

Challenges and trends in contemporary southern Africa



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Denkleiers • Leading Minds • Dikgopolo tša Dihlalefi

Introduction



- Perspectives on southern Africa
 - Pre-colonial history
 - Colonisation
 - Post-colonial era
- Institutional development
 - SACU
 - Frontline states
 - SADCC
 - SADC
- Dominant role players
 - Zimbabwe/ Angola/ Namibia
 - South Africa
 - Botswana/ Malawi/ Zambia

Challenges



- Perspectives on southern Africa
 - negative perceptions
 - negative expectations
 - Zimbabwe
- New developments in Africa?
 - ideological underpinnings
 - institutional & procedural developments
- Change of the guard
- Looking forward – “the African century”

Perceptions of Africa



- History of post-colonial Africa
 - independence & aftermath
- Politics, the state & governance
 - politics of domination/ elite interests
 - failure to establish democracy
 - weak states
 - weak governance

Africa in comparison: democracy



- Economist Democracy index of 2007
- four categories
 - full democracies = 28
 - 1 from Africa
 - flawed democracies = 54
 - 7 from Africa
 - hybrid regimes = 30
 - 13 from Africa
 - authoritarian regimes = 55
 - 23 from Africa

Freedom in the world



- The 2007 Freedom House Survey found that the community of states consisted of 192 countries
- 119 are electoral democracies (20 in Africa)
- The world consist of
 - * 89 *free* countries
 - * 54 *partly free* countries
 - * 49 *not free* countries
- Sub Saharan African states
 - * 11 *free*
 - * 21 *partly free*
 - * 16 *not free*

Human Development in Africa



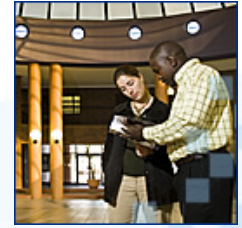
- UN index includes 177 countries
- high development
 - 57 countries – 1 from Africa
- medium development
 - 88 countries – 20 from Africa
- low development
 - 32 countries – 30 from Africa

Problems of governance



- undemocratic regimes
- conflict & instability
- dominance of leaders & states
- states are highly centralised
- elite domination
- dominant countries
 - South Africa
 - Zimbabwe

Leadership



- “Big men” of Africa
 - solidarity & distrust
 - nationalism & domination
 - stayism = usurping state power & authority
 - personalisation of power
 - profiteering = state as private property
 - exceptionalism = no one else knows/ can do
- Change of the guard
 - new role players
 - importance of leadership
 - new political practises

The African century



- “African solutions to African problems”
- African Union
 - Politics/ peace & governance
 - Nepad
 - APRM?
 - Regional systems
 - SADC
 - SACU
 - Comesa

Looking forward



- Leadership & change
- Domestic politics
 - constraints
 - opportunities
- External politics
 - Global developments
 - governance & democracy
 - economics
 - multilateralism
 - Dominant role players
 - USA/ EU/ China

Conclusion

- Going backward?
 - Zimbabwe
 - Angola
 - DRC
- Going forward?
 - South Africa
 - Botswana
 - Namibia
- Other issues/ role players?
 - institutional development of SADC/ SACU
 - country development

