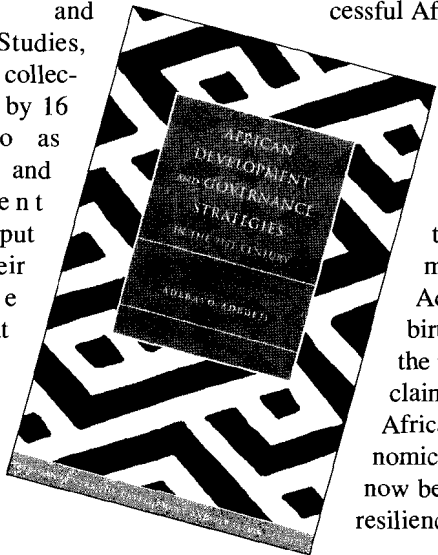


Book Review

1. African Development and Governance Strategies in the 21st Century: Looking Back to Move Forward, Essays in honour of Adebayo Adedeji at Seventy, Zed Publications, 2004.

The publication, the work of the African Centre for Development and Strategic Studies, ACDESS, is a collection of essays by 16 Africans who as academicians and development practitioners put forward their alternative views on what has been Africa's development path over the past years.



Most striking is the fact that, as the title suggests the book is in honour of Adebayo Adedeji, one of Africa's foremost proponents of an alternative to Africa's dependence on the Washington Consensus for that matter Bretton Woods institutions economic strategies for development.

African Development and Governance Strategies....., as it sub-title, Looking Back to Move Forward, rightly suggests takes a critical look at Africa's development strategies since the independence of most African countries in the 1960s through the various Structural Adjustment Programmes of the 1980s and 1990s to the New Partnership for Africa's Development, NEPAD.

With such interesting essays as; Forty years of Development Illusions, Mobilisation for the Implementation of Alternative Development Paradigms in the 21st Century, The External Debt

Crisis, Human Development Deprivation and NEPAD: Yet Another Plan, Initiative and New Partnership?, the book offers a wide range of discussions on the African development situation and the way forward.

The essays according to the editors represent the optimism of the authors in a successful Africa but, 'only if African leaders demonstrate the political will to mobilize their peoples with a view to moving them towards self-reliance at the national level and political and economic integration at the regional level.' On a much more personal note (that of Prof. Adebayo Adedeji, whose 70th birthday occasioned the essays), the publication seems to affirm his claim that: Africa's own vision of socio-economic and political development can now be pursued with self-confidence, resilience and endurance.'

2. Hungry Corporations, Transnational Biotech Companies Colonise the Food Chain, by Helena Paul and Ricarda Steinbrecher with Devlin Kuyek and Lucy Michaels, Zed Books, 2003.

The book tells of how multinational biotech companies use famine as pretext to offload GMOs onto developing countries so as to make profits through the promotion GM of crops and food. With the help of legislators who give them monopoly controls and the cooptation of public research institutions, these multinational biotech companies, according to **Hungry Corporations**, have so far being pushing their case for the acceptance of GMOs without let.

For the authors who are not only activists but also researchers, the push by these hungry-after profit corporations spells doom for the world as they seek to take control of the food chain, commercialise

it and hence hold the hold world to ransom.

The book traces the problem from the so-called green revolution to gene revolution and the extension of patents to genes, cells and organisms. It also looks at the role played by such international bodies as the World Bank, the Consultative Group for International Agricultural Research, as well as international foundations, research institutes and universities.

The influence of corporate interests on international regulatory bodies like the World Trade Organisation, the Food and Agricultural Organisation and the Convention on Biological Diversity are some of the issues discussed in the book. The authors of Hungry Corporations, Transnational Biotech Companies Colonise the Food Chain, leave no one in doubt about the dangers of ceding control and ownership of the world's food chain to a few conglomerate bodies the primacy of whose aim is profit and not satisfying the hungry of the world. The manipulations of these bodies to extend their reach and control over the global food system is an unflinching evidence of their commercial.

