Njinkeu
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The Political Economy of Economic Growth in Africa, 1960–2000

The period from 1960 to 2000 was one of remarkable growth and transformation in the world economy. Why did most of Sub-Saharan Africa fail to develop over this period? Why did a few small African economies succeed spectacularly? *The Political Economy of Economic Growth in Africa, 1960–2000* is by far the most ambitious and comprehensive assessment of Africa’s post-independence economic performance to date. Volume 2 supports and extends the analysis of African economic growth presented in the first volume by providing twenty-six case studies of individual African economies. The book is divided into three parts, based on the three main types of economy found in Sub-Saharan Africa: landlocked, coastal, and resource-rich. Eighteen of the case studies are contained in the book and a further eight are available at www.cambridge.org/9781107496262. These volumes are an invaluable resource for researchers and policy-makers concerned with the economic development of Africa.

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VOLUME 2

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Country Case Studies

Edited by Benno J. Ndulu, Stephen A. O’Connell, Jean-Paul Azam, Robert H. Bates, Augustin K. Fosu,
JanWillem Gunning and Dominique Njinkeu
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Foreword

Throughout many of the first decades following independence, Africa’s economies failed to grow; indeed in 2000 *per capita* incomes in several countries were lower than they had been in 1960. In this two-volume study, the African Economic Research Consortium (AERC) probes the nature and the roots of Africa’s economic performance in the first decades of independence. We seek to describe Africa’s growth experience in the latter decades of the twentieth century, to account for it, and to extract lessons to guide future policy-making in the continent.

The timing of this two-volume assessment could not be more propitious. Debates over growth strategy have renewed as the region emerges from decades of economic decline and policy reform. Growth itself reignited in the mid-1990s, supported by policy reforms and also by rising commodity prices, a revival of aid flows, and the resolution of costly civil conflicts. What constitutes a pro-growth policy environment? What constrains the achievement of that environment? These questions were central to this examination of Africa’s immediate past. The answers to them should feature in debates over how best to secure its economic future.

We all recognize that the forces out of our control – the vagaries of commodity prices and climatic conditions, the rigors of fierce competition in fast-changing global markets, and the uncertainties of donor priorities and commitments – place limits on what we can attain. Even at the domestic level, important factors constrain our choices. The political reforms of the 1990s widened the scope for popular restraints on government, for example; but they also increased the level of uncertainty regarding the direction of future policy choices. And in a number of countries, the pursuit of growth awaits the end of armed conflict. Despite such limitations, however, policy-makers can identify country-specific opportunities for growth and build upon them, drawing lessons from a country’s own history and from experiences elsewhere in Africa and the developing world. In these volumes, the scholars of the AERC seek to make the historical and comparative record available to those whose choices will affect our economic future.

The core of the “Explaining African Economic Growth” Project appears in volume 2, which contains eighteen detailed country studies (plus an additional eight available from www.cambridge.org/9781107496262) conducted by African research teams. These case studies use a common methodology that identifies key turning points in the governance environment and grounds