



African Politics and Society: A Mosaic in Transformation

By Peter J. Schraeder

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AFRICAN POLITICS AND SOCIETY: A MOSAIC IN TRANSFORMATION is the first single-authored textbook to examine continuity and change in African politics and society from the pre-colonial era to the present. It fills the needs of those with little prior knowledge while balancing this background information with thorough analysis for those already familiar with the subject. An emphasis has been placed on making sense of general developments on the African continent as a whole while introducing the distinctive natures of Africa's 53 countries. Each chapter emphasizes the major trends associated with a topic, trends that are further explored through illustrative case studies that represent all regions of the African continent. Each chapter concludes with a list of readings for further exploration and research. Numerous maps, tables, figures, and boxed elements highlight fundamental issues of interest. Because each chapter stands alone, instructors can assign chapters that relate topics that are of greatest relevance to the course or reorder chapters to better suit their syllabi.

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Editorial Review

From Library Journal

This is the first contemporary, comprehensive, and single-authored textbook to scrutinize continuity and change in African politics and society from precolonial times to the present, with particular emphasis on the post-Cold War era. Based on extensive research and travels to Africa that included research meetings, interviews, and discussions with African intellectuals and commoners, the book is divided into six major parts. Each part is then subdivided into chapters that explain African politics and society by exploring the general evolution of rival theoretical perspectives, the historical context, the sociocultural context of current trends, continuity and change in governance, and foreign relations during the contemporary independence era. Easy to comprehend and thoroughly intriguing, Schraeder's (political science, Loyola Univ.) book sheds light on our understanding of the complex social, economic, and political environment of contemporary Africa and is well worth debating. This book lists a wide variety of print and electronic research resources and also includes an appendix with a country-by-country list of 128 introductory volumes, bibliographies, and historical dictionaries. A most valuable contribution to African studies. A Edward G. McCormack, Univ. of Southern Mississippi Gulf Coast, Long Beach
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Review

"Schraeder's book succeeded brilliantly in approaching undergraduates at their current level."

"Schraeder's text...does a sophisticated job of analyzing pre-colonial societies, the slave trade, European colonialism, and decolonization; and there is a seamless integration of these sections into the more contemporary chapters."

"Good basic overview, both in terms of general concepts of comparative politics and enough examples/specifics to give students an understanding."

About the Author

Peter J. Schraeder is Associate Professor of Political Science at Loyola University.

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