

Africa South of the Sahara

A GEOGRAPHICAL INTERPRETATION

Robert Stock

"We've never had a geography of Africa text that examines the real issues of Africa's development crisis quite like this one does....This really will be a welcome text for courses on Africa! We've had a long drought."

—Charles M. Good, Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University

"An excellent text for the undergraduate level and 'must' background reading for academics, politicians, and development administrators." —Assefa Mehretu, Michigan State University

"Valuable for the aware, intelligent layperson inquiring about Africa; for the undergraduate embarking upon a new regional interest; and for the more advanced student of the continent as a source of information and analysis to be mined. It deserves to become a standard text for the human geography of Africa south of the Sahara in the 1990s."

—Hamish A. C. Main, Staffordshire University

Africa south of the Sahara is a region in transition. The optimism of the early post-independence years has long since faded, replaced by a pervasive sense of crisis that typically includes slow and often negative economic growth, a crushing debt burden, hunger and ecological crisis, and the virtual collapse of the state in a number of countries. At the same time, the 1990s have seen recent cause for hope—most dramatically, in the peaceful transition to black majority rule in South Africa.

Robert Stock's much-needed new text provides a broad and balanced introduction to the geography of Africa south of the Sahara, exploring contemporary issues without losing sight of their historical genesis. Applying a fresh perspective to the study of this vast, rapidly changing region, the book will help readers see beyond the often simplistic reports coming from the mass media on recent crises of civil war, famine, and underdevelopment. Uniquely structured for course work, the book covers sociocultural, political, and economic processes, providing a more comprehensive examination of patterns of human utilization of the continent and its resources, as well as the dynamics of change in Africa's physical geography.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Robert Stock teaches in the Department of Geography at Queen's University in Kingston, Ontario. His long-standing interest in the geography of Africa began with a four-year volunteer posting in Nigeria, followed by his postgraduate education in African studies at Michigan State University and the University of Liverpool, and has continued with an ongoing program of research on the medical geography of Africa.

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Contents

INTRODUCTION

Africa in the 1990s	3
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OVERVIEW

1. The Map of Africa	13
2. The Physical Environment	25
3. Culture and Society	42

AFRICA IN HISTORICAL PERSPECTIVE

4. The African Past	59
5. The Colonial Legacy	73
6. Independent Africa: The Struggle Continues	89

DYNAMICS OF POPULATION

7. Population Distribution	105
8. Population Growth	119
9. Population Mobility	133

RURAL ECONOMIES

10. Indigenous Food-Production Systems	147
11. Agrarian Development and Change	161
12. The Food Crisis	174

URBAN ECONOMIES AND SOCIETIES

13. The Evolution of Urban Structure	193
14. Urban Economies	210
15. Housing Africa's Urban Population	222

SOCIAL GEOGRAPHY

- | | |
|--------------------------------------|-----|
| 16. African Women and Development | 237 |
| 17. Education: Who Gets What Where? | 249 |
| 18. Social Policy: The Health Sector | 262 |

RESOURCES

- | | |
|------------------------------------|-----|
| 19. Mineral and Energy Resources | 279 |
| 20. Fauna and Economic Development | 294 |
| 21. Vegetation as a Resource | 307 |

AFRICAN ECONOMIES

- | | |
|--|-----|
| 22. Africa in the World Economy | 325 |
| 23. Ideology and Economic Development | 339 |
| 24. Development from Within:
Local Self-Reliance in Development | 353 |

POLITICAL GEOGRAPHY: REGIONAL CASE STUDIES

- | | |
|---|-----|
| 25. Nigeria: The Politics of Accommodating Diversity | 367 |
| 26. South Africa: Apartheid and Beyond | 381 |
| 27. The Politics and Economics of Surviving
in South Africa's Shadow | 397 |

CONCLUSION

- | | |
|---------------|-----|
| Which Future? | 413 |
| Glossary | 417 |
| Index | 423 |