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Takuo Iwata

POWER AND
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A Boundary Generator

Takuo Iwata

Power and Politics in Africa

A Boundary Generator

SERIES IN POLITICS

The power to define, regulate, and contest boundaries lies at the very heart of politics. In this richly detailed and well-researched book, Takuo Iwata offers insightful evidence from African international relations to illuminate this dynamic and its implications for democratisation, citizenship and belonging.

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University of Cape Town

In this book, Takuo Iwata has succeeded in integrating a large amount of material in a way that enables him to bridge the traditional divide between comparative politics and international relations. The result is a work of great importance for anyone who is interested in African politics.

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This is an impressive product of research on power in African politics and international relations. The author insightfully observes the transformation of boundaries in the Global South. He has very effectively used power as a boundary marker in multiple areas of African polity. A very refreshing out-of-the-track work by the author.

Ajay Dubey

President: African Studies Association of India
Professor, School of International Studies &
Former Rector (Pro-Vice Chancellor)
Jawaharlal Nehru University

About the author

Takuo Iwata, Ph.D. is a professor in Ritsumeikan University (Kyoto, Japan). He teaches politics and international relations in Africa and Asia-Africa relations at undergraduate and graduate schools. Dr. Iwata's extensive research encompasses political power, democratization, decentralization, border issues, South-South Cooperation, and cultural acts (laughter) in politics and international relations in/with Africa. He has conducted his field research mainly in Francophone West African countries for three decades, and in Western and Asian countries. He has published books and articles: 'Democratic Transition and Civil Society in Africa' (Takuo Iwata, Kokusai Shoin, 2004, in Japanese), and 'New Asian Approaches to Africa' (Ed., Takuo Iwata, Vernon Press, 2020).

Summary

Africa attracts the world with its potential and challenges in the 21st century. The political situation became more diverse on the African continent than in the 20th century between democracy and authoritarianism and between peace and tragic conflict. Understanding African politics' engine, logic, and mechanism becomes more meaningful and required. This is a comprehensive book on African Politics and International Relations that focuses on the concept of power by covering politics, geography, sociology, and anthropology perspectives. This book is built through the author's three decades of fieldwork, document work, and conference presentations in African, Asian, and Western countries. This book is expected to be read by professional academic scholars, graduate and undergraduate students in classrooms, diplomats, government officers, journalists, and NGO staff who want to deepen their understanding of politics and international relations in/with Africa.

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