



Handbook of Africa's International Relations (Routledge International Handbooks)

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Africa's international relations have often been defined and oriented by the dominant international and geopolitical agendas of the day. In the aftermath of colonialism the Cold War became a dominant paradigm that defined the nature of the continent's relationship with the rest of the world. The contemporary forces of globalization are now exerting an undue influence and impact upon Africa's international relations. Increasingly, the African continent is emerging as a vocal, and in some respects an influential, actor in international relations. There is a lack of analysis and research on this emerging trend. This timely book fills this analytical gap by engaging with a wide range of issues, with chapters written by experts on a variety of themes.

The emerging political prominence of the African continent on the world stage is predicated on an evolving internal process of continental integration. In particular, there are normative and policy efforts to revive the spirit of Pan-Africanism: the 21st century is witnessing the evolution of Pan-Africanism, notably through the constitution and establishment of the African Union (AU). Given the dearth of analysis on this phenomenon, this volume also examines the notion of Pan-Africanism through various lenses – notably peace and security, development, the environment and trade.

The volume will also engage with the emerging role of the AU as an international actor, e.g. with regard to its role in the reform of the United Nations Security Council, climate change, the International Criminal Court (ICC), the treaty establishing Africa as a nuclear-free zone, Internally Displaced Persons, the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), international trade, the environment, public health issues, security, and development issues. This book will assess how the AU's role as an international actor is complicated by the difficulty of promoting consensus among African states and then maintaining that consensus in the face of often divergent national interests. This book will in part assess the role of the AU in articulating collective and joint policies and in making interventions in international decision and policy-making circles.

The *Handbook* will also assess the role of African social movements and their relationship with global actors. The role of African citizens in improving their own conditions is often underplayed in the international relations discourse, and this volume will seek to redress this oversight. Throughout the book the various chapters will also assess the role that these citizen linkages have contributed towards continental integration and in confronting the challenges of globalization.

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Editorial Review

Review

'Dr Tim Murithi's seminal *Handbook of Africa's International Relations* brings together an impressive collection of leading Africanists to critically engage with the changing nature, dynamics and complexity of Africa's International Relations at the dawn of the 21st Century. Definitely, the most authoritative and wide ranging overview of interpretations of Africa's International Relations by indigenous Africans and Africanists. This is an impressive and informative critical outline of conceptual, thematic issues and relevant case studies pertinent to the understanding of contemporary Africa. A highly recommended book and a must read by all students and practitioners of Africa's International Relations. '

Professor David J. Francis. Research Chair of African Peace & Conflict Studies, University of Bradford.

'This is a brilliant collection on a truly complex subject. Indeed, a concise voice on African International Relations is long overdue. This new book sets the pace and will shape the nature of discourse on African International Relations.'

Dr 'Funmi Olonisakin, Director, African Leadership Centre, and Associate Professor at the King's College, University of London.

'The Handbook on African International Relations is a rare collection of essays devoted to a subject that has yet to receive such comprehensive scholarly treatment. Tim Murithi has assembled a multidisciplinary group of young scholars from all over the world to lend fresh perspectives on African international relations. The chapters are rich, diverse, and comprehensive. The book should contribute toward returning Africa to mainstream international relations.'

Professor Gilbert Khadiagala, Jan Smuts Professor of International Relations, University of the Witwatersrand, Johannesburg, South Africa.

'In conclusion, this is a strong and up-to-date book on Africa's international politics. Students and scholars will find it an accessible reference. Murithi should be commended for his inclusion of authors from inside and outside Africa.'

Grant Dawson, University of Nottingham, Ningbo, China

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