

Title: Capital Cities in Africa: Power and Powerlessness

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Description: Full-text for the front matter is missing. ---- This book is a study of how power is manifested in the urban forms of several sub-Saharan capital cities. It also examines how the urban populace is at times powerless in the face of these manifestations and how counter-power is often generated in the urban spaces and communities of these capitals. The book uses the examples of a number of African capital cities to examine their different colonial backgrounds, processes of nation building, different kinds of regimes after independence, waves of popular protest, explosive population growth and in most cases stunted economic development. By focusing on the urban forms, symbolic as well as material, of multi-layered power, the book takes a new approach in the study of African cities and politics. The case studies of a selection of sub-Saharan capitals, which span the continent geographically, all have a broadly similar structure. The concluding chapter pulls together the threads of this urban geological study with a comparative analysis of these capital cities in Africa south of the Sahara, and provides contextual reference to other cities not included in the case studies.

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It is essential reading for those seeking a better understanding of postcolonial capital cities in Africa, their inherited social structures, their historical trajectories, and the political roles they play." —Catherine Coquery-Vidrovitch, professor emeritus, Paris Diderot University, and recipient, Distinguished Africanist Award. About the Author. Simon Bekker is the coeditor of *Reflections on Identity in Four African Cities*. He is a professor emeritus in sociology at the University of Stellenbosch, a former professor of development studies at Rhodes University, and the former director of *States and Power in Africa: Comparative Lessons in Authority and Control* is a book on African state-building by Jeffrey Herbst, former Professor of Politics and International Affairs at Woodrow Wilson School of Public and International Affairs. The book was a co-winner of the 2001 Gregory Luebbert Book Award from the American Political Science Association. It was also a finalist for the 2001 Herskovits Prize awarded by the African Studies Association.

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